

TIDA/SFI Technology Venture Programme Winner Announced



Congratulations to Dr. Paul Leonard, Biomedical Diagnostics Institute, on winning the TIDA/SFI Technology Venture Programme 'Investor Pitch Competition'. Paul was one of two winners that have been chosen to travel to Silicon Valley with the Irish Technology Leadership Group (ITLG). Paul will meet with companies and potential

investors based in the Bay Area and will spend a week at the ITLG headquarters communicating his vision for the BDI's exciting new DiCAST technology. DiCAST is a new technology platform that will offer a novel approach to discover and select monoclonal antibodies, the largest class of biological drugs. He will also avail of the ITLG's Entrepreneurship support and meet Irish entrepreneurs who have established themselves in Silicon Valley.

This is indeed great news for Invent as the Technology Venture Programme was originally developed by Maria Johnston at Invent DCU in 2010 and later adopted by SFI. Invent is also currently running the programme which is due to end next month.

This is what Paul had to say about the programme and his pitch success;

"The course was excellent. I now have the entrepreneurship 'bible' sitting on my desk which contains reams of course material on topics such as venture capital and funding models, legal aspects of start-ups, finance and cash flow, technology sales and marketing. These modules were presented by experts and leading entrepreneurs in the subject area. In addition to immersing participants deep inside the technological entrepreneur's mind-set and needs, the course, which started back in January, was geared towards improving one's ability to pitch their idea to potential investors.

We were coached by Andrew Keogh of Aristo on communicating an effective pitch before going head to head with eleven other burgeoning entrepreneurs in a Dragon's Den type competition on the final day. Luckily for me, I had received tremendous market feasibility support and guidance from both the BDI and Invent DCU which helped fuel my pitch. I also recently received Enterprise Ireland feasibility support to evaluate DiCAST's route to market, commercialisation strategies and potential revenue values. Of course 'the proof of the pudding is in the eating' with these type of things and therefore, thanks to the commitment and great work of people like Valerie, Barry and Brian in the lab, I was able to demonstrate significant DiCAST PoP data, strengthening my pitch".

Dr. Paul Leonard is pictured above with Cian Hughes (ITLG), Ann Horan (DCU Ryan Academy) and Dr. Janice Murtagh (SFI)