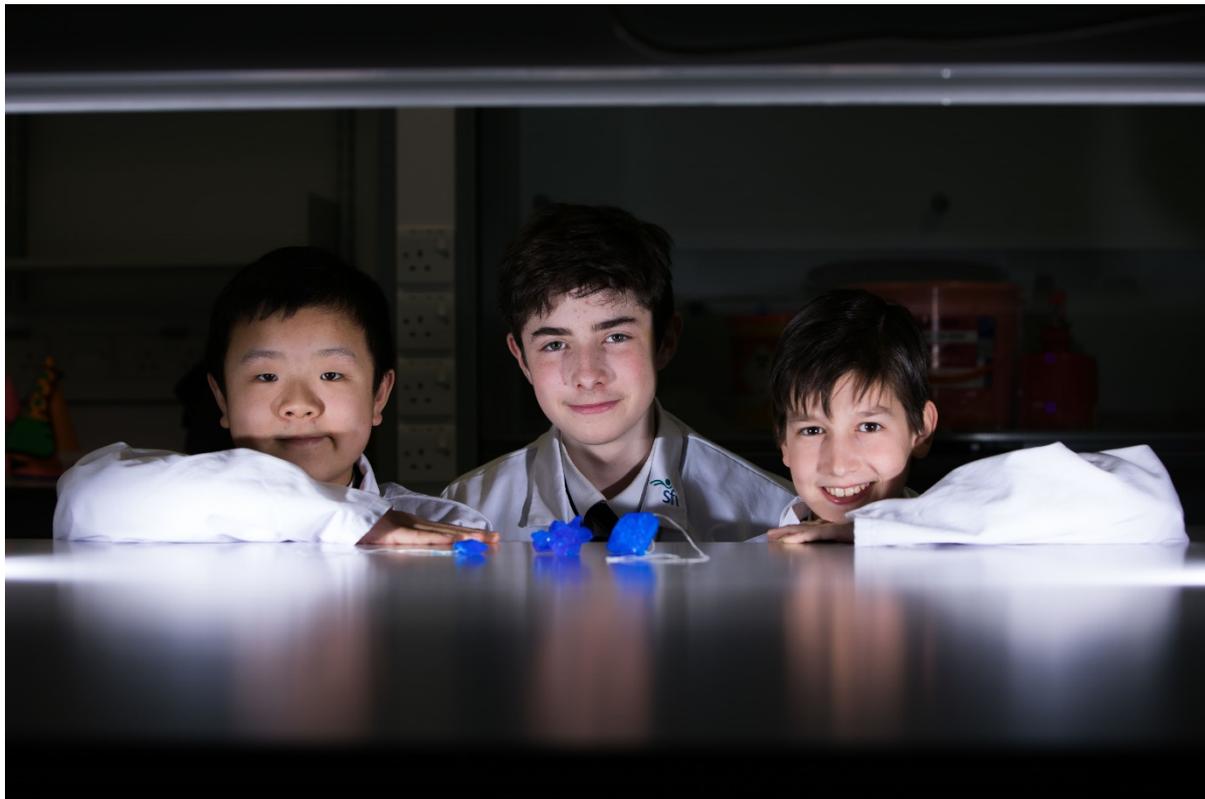


## SSPC and iCRAF launch the 2017 National Crystal Growing Competition

*Local schools urged to take part in the national competition*



*The Synthesis and Solid State Pharmaceutical Centre (SSPC) with iCRAF (Irish Centre for Research in Applied Geosciences), both funded by Science Foundation Ireland (SFI), launched the SSPC National Crystal Growing Competition this week. Pictured, from left, Frank Tang, last year's winner Kieran Barrett with Jullian Diaz, from Clongowes Wood College. Photo: Oisín McHugh True Media*

**Monday, October 2, 2017:** The Synthesis and Solid State Pharmaceutical Centre (SSPC) along with iCRAF (Irish Centre for Research in Applied Geosciences), both funded by Science Foundation Ireland (SFI), are launching the National Crystal Growing Competition for 2017! The competition is open to primary and post-primary school pupils from across Ireland and this year it is in partnership with the International Union of Crystallography (IUCr) Worldwide competition!

Dr Sarah Hayes, Educational and Outreach Officer, SSPC, said;

*“Crystal growing is an exciting and engaging challenge that allows students to broaden their scientific knowledge and interest. 2017 marks the fourth year of the national competition and we expect record breaking numbers of participants and schools from across the country.”*

The aim of the competition is to have fun with science and to inspire young minds to explore careers in the field. Having gone from strength to strength over the past four year, both centres are now looking to pave the way further by encouraging more schools across the country to enter the competition.

Dr Fergus Mc Auliffe, Education, Public Engagement and Communications Manager, iCRAG added:

*“We are delighted to be involved in such an innovative competition, as both centres run formidable science engagement activities; we play a vital role in encouraging and developing interest in science among Irish students.”*

Submission deadline is December 22, 2017 and the winners will be contacted in January 2018. The competition originated in 2014 with the IUCr Crystal growing competition, as part of the celebrations for the International Year of Crystallography. Check out [www.sspc.ie](http://www.sspc.ie) for further information and registration details.

**End**

### About the SSPC

The Synthesis and Solid State Pharmaceutical Centre (SSPC), a Global Hub of Pharmaceutical Process Innovation and Advanced Manufacturing, funded by Science Foundation Ireland and industry, is a unique collaboration between 24 industry partners, 9 research performing organisations and 12 international academic collaborators.

The SSPC transcends company and academic boundaries and is the largest research collaboration in Ireland, and one of the largest globally, within the pharmaceutical area. The role of the SSPC is to link experienced scientists and engineers in academia and the pharmaceutical industry, to address critical research challenges.

The SSPC leads the way for next generation drug manufacture and spans the entire pharmaceutical production chain from synthesis of the molecule, to the isolation of the material, and the formulation of the medicine. The aim of the SSPC is to deliver industry relevant solutions, which result in job growth and retention within the pharmaceutical industry in Ireland.

### Contacts

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