

Specialist Diploma launched to assist the pharmaceutical sector master regulatory affairs at University of Limerick



Dr Sarah Hayes, Synthesis and Solid State Pharmaceutical Research Centre (SSPC), John Halligan T.D., Minister of State for Training, Skills, Innovation and Research, Dr Ann Ledwith, Dean of Graduate & Professional Studies at University of Limerick (UL) and Jon O’Halloran, General Manager, SSPC.

Photo: Oisín McHugh, True Media

Monday, November 11, 2017: The Synthesis and Solid State Pharmaceutical Research Centre (SSPC), a Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) Research Centre and the University of Limerick (UL) have officially launched their Specialist Diploma in Regulatory Affairs in (Bio) Pharmaceuticals today. This specialist diploma is available to graduates with a background in quality, manufacturing, pharmaceutical, and biopharmaceutical or chemical sectors.

“Regulatory Affairs is critical to the future success of such a highly regulated industry and building academic links with industry ensures graduates can tailor their education to meet the demands of the emerging market,” said Minister Halligan.

The programme, intended for Irish-based regulatory professionals emerged from an industry need and the strong demand in recent years in Ireland for regulatory affairs (RA) professionals for the pharmaceutical industry. This growth in demand is not simply connected to an increase in manufacturing presence here, since a regulatory affairs function can be located anywhere. The healthcare products landscape has evolved substantially in the past few decades. Today there are new emerging technologies, an improved understanding of patients and consumers' needs, and a truly global marketplace. Regulatory professionals who can successfully navigate this new landscape are in high demand and short supply.

The course content, developed in conjunction with BioPharmaChem Ireland experts and Matt Moran, Director at BioPharmaChem Ireland, added:

“The programme was formulated to build on a foundational knowledge, critical thinking and skills required of regulatory professionals in the pharma/biopharma environment, significantly enhancing the ability of Irish companies.”

“The programme addresses a gap in the training of regulatory affairs personnel,” said Dr Sarah Hayes, SSPC. “The programme is designed to offer a unique opportunity in Ireland to gain a level 9 accredited Specialist Diploma in Regulatory Affairs and EU requirements.”

Commenting on the announcement of the programme, Dr Ann Ledwith, Dean of Graduate & Professional Studies at UL, said, “The University of Limerick has a strong track record of delivering programmes to meet industry needs. Fees for the Specialist Diploma are funded through Springboard, it is a great opportunity for RA professionals to upskill as they work.”

Applications are now open; please visit www.springboardcourses.ie for more details or email: cep@ul.ie or call 061-202530.

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Notes to the Editor:

About the Synthesis and Solid State Pharmaceutical Centre (SSPC)

The Synthesis and Solid State Pharmaceutical Centre (SSPC) is a global hub of pharmaceutical process innovation and advanced manufacturing, funded by Science Foundation Ireland through its Research Centres programme and the pharmaceutical industry. The centre, based at University of Limerick, is a unique collaboration between 24 industry partners, nine research-performing organisations and 12 international academic collaborators. The SSPC comprises over 150 active researchers and has funding of more than €40 million for six years from mid-2013. This large research collaboration has particular skills in active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) synthesis, purification and crystallisation.