

# Bioengineering in Ireland<sup>21</sup>

16th - 17th January 2015  
Carton House, Maynooth

## **Samuel Haughton Lecture “Engineering and medicine....converging streams”**

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### **Engineering and medicine; converging streams**

In the early years of Bioengineering in Ireland, the engineering elements of medicine were seen as primarily in the domain of orthopedics. Topics such fracture of metallic bone plates and hip stems and wear behaviour of polymers in knee and hip implants were the order of the day. The publications from the bioengineering community were almost exclusively confined to the specialist biomechanics journals with only a tiny clinical reading audience. Thankfully this has now all changed. The injection of funding from national sources such as Science Foundation Ireland, the Higher Education Authority, Enterprise Ireland, the Health Research Board and many leading companies has enabled bioengineering to become a mainstream research activity with enthusiastic engagement from leading research-active clinicians. Publications from this community now regularly appear in leading clinical and medical science journals and the research activities and attract the brightest of young engineers and medics onto excellent PhD and MD programs. In this talk I will outline some of the ways in which I have contributed to this growing collaboration, which continues to blossom in a wide range of clinical domains, as these two great streams of applied science continue to converge.