



Five European universities to tackle thyroid problem

DR Patricia Kearney, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health at **University College Cork** is one of a group of researchers from European universities who will participate in a new research project investigating current treatment practices for people who suffer from a mildly underactive thyroid gland. The researchers met recently with medical experts from around Europe at the **University** of Glasgow for the inaugural meeting for the new study titled: *Thyroid Hormone Replacement for Subclinical Hypo-Thyroidism Trial* (TRUST) which is being funded by a €6 million grant from the EU's FP7 programme.

TRUST researchers will follow 3,000 older subjects over a five-year period in an attempt to better understand how to treat people who suffer from subclinical hypothyroidism. Half of the subjects will be treated with a hormone replacement drug, thyroxine, while the other half will be given a placebo; both groups will then be monitored to evaluate how they respond to the treatments.