



320 students to vie for **SciFest** crown

CORK secondary school students will present 150 projects at **SciFest** 2013 in CIT on Friday.

This year's projects will be showcased by 320 students, ranging from first year to fifth year, from 25 schools across Cork city and county.

Some of the ideas include: 'Do video games help dyslexia?', 'Revision Precision', 'Tri-Crutch: The Future of Rehabilitation' and 'Teenage Awareness of Sudden Cardiac Death Among Sport Athletics'.

SciFest 2013 will be opened by Junior Minister Seán Sherlock, Minister of State at the Department of Enterprise, Jobs and Innovation.

The inaugural **SciFest** was held in Dublin in 2006 and **SciFest** was launched nationwide in 2008.

It's a national festival of science, organised regionally, in collaboration with institutes of technology and is open to all second-level students.

SciFest was created to provide an additional forum for students to present and display the results of their scientific investigations, following the success of the BT Young Scientist and Technology exhibition which has been running very successfully for more than 40 years.

Dr Hugh McGlynn, Head of School of Science & Informatics at CIT, said: "**SciFest** encourages students of all abilities to participate in a science fair and experience what it is like to be a professional research scientist and to develop an interest in science through inquiry and activities that link to their everyday lives.

"Students are given an opportunity to develop 21st century skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, creativity, presentation and collaboration. In addition they get a chance to visit CIT and view the excellent facilities and courses that the campus has to offer."

Commenting on **SciFest** at CIT, Sheila Porter, CEO of **SciFest** Ltd, said: "**SciFest** is a fun and exciting way to encourage an interest in science at school level, providing not only an occasion to celebrate achieve-

ment and a job well done, but also an opportunity to encourage active and collaborative learning.

"This helps stimulate students' interest in science and enables them to apply scientific concepts to real-life scenarios. **SciFest** continues to go from strength to strength with a record number of entries this year.

"The rapid increase in participation in the competition is a clear indication of the interest and enthusiasm among students and teachers in the investigative approach to teaching and learning science.

"I would like to thank all of our partners, including **Science Foundation Ireland**, **Discover Science & Engineering**, Intel, Newstalk, PharmaChemical Ireland, Abbott Ireland, SEAI, NCE-MSTL, **ESERO** Ireland, DairyMaster, Janssen Pharmaceuticals and the Institutes of Technology. Without their support, none of this would be possible."

At **SciFest** CIT the following awards will be presented by the registrar and vice-president of Academic Affairs, Dr Barry O'Connor: **SFI/Discover Science** and **Engineering** Best Project Award, Intel Award, Abbott Runner-up Best Project Award, Newstalk Best Communicator Award, PharmaChemical Ireland Chemistry Award, NCE-MSTL Maths in Science Award, European Space Education Resource Office (**ESERO**) Award, Sustainable Energy (SEAI) Award and a Discover Space Award (**ESERO** Ireland) Award. Additional Awards will also be presented by Munster Rugby and CIT.

The Intel Award winners from Cork will be invited to exhibit at Intel Dublin later in the year from which one project will be selected to win an all expense trip to represent Ireland at the International Science and Engineering Fair 2014 in the USA.

● See www.scifest.ie for more.