

UCD Champions - Changing Futures
IMPACT REPORT

2019
2020



UCD CHAMPIONS
CHANGING FUTURES

Welcome



On behalf of UCD Foundation, I am delighted to welcome you to the UCD Champions Impact Report on funds allocated from the 2019-2020 academic year. This report is a testament to - and a celebration of - your generosity, your support and the remarkable difference you and your fellow alumni are making to your alma mater and to the lives of our students.

This report provides us with the opportunity to showcase the hugely positive impact of your support, the fantastic potential realised and bright futures made possible. This impact is exemplified in the stories of four of our brilliant students: Ellen, Shane, Michaela and Elena. Four remarkable young people who, thanks to your kindness, have been able to succeed and thrive in UCD.

Each of these students sets an example of what is possible through hard work and dedication. With your wonderful support they have continued to fulfil their amazing potential. Elena reached a World Cup final in field hockey while continuing her studies in Economics; Ellen is creating a future for herself as a doctor; Shane is starting his UCD journey studying Social Sciences and Michaela is continuing her journey in Architecture. Their success highlights the fact that university is about inclusion and is a place where every student, young or old, can grow and achieve their dreams. They each set an example and inspire others, showing that a university education is a real possibility for all, regardless of background.

We have had another fantastic year, and thanks to you we have welcomed a new and deserving group of students into UCD. 2019 saw the awarding of 120 new scholarships, with over 100 *Cothrom na Féinne* access scholarships. A brand new group of UCD Champions Scholars are now following in the footsteps of Ellen, Shane, Michaela and Elena. With your help and that of over 4,000 fellow alumni we have raised a record high of €3.3 million in cash and future pledges. Your incredible generosity has ensured that UCD's legacy of world-class education, research and student support will continue.

Attending university can be a truly life-changing experience. In light of the Covid-19 Pandemic, it is paramount that students have the support networks in place to achieve their goals, as the impact of increased pressures on family income and the loss of part-time jobs to ease the financial burden on students becomes apparent. This has been a challenging time for many and we are delighted to have been able to provide over €430,000 to student mental health provisions last year.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks for your support of our students and our University. You are helping to advance UCD's reputation as a centre of academic excellence and a place where education is available for all. Thank you for your belief in these deserving young people. It is truly transformative, and its impact is felt not only in UCD but across society as a whole.

Thank you for being a UCD Champion.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark McDonnell', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark McDonnell

Head of Annual Giving, UCD Foundation

Your impact in numbers

When it comes to the incredible difference you are making to UCD students today, the figures speak for themselves. Thanks to your steadfast support we have continued to expand and develop our scholarship programme. With **120 new scholarships** awarded in 2019, your generosity is truly life-changing.

120

104 *Cothrom na Féinne* Scholars;
5 Ad Astra Scholars;
3 Postgraduate scholarships;
8 additional undergraduate scholarships.

UCD was awarded University of Sanctuary status in 2018. In the academic year 2019/2020, 50 UCD Sanctuary Scholarships for Asylum Seekers and Refugees were supported centrally by the University.

€430,907

Amount spent on mental health
€430,907

>4,000


YOU and over **4,000** other
UCD Champions kindly supported
our scholarship students
in the last year.

€881,430

In addition to ongoing support of existing scholars, you helped us assign an additional **€881,430** to new entrants for the academic year 2019/2020.

€3.34m

Together with your fellow alumni you helped us raise **€3.34** million in cash and future pledged income, more than ever before.



**"I would like
to express
my sincere
and heartfelt
gratitude to
everyone who
has supported
my scholarship"**

Cothrom na Féinne Scholarships

Access to university should be about a young person's ability, drive and commitment, not dependent on their ability to pay. UCD Champions Scholarships recognise the importance of giving everyone the option of a university education. Students from across Ireland have overcome great adversity to attend UCD, and as Champions Scholars they have the opportunity and support to fulfil their incredible potential. Ellen, Shane and Michaela explain what a UCD Champions *Cothrom na Féinne* Scholarship means to them, and how it has helped them to secure their future.

We would like to say thank you to each of our donors for being a UCD Champion.

Ellen O'Beirne Medicine, Year 1 *Cothrom na Féinne* Scholar

"The scholarship is massively assisting my studies in so many ways. I recall being in the library at the very beginning of the year, before I found out I had been awarded the scholarship. I was trying my best to study but I remember being so distracted from the task, entirely due to the fact that I was thinking and worrying about money; how I could make money: how I could save money and generally how I was going to finance 4 years of study. Since being awarded the scholarship that has completely changed. I do not spend my time constantly preoccupied with finances and I am able to use my energy to focus on my studies.

While I have continued working part-time at the weekends, having the security of the scholarship has meant that I am not under the same pressure to work quite as much as I would have done otherwise. I have been able to take time off work when necessary, particularly around exams which

has undoubtedly helped me to achieve better results academically.

This scholarship is absolutely essential to me completing my degree. Financially I could not have completed the course without it.

I would like to express my sincere and heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has supported my scholarship. I find it really difficult to fully articulate or convey the difference it has made to my studies and to my hopes for the future.

I would also like you to know that I will fully endeavour to pass on the goodwill in the future. I am committed to assisting other students financially in a similar manner, when I have the means to do so."



“No student should have to worry about where their next meal is coming from”

Shane Doyle

Social Sciences, Year 2

Cothrom na Féinne Scholar



"The scholarship is a great aid to my studies as it has taken a great deal of pressure off me financially. It has allowed me to buy materials for college, such as books and stationery, but it has also helped me to pay rent, buy food, and pay for my transport to and from college. With this weight lifted off my shoulders, I have found it much easier to study and do well in college, as I'm not stressed about other things. Thanks to this scholarship, I only have to stress about the normal things that all college students stress about, like achieving good grades and so on. No student should have to worry about where their next meal is coming from or whether they can afford to travel to and from college."

Too many students like Shane must decide whether to eat lunch or pay the bus fare home from campus. Your support can help students in basic ways you might not have imagined. It allows them to focus on study and crucially, to develop a natural support network through friends.

"In order to have an enjoyable college experience, I think you really need to be able to have a good social life too. Doing simple things like going for a coffee with friends or going to the cinema every now and then – that's what this scholarship allows its recipients to do.

I honestly cannot thank you enough for supporting my scholarship. I come from a single-parent, low-income household, and without this scholarship I would really have struggled financially. This scholarship helped me pay my rent in Dublin, and considering how high rent has gotten in Dublin, without it I would have been forced to move back home and do a long commute every day. My studies would have suffered greatly. Thank you to everyone who made it possible for me to receive this scholarship."





Michaela Harte

Architecture, Year 1 *Cothrom na Féinne* Scholar

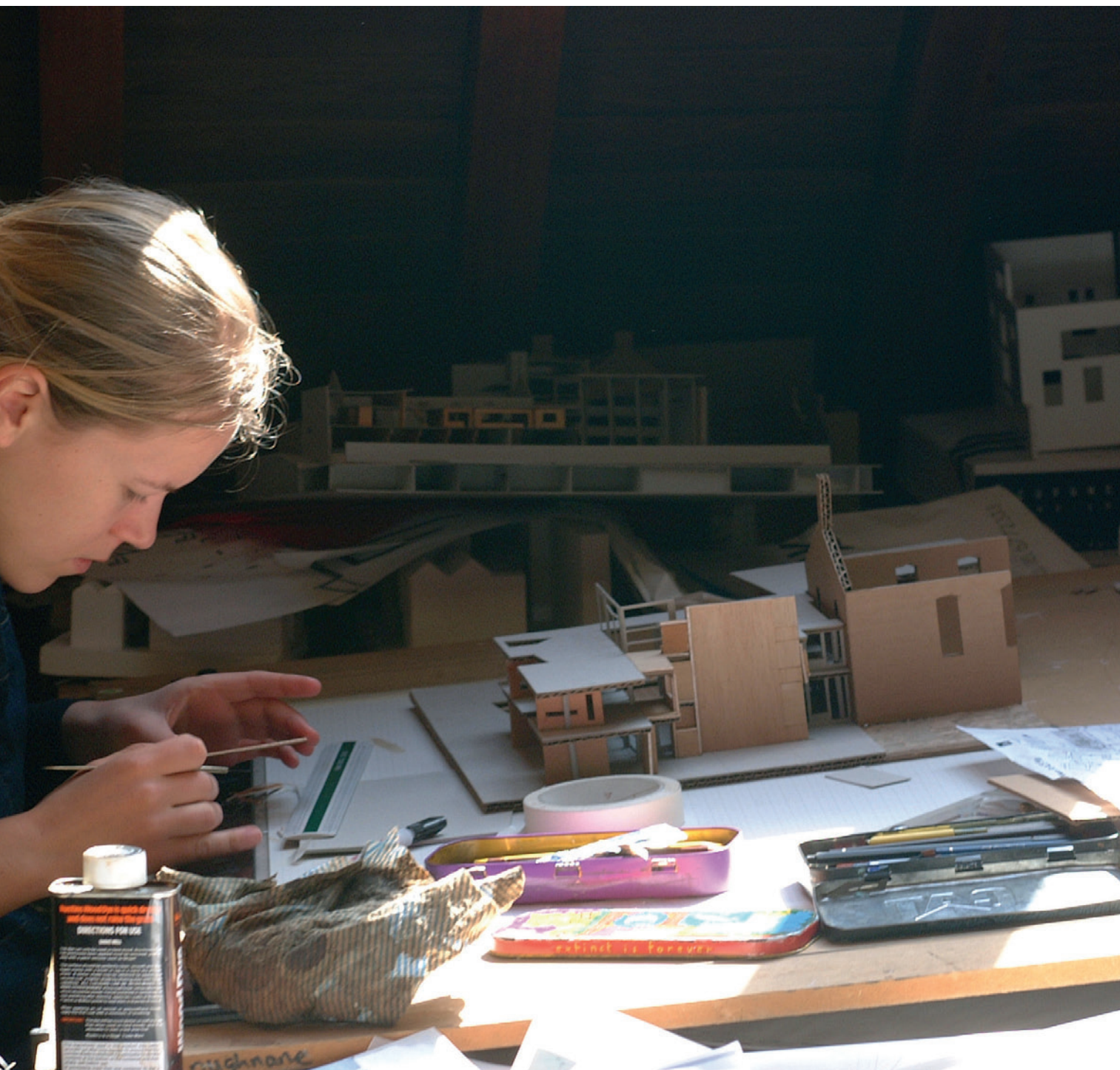
"I have always wanted to study architecture since I was a young child and I'm delighted to be finally able to do so."

"I am really enjoying being in UCD so far. I have always wanted to study architecture since I was a young child and I'm delighted to be finally able to do so.

Architecture is an extremely expensive course. We are expected to buy many materials each week to make drawings and models of our designs. We also have many site visits to various locations around Ireland, and we have to pay for the transport costs ourselves. The scholarship is assisting me greatly in my studies because I can afford to buy the materials needed for my studio work. I had a part-time job until December last year just so that I could afford to buy the materials and to have some money to

cover other costs. However, due to the intense workload of the course I was no longer able to keep my job, and the scholarship has taken a huge amount of pressure off me and my Mum.

I would like to thank you sincerely for supporting my scholarship. With the scholarship, I am able to design exactly what I want in my studio work because I know that I will be able to afford to make a model or drawing with the equipment and materials that I need. My Mum is a single parent to my brother and me following the death of my father, and it has taken a huge weight off my shoulders knowing that I won't be putting any extra financial pressure on her to help me buy the materials I need every week."



Ad Astra Scholarships (Elite Athlete)

Scholarship recipient: Elena Tice, BA student in Economics

Through Ad Astra Scholarships, UCD recognises exceptional students with extraordinary talent selected across three strands: Academia, Performing Arts and Sport. The Ad Astra Academy provides them with the necessary supports to achieve their full potential.

We would like to thank all the donors who choose to support the Academy. Elena Tice explains the importance of the Ad Astra Academy in helping her achieve sporting excellence.





Elena Tice Ad Astra Scholar

Elena played a starring role in the first ever Irish field sport team to reach a World Cup final, and her performance brought her to the attention of a global audience and earned her a nomination for the prestigious International Hockey Federation 'Rising Star' award, which recognises the best young player in international hockey in a given year.

Elena has an EYHL and Irish Senior Cup double with UCD. Yet through it all – the spotlight, the success, the unimaginably tough fitness sessions, the endless hours of hard work – she has remained true to her roots, and has done so without losing any of the core values that mean so much to her and her family.

"The Ad Astra Academy has been an ever present support and source of motivation during my time at UCD. When I think of the Academy, I think of a group of young people who go above and beyond expectation, to excel and thrive in the area that they are most passionate about. As an athlete, the Academy has given me the chance to achieve my goals in my studies and on the hockey pitch. I am so grateful to be part of this incredibly special community of students who are equally striving and working tirelessly towards their goals and dreams."

UCD Champions –



Assia Buono, Arts, Year 3

"I find it really heart-warming to see graduates being so generous and helping a student because they can understand that not everyone has a home or a parent to support them."

Changing Futures

You may have spoken to UCD student caller, Assia Buono. (Arts, Year 3)

Assia's main motivation for working as a student caller is knowing how much it means to the 120 scholarship students that rely on the support of generous alumni like you.

"I love being a student caller and being a part of giving back to deserving students because I know how hard paying your own way in college is.

I find it really heart-warming to see graduates being so generous and helping a student because they can understand that not everyone has a home or a parent to support them. I feel privileged to talk to alumni about the truly difficult reality some of these students face.

It's really inspiring to share the experiences of students who are carers, refugees, or disabled and see how the support of graduates makes university an option for them. Their kindness is incredible.

Being the first in my family to go to university, I know that what students lack before financial means is confidence. Graduates who have never met them give support to enable this life-changing experience. It gives students the sense of belonging they need to start their journey in university, to develop personally and academically, and have a better quality of life and access to better career opportunities than their family before them."

Go Raibh Maith Agaibh

“Counselling services are a vital support network available to UCD students”

Many of our students know how difficult navigating through university can be, and ensuring that there is a strong network of support in place has always been a priority for our student and alumni communities. The support network provided by UCD student counsellors is an integral part of UCD life and enables our students to achieve their dreams and thrive in university.

Ruairí Power, UCD Student Union Welfare Officer, explains the importance of counselling services in UCD.

“Counselling services are a vital support network available to UCD students. The service provided within the university is staffed by qualified psychologists and counsellors, and is available free of charge to students. Access to timely and high-quality supports help students to progress through university unimpeded. With demand

for counselling services projected to increase in the wake of the Covid-19 crisis, securing additional funds for these supports has never been more important.

Experiencing mental illness shouldn't be a barrier to progressing through higher education. Slogans like ***“It's ok not to be ok”*** need to be backed up by a well funded service. Ensuring that supports in place are well resourced is necessary so that students who are struggling with their mental health have a safety net in place to provide them with any help they may need.”



“My relationship with the university might have been brief, with a traumatic and abrupt end. Instead, it is a fulfilling and ongoing one.”

For students across UCD, the support offered by student counsellors is hugely beneficial and provides them with the necessary help to succeed and fulfil their ambitions. UCD alumnus **Shadaan Felfeli** describes his experience with UCD’s mental health services and the impact it made.

“I could not be more grateful for the education that I have received in UCD. A vital part of this education was gained from my student counsellor. Our interaction started in the third and final semester of my master’s programme. When I commenced the programme in a wonderful school within the university, I scarcely had any awareness of mental health as a concept. I certainly hadn’t the slightest expectation of ever being in urgent need of the support of the counselling service. My experience navigating Ireland as an international student had fed into my sense of alienation. It also contributed to my placing a lot of pressure on what was designed as, and ought to have been, an enriching and enjoyable year of study.

My student counsellor, in coordination with the school staff, supported me through the immediate task of completing the master’s. Having achieved this, she persevered with the painstaking work of helping me reimagine a way in which I could pursue my desire to continue a journey in academia. This unstinting support has enabled me to undertake further postgraduate study in UCD.

My relationship with the university might have been brief, with a traumatic and abrupt end. Instead, it is a fulfilling and ongoing one. My student counsellor deserves much of the credit for this being the case. I strongly believe that the counselling service ought to be high up on the list of funding priorities. The immensely valuable support that the counsellors provide UCD students deserves in its turn to be supported.”

UCD Alumni Volunteers

Thank you to our 3,904 alumni who have given their time, volunteering to support students, fellow alumni, and the wider UCD community. Despite the current situation, we have been able to pivot our programmes to online delivery, to create new volunteer opportunities, and to offer increased access to alumni perspectives.

Our ability to quickly respond and offer alumni a place to connect and network was greatly aided by the existence of our online UCD Alumni Network. We now have over 7,500 registered users, 71% of whom have 'put their hand up' to volunteer to help the UCD community in a variety of ways. The platform offers direct engagement opportunities for alumni across the globe.

We continue to actively collaborate with UCD Careers Network, UCD Global, and UCD Societies Council to connect alumni meaningfully with thousands of students; positively supporting their personal, academic and career development.

Alumni volunteers make a real difference to the experience and employability of current students.



UCD Students Participating in our Alumni Buddy Programme



"I would just like to thank you very much for all the help and support you gave throughout the career mentoring programme this year. I really appreciate it. I really enjoyed the programme and got so much out of it. I am still in regular communication with my mentor and am learning so much from him in every session."

Amber, Student mentee in UCD's Career Mentoring Programme

"I am really grateful for this opportunity. I got to meet my alumni buddy and her family. Even during lockdown, she drove to my house to give me masks. It's more like a family thing with her, where I regularly take her advice and we exchange all kinds of life updates with each other. I got to experience Irish Christmas dinner before leaving for India in December. It really has been a wonderful experience."

Jasmine, Student participant in UCD's Alumni Buddy Programme

Volunteering can be an enriching and rewarding experience. To learn how you can get involved as we add to the programme, visit our website ucd.ie/alumni/volunteering, email Ria Flom at alumnivolunteer@ucd.ie, or call Ria on +353 1 716 1232

A Lasting Legacy

Did you know that with a planned gift, a living legacy or a gift in memory, you can ensure your alma mater continues to flourish for generations to come? Through your special gift you can shape UCD's future, ensuring that what matters to you is protected.

It is thanks to the generous support of our alumni family over the decades that UCD is now a truly global university. Such selfless giving transforms young lives and ensures UCD can compete on the international stage, with world-class staff, teaching facilities and research.

Your generosity can live on long beyond your lifetime and benefit generations of students to come.

Including a gift in your will to the University, or establishing a memorial gift to honour a loved one, colleague or friend, is very easy to do. Every legacy gift is precious to us, no matter how small, and by leaving a gift to UCD in your will you can make a lasting difference to the success of the University and our students.

If you would like to know more, let us know using the form below and we will contact you. You can use the Freepost envelope provided to return your form to us.

Alternatively you can contact
Mark McDonnell in complete confidence
on +353 1 716 1286 or
email: mark.mcdonnell@ucdfoundation.ie

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Help even more students – for free. *One form is all it takes!*

Your support matters to us, which is why we always ensure that every cent you donate works as hard as possible to help the University and our students to thrive. That's why we'd like you to know about a way you can increase your donation by as much as 45% without it costing you a single cent more! If you have supported UCD Foundation in the past 4 years, and have given €250 or more in the last year, we can claim an extra 45% of your gift from the Revenue. **If everyone who gave over €250 did this, we could raise over €1.1 million – this could potentially double the number of scholarships awarded this year.**

Achieve even more through tax-efficient giving

To take part in the scheme, which is also available to PAYE and self-assessed supporters, you simply complete one form – the CHY3 tax form – which takes just a few minutes to do. Then return it to us and we do the rest.

You don't have to fill out any more forms because your new enduring tax relief form will last for five years, and can also be back-dated to the last 4 years.

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in ROI

To receive a CHY3 form or a Gift Aid Declaration form, please contact Peter Williamson on (+353) 1 716 1406 or email info@ucdfoundation.ie.

You can also get the CHY3 form online at: <https://www.revenue.ie/en/companies-and-charities/documents/charities/chy3-enduring-certificate.pdf>
Don't forget to post your form back to us in the freepost envelope.

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If you are a UK taxpayer, we can claim an extra 25p on every £1 you donate from HMRC and it won't cost you a penny more. One quick form does it all. A Gift Aid declaration form covers you for life and there is no minimum amount you need to donate; the only requirement is that you are a UK taxpayer.

+25%
in UK



UCD Affinity Credit Card

We'd like to say a huge thank you to all our fantastic credit card holders. They truly are **UCD Champions** because thanks to them, our scholarship and student support programmes and the **UCD Sports Development Fund** benefit every time they use their Affinity cards.

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What better way to show your support for UCD?

To apply, simply call Bank of Ireland Montrose on 01 2697455 or find out more at <http://alumni.ucd.ie/ucd-affinity-credit-card/>



FOUNDATION

UCD FOUNDATION

Room 102, Tierney Building, Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland
Áras Uí Thiarnaigh, Belfield, Baile Átha Cliath 4, Éire

Telephone: +353 1 716 1406
Email: info@ucdfoundation.ie
www.ucdfoundation.ie

University College Dublin Foundation CLG
Registered in Dublin, Ireland. No. 266667
Directors: A.J. Deeks, M. Garrett, C. McCarthy, T. O'Connor.
CHY 12448