

CERN research to further our understanding of universe

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A scientist who worked at the CERN research centre in Switzerland has told this year's Galway Astronomy Festival that research taking place at CERN will go towards our understanding of our place in the universe.

Dr Ronan McNulty, who works as a senior lecturer at University College Dublin's school of physics, was involved with researching the Higgs Boson or so called 'God Particle' at the Large Hadron Collider at the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN).

The Higgs Boson is hypothesized to give mass to particles, but has remained unproven to date, while the latest research from CERN has offered 'intriguing hints' of a Higgs Boson.

Questioned about the dream applications of the research at the astronomy festival on Saturday, Dr McNulty said, "the dream application of anything is understanding our place in the universe and understanding what makes up our universe."

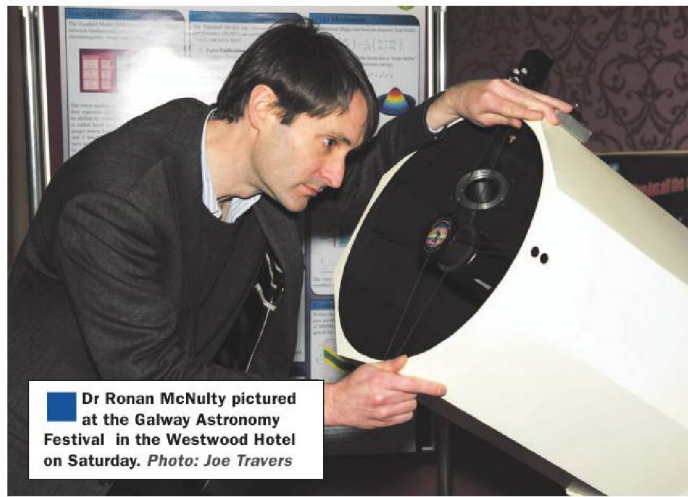
While that was enough for him, he said, other applications to come out of particle physics over the last hundred years are all around us.

"They are things like medical imaging, PET

scans, the accelerators that make isotopes in hospitals, in industry the great big magnets you would need, even something as mundane as the world wide web, that comes out of the physicists trying to communicate at CERN. There are a lot of practical spin-offs."

Dr McNulty said scientists must also leave themselves open to the chance that they could discover something revolutionary. More practical applications included finding new sources of energy, which would solve the world's problems in that regard, he said.

"For example this cold dark matter particle, if and



Dr Ronan McNulty pictured at the Galway Astronomy Festival in the Westwood Hotel on Saturday. Photo: Joe Travers

NEWS BRIEFS

Aware depression support group

Aware's Galway support group for individuals with experience of depression meets every Wednesday at 8pm in Danesfield House, Sea Road, Galway.

Aware support groups also meet in Loughrea and North West Connemara.

For more information, contact Kate on 087-2993142 or see aware.ie.

Aware support groups are free of charge and can help attendees to learn more about their condition as well as coping skills to help minimise its impact on their life.

Galway Sail Sports Club AGM

Galway Sail Sports Club's AGM takes place tomorrow, Thursday 26 January, in the Harbour Hotel at 7.30pm.

Galway Sail Sports Club is a new club based at the Galway Ocean Sports Club in the Harbour Enterprise Park. It aims to promote and facilitate the sports of sailing, windsurfing and kitesurfing in Galway.

Anyone interested in joining is welcome to attend.

Galway success at Showcase

A Galway craftsman has won a place in Showcase Ireland's Top 50 New Products.

Caimin Coyne's serving board, crafted from a solid piece of oak, was chosen as one of the top 50 new products overall and one of only seven top new products in the Tabletop & Interiors Section at Showcase, Ireland's Creative Expo, at the RDS in Dublin this week.

Inishbofin native Caimin established his business Woodbofin 18 months ago, supported by Galway Country Enterprise Board.

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when we discover that, what might be able to do, how might you be able to use something like that. We don't really know this until you develop the theory around it. Every time we have understood something basic, we've moved forward," he said.

Dr McNulty said that when Michael Faraday was

trying to investigate electricity in 1850s, he got a visit from the Finance Minister in the UK, William Gladstone, who demanded, "What damn use is your experiment of this stuff called electricity?"

Faraday, he said, replied, "Well, sir, you never know, one day you might be able to tax it."

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Perfect Weddings for Perfect Couples @ Claregalway HOTEL It's THE FEELING INSIDE

Sinead Faby and Cathal Madden got married recently in Ballinasloe, Co Galway and celebrated their Wedding Reception at Claregalway Hotel with their families and friends.

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