The second night of the teachers in residence programme was facilitated by Claire O’Riordan and Sarah Gundy who introduced us to Josh Chao and Hakima Flici two of the researchers at REMEDI.

Josh began the session by introducing us to stem cells using a powerpoint presentation which outlined the types of stem cells REMEDI use in their research and the sources of these stem cells. The research programmes that are currently underway in REMEDI were outlined and the advances that are possible in the future using stem cells to reduce the five main causes of death were also detailed.

Hakima then spoke about stem cells and regeneration, outlining how stem cells can be used for the repair a small amputation to the formation of new organs or even individuals. Both researchers conveyed their enthusiasm for their research and their hopes for future advances that can be achieved through the use of stem cells. ‘A hope to no hope disorders’. Sarah then distributed some sample lesson plans on stem cells from the eurostemcell.org website and an example of a lesson plan produced by last year’s teachers in residence.

Overall an enjoyable evening was had by all, it was great to hear that such cutting edge research is underway at our local university. The sample lesson plans certainly give us ideas on what we need to produce in the coming months. Busy and productive times ahead.

Deirdre Halleran