



The College of Psychiatry of Ireland  
*Coláiste Síciatrachta na hÉireann*

## UCD win for the first time!

***The annual Spike Milligan Interschool Public Speaking Competition, run by the College of Psychiatry of Ireland, is won by a team from UCD Medical School***

The College of Psychiatry hosted its popular & well established Spike Milligan Interschool Public Speaking competition for the 11<sup>th</sup> year recently (last Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April) in The Sugar Club, Dublin. Run every year to raise awareness of mental health issues among trainee doctors, teams of two from medical schools on the Island of Ireland compete to win the trophy, a cash prize and a free place at a College conference. The seven teams were from UCC, RCSI, TCD, UCD, QUB, NUIG and for the first time UL.

UCD's Michael Conroy and Donal Hanratty won the competition for 2011 which was themed '***Mental illness - Making the Invisible Visible***'. The runner-up team is University of Limerick's Mary Randles and Shane Moore.

*"We are delighted that a team from the most recently established medical school, University of Limerick, joined the competition this year and are the runners up! The entertainment, standard of delivery & content from all 7 teams were excellent once again. Congratulations to the winners UCD who really gave us a lot to think about as well as being highly entertaining and having done a huge amount of research"* said Dr Colette Halpin, Chair of the College's Public Education Committee, *"I would like to thank the judges Dr Anne Jeffers, Dr Navroop Johnson and Ms Emma Farrell from Headstrong for their time but also for the tough job they had in choosing winner and runner up"*.

The Spike Milligan Public speaking competition is an award established to foster and promote communication skills among doctors in training, particularly in the area of mental health. Teams are encouraged to demonstrate clear communication skills in a way that will inspire and inform a public audience. The Award is named in recognition of the late Spike Milligan's work in de-stigmatising mental illness through his books and appearances. Spike passed away not long after he lent his name to the competition and sadly never had the opportunity to be on the judging panel.

Ends

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