



The College of Psychiatry of Ireland
Cóiliste Síciatrachta na hÉireann

Press Statement - 26th March 2010

Psychiatrists meeting in Cork

The College of Psychiatry of Ireland held their 2010 Spring Conference in Cork over the last two days with the theme *'Minding the Gap: The Boundaries and Interface between Psychiatry and Primary Care.'*

The College Spring Conference 2010 which took place at the Clarion Hotel in Cork City combined a variety of high quality plenary sessions with workshops all of which aimed to address interfaces between primary and secondary care.

Linda Gask, Professor of Primary Care Psychiatry at the University of Manchester started the conference with *'The role of the psychiatrist in the management of common mental disorders in primary care.'* Professor Gask suggested that *"psychiatrists have a great opportunity in Ireland to look at how they can work with primary care practices and teams and also have a challenge in terms of the ways of looking at the interface and skills required to do that."* Continuing she said that *"we need to look at training psychiatrists to work in primary care settings."*

Professor Nick Kates from McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada presented *'Enhancing collaboration between Mental Health and Primary Care Providers'*. Summarizing, Professor Kates said that *"Primary care is already playing a major role in delivering mental health care in Ireland often without a lot of support. Psychiatrists have an opportunity to build different kinds of collaborative partnerships that will improve access to mental health care. A key reason for doing this is importance to seeking and receiving care"*. He highlighted that *"key to partnership between primary and secondary care is when psychiatrists and physicians know each other, support each other and share the care each is offering."*

Professor Kates was followed by Dr Barry White, National Director of Quality & Clinical Care HSE who spoke to delegates on *'Disease management guidelines from primary through to tertiary care'*.

'Co-morbidity of mental and physical disorders in primary care' was presented by Professor Andre Tylee - Section of Primary Care Mental Health, Institute of Psychiatry, London. Summarizing Professor Tylee said that *"A lot of people with physical chronic illness such as asthma, diabetes, heart disease, have a higher rate of depression and anxiety."* He explained that *"we are developing better systems of care management in London so that those with heart disease and depression - who have a huge range of different care needs - experience improved levels of care relevant to their specific needs"*. He spoke about a group of current patients who have been interviewed and their responses used in forming treatment plans for them which includes the patient prioritising the top three achievable actions. These face to face interviews are followed up by a second stage in the care plan which involves regular checkups and follow up discussion on what was and wasn't working. *"The emphasis is very much on collaboration"* he continued.

A session presented by general practitioner Dr Gareth Igoe and psychiatrist Dr Vincent Russell focussed on the successful collaboration between primary care and secondary care in their catchment area of East Cavan. The 'on the ground', current practice presentation provided an insight into the steps which brought about the collaborative system in place and also identified opportunities for joint care in an Irish context following on from the international presentations.

Professor Patricia Casey of the Department of Psychiatry UCD and Mater University Hospital presented on **' Defining the speciality of Psychiatry in the spectrum of Mental Health Care.'**

'The interface between Child Psychiatry and Primary Care' was covered by Dr Brendan Doody who is clinical director of the HSE Linn Dara Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service and senior clinical lecturer in Psychiatry, Trinity College Dublin.

Dr Justin Brophy, President of the College, was delighted to present Dr Dermot Walsh consultant psychiatrist and former Inspector of Mental Health Services, with an Outstanding Achievement Award

Ends

Photos attached. A full programme listing all presentations, workshops and poster presentations is available on www.irishpsychiatry.ie

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