



The College of Psychiatry of Ireland
Cóilís na Síciatrachta na hÉireann

Press Statement - 11th November 2009

International Conference, 12th & 13th November
Bridging New Frontiers - Facing New Challenges

The College of Psychiatry of Ireland is holding its first international conference as a new College in partnership with the European and Northern Ireland Divisions of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, UK. The theme over two days in Croke Park Conference Centre, (12th & 13th November), *Bridging New Frontiers - Facing New Challenges* encompasses a variety of high quality plenary sessions, workshops and poster presentations. Most notable, the conference guest speaker is The President of Ireland, Mary McAleese (Friday 13th November).

“The programme aims to bridge new frontiers for our College cultivating academic and professional networks for the future” said Dr Justin Brophy, President of the College *“and we are especially pleased that the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese will address delegates on Friday morning and are honoured by her presence”*.

A unique feature of the conference is the first opportunity to view a remarkable collaboration between science and art on the subject of suicide. Professor Kevin Malone (St Vincent’s University Hospital, Dublin) and artist Seamus McGuinness will exhibit and present ‘Understanding Suicide through Science and Art: A Psycho-biographical and Visual Arts Autopsy Study’. *“This research project was designed to learn more about the lived lives behind the suicide statistics by consulting with family and friends of those who had been bereaved by suicide in Ireland”* Professor Malone explained. *“This visual arts autopsy project”* Seamus McGuinness says *“aims to create an alternative language concerning suicide by uniquely combining research methods between art and science”*

Other plenary sessions over the two days will explore ethics relevant to Psychiatry focussing on European declarations, expertise and professionalism; the role of the psychiatrist in the psychological impact in adulthood of child sexual abuse; a UK national inquiry into suicides and homicides; self harm; making a recovery map; research, quality and audit in practice; who needs secure beds?.

Ends

NOTE: *For those media representatives wishing to attend the conference, particularly on the morning of Friday 13th November, please contact Andrea Ryder - details below.*

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