



CPsychI Press Statement- 17 April 2014

Delegates hear of their role in shaping culture change in mental health services at College 6th annual Spring Conference

Held last week in Cork, 262 delegates attended the 6th annual spring conference of the College of Psychiatrists of Ireland over two days. The programme included stimulating presentations from international and national speakers as well as a suite of parallel interactive sessions on varied but up to date topics. Attendees were across all specialties and grades in psychiatry including interns and members of the College REFOCUS group (Recovery Experience Forum of Carers and Users of Services).

Commenting on the conference, College President Dr Ruth Loane noted,

“We were very pleased with the quality and diversity of plenary topics over the two days which ranged from topics both within psychiatry, such as a new evidence based classification of personality disorder presented by Professor Peter Tyrer, and detailed description of clinical considerations of bipolar disorder, presented by Professor Allan Young. They also included other areas of medicine which are relevant and very useful to our practice, such as Professor Angela Vincent’s talk on auto-immune disorders and Professor Gregory Stores’ presentation on sleep.

The Friday plenary was equally informing to delegates, where they had an opportunity to hear from two key figures shaping our Mental Health services, Mr Stephen Mulvany, National Director for Mental Health, HSE and Dr Philip Crowley, National Director Quality and Patient Safety, HSE.

An in-depth update session on legislation (pending and review) relevant to our daily work followed. This included a review of the Mental Health Act 2001, Criminal Justice (withholding of information on offences against children and vulnerable persons) Act 2012, Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Bill 2013 and HSE National Consent Policy.

The parallel sessions on each day were both varied and thought- provoking in content. They provided an opportunity for more active participation and discussion”.

Dr Loane also commented on the high standard of this year’s NCHD poster competition entries. *“This is the first year we have invited interns to submit abstracts for consideration for poster presentation at a College conference and we very much welcome their contribution. Congratulations to Ms Jane Gilhooley and Ms Monika Bolger, Department of Psychiatry, University College Dublin / St Vincent’s University Hospital, Dublin who won the Best Research Poster, Spring 2014”.*

Their poster was titled ‘The internet in a suicidal crisis for young people: on-line channels for help or harm on page 1 of Google.ie’, and can be viewed [here](#)

Plenary sessions over both days covered topics on:

A Raving & Melancholy Madness: Clinical considerations in Bipolar Disorder, Professor Allan H Young, London

The new evidence-based classification of personality disorder and its implications for psychiatric practice, Professor Peter Tyrer, London

The emerging link between auto-immune disorders and neuropsychiatric disease, Prof Angela Vincent, University of Oxford

Psychiatric and medical consequences of disordered sleep, Prof Gregory Stores, University of Oxford

The Mental Health Division - taking credible steps to deliver the vision, Mr Stephen Mulvany, National Director, Mental Health Services, HSE

Improving quality and safety of mental health services, Dr Philip Crowley, National Director, Quality and Patient Safety, HSE Dublin

Updates on new legislation - what you need to know, Professor Brendan Kelly, Dublin, Dr John Hillery, Dublin and Dr Deirdre Madden, Cork

For full detail on the conference and a synopsis of each talk and workshop for both days, please click [here](#).

Photos attached and to follow

Ends

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