



The College of Psychiatry of Ireland
Coláiste Síciatrachta na hÉireann

Press Statement 14 November 2012

CPsychI run second successful summer school for medical students

Students from every university in Ireland attended a recent psychiatry summer school in Dublin, organised by the Trainee Committee of the College of Psychiatry of Ireland. This is the second year the two-day free event has run. It was expanded this year to accommodate increased demand from students and involved visits to more clinical sites in the Dublin area.

The overall aim of the Summer School is to promote the diversity in Psychiatry and explain the many roles that psychiatrists play as clinicians, researchers, multi-disciplinary team members and leaders in the mental health field.

The day included a variety of presentations, and hospital site visits. Students received plenary talks from: Dr Anne-Marie O'Dwyer, Consultant Liaison Psychiatrist and Dr Niall Crumlish, Consultant General Adult Psychiatrist, who both spoke on the topic of being a psychiatrist in Ireland and their own training experiences.

After a lively Q&A session, students were escorted by trainees to one of eight sites around the city - these included St James' Hospital, St Patrick's University Hospital, St Vincent's University Hospital, Beaumont Hospital, the National Forensic Mental Health Service in Dundrum, the Drug Treatment Services, the Lucena Clinic in Rathgar, and Linndara Child & Adolescent services in Cherryfield. Each site's unique clinical and scientific aspects were explained and students met with consultant psychiatrists, psychiatry trainees, multidisciplinary team members and, at some sites, patients and their carers/ family members.

Dr Anne Jeffers, Community Psychiatrist in Galway discussed her work and the changes within her own service to work as per 'A Vision for Change', the blueprint for mental health services in Ireland. A patient gave her own story of her journey with her illness, highlighting stigma and the recovery aspects, with many students describing her talk as the highlight of the day.

To close the day students attended a social event in the College of Psychiatry where they were welcomed by the Postgraduate Training Pillar Director Professor Greg Swanwick and had further opportunity to speak with trainees and consultants.

"The College is delighted to give students the opportunity of seeing the variety there is within psychiatry and to experience aspects of psychiatry that they may not necessarily get exposure to during their psychiatry attachment as undergraduates" said Professor Swanwick.

Dr Eric Kelleher described the day as a great success. "We were delighted to meet so many students from every university and anticipate that they are leaving today with a better sense of the work psychiatrists do and how dynamic the specialty is".

Interest is such that plans are already underway by the College's Trainee Committee to further expand the Summer School format next year to include other cities such as Galway and Cork.

The first Summer School held in 2011 has won the European Federation for Psychiatric Trainees (EFPT) Award for Excellence 2012.

Ends

PHOTOS ATTACHED

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