



**College of Psychiatrists
of Ireland**

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College of Psychiatrists of Ireland launch two key papers at 5th annual Spring Conference

The 5th Annual Spring Conference of the College of Psychiatrists of Ireland, held recently in Athlone, was attended by circa 450 delegates over the two day event. The programme included stimulating presentations from international and national speakers as well as interactive workshops on varied but up to date topics and included participation and attendance by service users and carers both from the College REFOCUS group (Recovery Experience Forum of Carers and Users of Services) and from other similar groups.

In his opening address to delegates, Dr Anthony McCarthy, President CPsychI, encouraged College members to read a REFOCUS paper '*Who Cares? Listening to the needs and experiences of carers of people with mental illness*' and a position paper '*The Relationship between Psychiatrists, College of Psychiatrists of Ireland and the Pharmaceutical Industry*', both College papers launched at the conference.

Commenting on both papers he expressed gratitude to the REFOCUS group in particular for giving of their free time to attend meetings and to produce a paper in a short time reflecting the honest, real views of the forum and which he hoped College members would embrace.

"We are very pleased that carers and services users are here attending and presenting in workshops today and tomorrow. I urge you to start the conversation going as to how carers and service user views could be more heard and acted upon both in post graduate training and in your services referring to the document launched today" he said.

Welcoming the position paper, '[The Relationship between Psychiatrists, College of Psychiatrists of Ireland and the Pharmaceutical Industry](#)', formalising the independent stance of the College since 2010 on pharmaceutical funding and sponsorship Dr McCarthy said *"the College is pleased to be the first medical professional organisation in Ireland (to my knowledge) to undertake development of such a position. The College refuses all funding from pharmaceutical companies for any of its activities"*.

Plenary sessions over both days covered topics on:

- '*Managing Physical Health in Mental Health Populations*' presented by Dr Abbie Lane, St John of God Hospital and Dr Fiona McKenna, GP, Grangemount North, Co Dublin
- '*Depression: What to do when the outcomes are not what is hoped for*' by Dr Hamish McAllister-Williams, Institute of Neuroscience, Newcastle University, UK
- '*Child Sexual Abuse and Psychosis*' presented by Prof Paul Bebbington, UCL Mental Health Sciences Unit, London

- ‘*Early Intervention Services in Psychosis: What are the benefits?*’ Dr Paddy Power, St Patrick’s University Hospital & Trinity College Dublin and
- ‘*Early Intervention Services in Psychosis: Are they worth it?*’, Prof Paul McCrone, Institute of Psychiatry, London, UK.
- ‘*The Developing Mentalisation Based Therapy as a Treatment Provision in a Scottish Context*’ presented by Dr Catherine Cahill, Glasgow
- ‘*Conversations with Pregnant Women about Suicide, Abortion & Pregnancy: A Personal Experience*’ by Dr Anthony McCarthy, St Vincent’s University Hospital, Dublin
- ‘*Weight Gain in the Treatment of Mental Health*’ presented by Prof Donal O’Shea, St Vincent’s University Hospital and St Colmcille’s Hospital, Dublin
- ‘*Ketamine: a novel, rapid-acting antidepressant*’, Dr Marie Naughton, University College Cork

The conference provided a forum for NCHD’s to present their research and compete for a prize for in two categories, Audit and Health Services Research/Services Users. The winners were announced the conference as follows (click link on the winning title for the abstract):

Audit Category

Winner:

Dr Mary Butler, South Tipperary Mental Health Services, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary: [‘Monitoring of Extrapryamidal Side Effects in Patients on Antipsychotic Treatment in South Tipperary Adult Mental Health Services’](#)

Commendations:

Dr Salima Boudjellali, Brothers of Charity, Bawnmore, Limerick: [‘Audit on monitoring and managing metabolic syndrome in patient prescribed clozapine’](#)

and

Dr Sarah-Jane Brady, Jonathan Swift Clinic, St James’ Hospital, Dublin: [‘An audit of physical restraint in Jonathan Swift Clinic, St James’s Hospital’](#)

Health Services Research/Service User Category

Winner:

Dr Hugh Ramsay, Daughters of Charity Service, St Vincent’s Centre, Navan Road, Dublin: [‘Patterns and predictors of persistent negative symptoms at year 12 post first episode among a sample with primary psychotic disorders’](#)

Commendations:

Dr John Reynolds, Drug Treatment Centre Board, Dublin: [‘Monitoring QTc of service users on methadone substitution therapy: An audit’](#)

and

Dr Eric Roche, DETECT Early Intervention Psychosis Service, Blackrock, Co Dublin: '[Thought disorder in first episode psychosis](#)'

For full detail on the conference programme and a synopsis of each talk and workshop please see link http://www.irishpsychiatry.ie/Libraries/Conferences_2012/FINAL_PROGRAMME.sflb.ashx and attached.

Photos attached and to follow

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ESCAP Congress 2013, 6-10 July, CCD, Dublin www.escap2013.ie