



The College of Psychiatry of Ireland  
*Coláiste Siciatrachta na hÉireann*

## Press statement 13th March

### College of Psychiatry of Ireland

#### CPsychI Annual Spike Milligan Public Speaking Competition

The College of Psychiatry of Ireland is hosting the 12th Spike Milligan Public Speaking competition tomorrow evening when teams from the seven Medical Schools in Ireland will compete for the Dick Joynt Trophy & Sculpture. The College remain grateful to Spike Milligan, who died 10 years ago last month, for lending his name to this popular and important annual competition.

Each team will speak on the subject: *'Out of Sight, Out of Mind - who are the bond holders for our homeless with mental health problems?'* Fr Peter McVerry of the Peter McVerry Trust will be one of the judges along with Dr Maurice Clancy, a senior trainee in psychiatry and Dr Joanne Fenton, Consultant Psychiatrist for Homeless Mentally Ill ACCES Team. The College focus for this year is *'Homelessness and Mental Health'*. Dr Matthew Sadlier, who will bring his own skill in comedy to the event, is chair for the evening.

This Public Speaking Competition was conceived in 2000 as part of the Changing Minds Campaign of the College which aimed to address stigma among the public towards mental health. It was also felt that stigma among the medical profession needed to be addressed and the idea of promoting a positive attitude towards mental health among medical students was born.

*"The event has grown over the twelve years as has a general understanding and awareness of mental health issues. It continues to be a very entertaining, professional and competitive evening. Some previous winners and entrants are now trainee psychiatrists so the competition clearly contributes to attracting medical students to psychiatry as a specialism as well as raising their awareness of mental health issues and how important mental health is to all"*. Dr Anthony McCarthy, President of the College, explained.

The event, which is free to the public and medical students, starts at 6.30pm sharp, tomorrow, Wednesday 14th March in the Sugar Club (Leeson Street, Dublin).

Please contact Andrea Ryder on [andrea@irishpsychiatry.ie](mailto:andrea@irishpsychiatry.ie) or 01 661 8450 if you wish to attend.

Photos attached

Ends