



Dr Lorcan Martin,
PCS Director

Dear Colleague,

I am delighted to take up the position of Director of Professional Competence in the college. My predecessors, Dr Consilia Walsh & Dr Miriam Kennedy, have created and developed a comprehensive and relevant PCS, facilitating psychiatrists to fulfil our professional competence requirements. I look forward to building on their achievements to further develop this, in light of the current expansion of the role of professional competence in maintaining standards. The Committee members, staff and I look forward to another busy and proactive term developing Professional Competence and lifelong learning for psychiatrists.

*We would welcome new members to join us on the Professional Competence Committee - representatives from regions outside Dublin are especially needed. We meet approximately 6 times per year and dial-in facilities are available. And as always, we call for your help to bring **Hot Topics to the regions!** If you are based outside Dublin and would like to see a Hot Topics meeting organised in your region, please do talk to me, Louise or Lorna in the PCS office about sourcing a venue and speakers.*

With best wishes, Lorcan Martin

1. ARMCHAIR CPD: SOURCES OF ONLINE LEARNING FOR THE BUSY PSYCHIATRIST

Workshop with Dr Lorcan Martin & Lorna O'Callaghan
@ Spring Meeting, Lyrath Estate Hotel, Kilkenny.

❖ THURSDAY 6TH APRIL, 14:15 – 15:30 hrs

Weary of weather and tired of traffic? Done with distance? Did you know that you can accrue almost a third of your annual CPD points from the comfort of your couch? In this digital age, learning styles and education channels are complex and diverse, reflecting the environments in which we work. Online CPD, blended learning, digital diaries & electronic portfolios can help the busy practitioner access what they need to maintain their professional competence. This practical workshop will look at the online CPD tools available to psychiatrists, where to find them, how to access them and how to claim CPD appropriately, as well as your suggestions for good sources of online CPD.

2. Hot Topics in Psychiatry

Two Speakers, Two CPD Credits, One Thursday per month

The ever-popular Hot Topics meetings are a great way to hear topical presentations from peers and experts; engage in lively discussion on the subject; gather CPD credits; and meet colleagues. The final meeting in this series is set for **Thursday 27th April** in the Ashling Hotel, with **Dr Philip Dodd** presenting on **Psychiatric Illness in Adults with Intellectual Disability – assessment, diagnosis, treatment** and **Dr Janette Tyrrell** speaking on **Dementia in Intellectual Disability**.

For details and to book online, go to [Events](http://www.irishpsychiatry.ie) on www.irishpsychiatry.ie; email louise@irishpsychiatry.ie or ring 01 634 4375.

The 2017/18 Hot Topics will start in September 2017 – full schedule of dates, topics & speakers will be circulated shortly.

3. Update your online CPD Diary! PCS Year End – 30th April 2017



Another gentle reminder to ensure you update your online CPD diary – it can make life easier to log credits throughout the year! Please make sure you have good evidence to support the external, internal and research / examining / teaching credits you log.

- **Don't forget to confirm Clinical (Practice) Audit on your diary!**
- **Reflective notes** can be saved for all categories of CPD if you wish, and the **Clinical (Practice) Audit title** can also be saved on your diary.
- Contact us in the PCS office if you need advice, assistance with logging, or if you are having particular difficulties with accruing CPD credits or Clinical (Practice) Audit.

4. Pay 2017/18 PCS fee between May and June 2017 – Medical Council guidance.

The Medical Council is introducing a new professional competence declaration for doctors retaining their registration, (retention process opens mid-May 2017). The effect of this is that all doctors must pay their professional competence annual fee *before* completing retention of registration with the Medical Council. We in the CPsychI will issue 2017/18 PCS fee invoices as early in May as possible to facilitate this.

The Medical Council guidance, sent to all on their registers, says:
If you are registered in the General, Specialist or Supervised Division and practise in Ireland for 30 or more days per year you must:

1. Pay your Professional Competence Scheme enrolment fee for the PCS year, commencing 1st May 2017 and ending 30th April 2018, before completing your retention of registration.
- AND
2. When retaining your registration, you must declare the name of your Professional Competence Scheme and the date when you paid your 2017/18 enrolment fee.

5. CPD for online learning.

Some websites (listed below) are approved by this College for online CPD. Credits are usually allocated by the host organisation per completed module. Where the organisation doesn't indicate the credits for the module, the general rule is 1 CPD credit per hour of learning activity.

Our suite of **Hot Topics CPD eModules** were launched in January 2017, with a wide range of topics available for you to watch, answer MCQs on, and log as CPD. New eModules will be regularly added - we will let you know as they become available.

- [CPsychI Hot Topics eModules \(1 CPD credit each\)](#)

- [British Association for Psychopharmacology \(BAP\) online CPD](#)
- [CPsychI & RCPI elearning module "Delirium: Recognition & Response \(requires Moodle login\)](#)
- [Medilearning – Schizophrenia Module](#)
- [Medscape](#)
- [Mental Health Commission](#)
- [RCPsych CPD online](#)
- [RCPI - individual online courses \(courses relevant to your scope of practice and appropriate level for consultant CPD\)](#)

If you wish to claim online learning from one of the above websites for CPD, you should ensure you complete any tests at the end of a module and then print off your certificate for the module. **You may claim up to 10 External CPD credits per year for online learning, plus a maximum of 5 Internal CPD credits per year.**

6. Automatic Recognition of some events for External CPD.

(A) External CPD credits approved by the medical training bodies in Ireland (Royal College of Surgeons, Royal College of Physicians, College of Anaesthetists, Irish College of General Practitioners) are automatically recognised by the College of Psychiatrists of Ireland. Ensure you receive a Certificate of Attendance stating the External CPD credits awarded. You do not need to apply to the CPsychI for CPD approval or a CPD certificate. External CPD credits can be claimed *subject to our Guidelines**.

(B) EACCME accredited meetings – if you receive a certificate of attendance which enumerates EACCME credits, you do not need to apply to the CPsychI for CPD approval or a CPD certificate. EACCME credits can be claimed as External CPD credits *subject to our Guidelines**.

(C) Some established psychiatric conferences / international meetings are recognised by the CPsychI for external CPD, *subject to our guidelines**. You do not need to apply to the CPsychI for approval or a CPD certificate for these meetings.

- [Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health \(ACAMH\)](#) meetings and conferences
- [American Psychiatric Association \(APA\)](#) annual conferences
- [American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry \(AACAP\)](#) annual meetings
- [British Association of Psychopharmacology \(BAP\)](#) annual meetings
- [European College of Neuropsychopharmacology \(ECNP\)](#) annual conferences
- [European Psychiatric Association \(EPA\)](#) annual conferences
- [European Society for Child & Adolescent Psychiatry \(ESCAP\)](#) conferences
- [International Psychogeriatric Association \(IPA\)](#) conferences

- [Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists \(RANZCP\)](#) meetings and conferences
- [Royal College of Psychiatrists \(RCPsych\)](#) meetings, courses and conferences
- [World Psychiatric Association \(WPA\)](#) annual conferences

* See www.irishpsychiatry.ie/profcomp/cpd_event_approvals for
 - **GUIDELINES for automatic recognition of CPD**
 - **RECOGNITION OF OTHER EVENTS for External CPD**

7. Annotation[†] on PCS Statement to indicate certified sick leave / maternity leave

Periods of **certified illness >3 months** and **certified maternity leave** can impact on a doctor's ability to meet the requirements of PCS in a particular PCS year. If these circumstances cause a psychiatrist difficulty in meeting the annual requirements of the scheme, the psychiatrist should **inform the college's PCS office**. We can then confidentially note the circumstance on your file and have it indicated on your Statement of Participation (by way of a † symbol). This way, where there is a shortfall, there will be an indication of a period of certified leave on your Statement for the year concerned. The doctor should ensure (s)he has the relevant documentation or certification to provide to the Medical Council if audited.

8. Medical Council guidance: where PCS annual minimum requirements are not met

The Medical Council has stated that:

"Doctors should always be advised and supported to achieve the minimum targets for accrual of maintenance of competence activities each year. However, where annual minimum targets have not been achieved, in reviewing a doctor's Statement of Participation, the Medical Council will also take account of the average accrual of credits across a 5 year period before any decision is made regarding further action. It also takes into account any particular circumstances which may be relevant."

This guidance is welcome and should be of reassurance to doctors who normally meet or exceed the minimum requirements of the PCS, but have difficulties in a particular year.

9. Peer Group research - survey

The Professional Competence Committee was awarded a small educational research grant in 2016 by the Irish Network of Medical Educators (INMED) and the Irish Medical Council (IMC) to study the use of Peer Groups in our Professional Competence Scheme. The study received ethics approval and is now underway. Members of the CPsychI PCS have been invited by email to complete a short questionnaire on Peer Groups, and will be eligible to receive CPD points for doing so.

<http://www.inmed.ie/past-recipients/>

As always, the Professional Competence Handbook contains full information on all aspects of PCS.

<http://www.irishpsychiatry.ie/professional-competence/pcs-handbook/>