



Press Release: 7th March 2017

Medfest 2017 returns to focus on Matters of Life and Death

The first in a series of university events exploring the need to make doctors, patients, and the general public more comfortable about discussing death.

Medfest, the medically themed one night film festival exploring medicine and psychiatry, will kick off with its first Irish event of 2017 in the **NUIG on Tuesday, 7th March**. The event has enjoyed major successes over the past number of years and will also take place in UL and the RCSI up until May. The events are free and open to everyone.

This exciting night of film and discussion centres on this year's theme of **"Eros & Thanatos: Matters of life and death"** and will feature 5 films. The event is split into three sections: **'Past'**, which will focus on humans historical questioning of mortality through history, religion, philosophy and culture; **'Present'**, exploring current themes such as **Euthanasia, Suicide, Palliative Care**, grief and terminal disease; and **'Future'** which will delve into the world of **Robotics, Artificial Intelligence, Cryogenics, Transhumanism and Immortality**.

Each event will feature discussion by a panel of multidisciplinary experts from a wide range of fields such as Psychiatry, Psychotherapy and Counselling, Gastroenterology and Social Science as well as organisations including the **Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission** and the Limerick division of **The Death Café**. It is hoped that these films will not only stimulate debate and conversation on the delicate balance between life and death, but will also encourage doctors to question their own preconceptions about life and death in order to contribute to providing the best care for patients.

ENDS

Notes to the Editor

The festival was first brought to Ireland in 2013 by the Trainee Committee of the College of Psychiatrists of Ireland (CPsychI) in collaboration with their Trainee colleagues from the Royal College of Psychiatrists in the UK, who pioneered MedFest in 2011. The success of MedFest's debut in UCD in 2013 has led to its expansion across five Irish Universities.

MedFest showcases the great potential for the Arts to contribute to medicine and the Trainee Committee of the CPsychI hopes to be able to continue their collaboration with the RCPsych to expand the model of MedFest further in 2018.

For further details, please visit <https://www.medfest2017.com/>

For further details on The Death Café please visit: <http://deathcafe.com/deathcafe/2332>

Upcoming event dates:

UL - Thursday, 30th March

UCD - TBC

RCSI - End of March, date TBC

For attendance at upcoming Medfest events or other media queries please contact:

Mary Hayes

Communications Assistant

College of Psychiatrists of Ireland | 5 Herbert Street | Dublin 2

Tel: 01 -634 4379

Email: mhayes@irishpsychiatry.ie web: www.irishpsychiatry.ie