

Press Release 19th November 2019

“Cannabis - Path to Nirvana or Road to Perdition”

Medical Students Raise Mental Health Awareness at Spike Milligan Public Speaking Competition

The College of Psychiatrists of Ireland is hosting its annual Spike Milligan Public Speaking Competition* on **Thursday, 21st November at 6.30pm**, in the Button Factory, Dublin.

The competition aims to raise awareness of mental health issues among the general public and particularly to foster and promote communication skills around mental health issues among the medical student community. This year, teams of two from the medical schools in Ireland **UCC, UL, UCD, NUIG, TCD, and RCSI** will speak on the following theme: ***“Cannabis - Path to Nirvana or Road to Perdition”***.

The winning team will take home the Dick Joynt Trophy, specially sculpted for the competition, a cash prize and a free place at one of the College annual conferences. We are delighted to have the former College Director of Communications and Public Education and consultant psychiatrist **Dr Miriam Kennedy**, Trainee Committee Co-Chair and trainee psychiatrist **Dr Anna Feeney**, and REFOCUS committee member and mental health advocate **Diarmaid Ring** on the panel of judges.

Dr Matt Sadlier, consultant psychiatrist, will MC the night. The competition has built up a large following among medical students over many years. Once again, this year promises to be an entertaining, thought provoking and enjoyable evening. This is a free event and is open to the public.

For further information or if you wish to attend please contact Ian at irice@irishpsychiatry.ie or [register on Eventbrite](#).

ENDS

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Notes for the Editor:

The College of Psychiatrists of Ireland was formed in 2009. It is the professional body for psychiatrists in the Republic of Ireland. The Mission of the College of Psychiatrists of Ireland is to promote excellence in the practice of psychiatry. The College of Psychiatrists of Ireland is the sole body recognised by the Medical Council and the HSE for the training of doctors to become specialists in psychiatry and for the continuing assurance of the career long competence of specialists in psychiatry. The College supports the delivery of mental health services in line with the recovery model and supports the delivery of the national policy on mental health services A Vision for Change.

* The Spike Milligan Public Speaking Competition was first held in 1999 as part of the Changing Minds Campaign of the College, addressing the stigma associated with mental health problems. Spike Milligan generously lent his name to the competition. It honours his great work as an advocate for those affected by mental ill health.