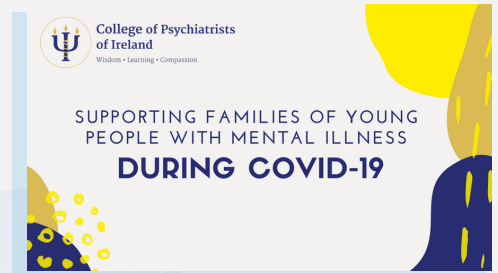




EAP HIGHLIGHTS

- The EAP team has been working with a number of a Child and Adolescent Consultant Specialist Members to remotely record, edit and publish a series of videos titled "Supporting Families of Young People with Mental Illness during Covid-19". There are now five videos, with each contributor having scripted, set-up and recorded their piece to camera in their home or office, with guidance from the EAP dept who then edited, branded and published the videos on the College YouTube channel and website.
A variety of communications were employed to circulate and promote the video series including press statements, Twitter, correspondence with relevant stakeholders and newsletters to CPsychI members. Following correspondence to the Department of Health the series will also feature on the official government website under the "In This Together" section as well as the HSE site yourmentalhealth.ie.
Two separate letters drafted by the Faculty of Intellectual Disability were sent to Minister for Health Simon Harris expressing concerns re. the risks of COVID-19 and related challenges for those with an Intellectual Disability living in a residential setting and the need for additional support for carers/families of children with ID at home. This correspondence was additionally highlighted on Twitter.
Dr Anne Jeffers will take up the role of Policy Lead for the College in mid-May 2020, working with the External Affairs and Policy Department and current EAP Director, Dr Maeve Doyle.
With the formation of a coalition government seeming imminent the College has written to the leaders of the major political parties outlining the priority mental health service provision must take in the new programme for government particularly in the aftermath of COVID-19, highlighting the need for development of well-funded and staffed, recovery-orientated mental health services as well as additional supports required for healthcare workers and those affected adversely by Covid-19.
Irish Journal of Psychological Medicine Dr John Lyne (Editor), Prof Fiona McNicholas and Dr Blanaid Gavin have been working on a COVID-19 special edition of the Irish Journal of Psychological Medicine. A large number of submissions have been received and approved and it is hoped that the issue will be released online in mid-May, with a print version to follow towards the end of summer. A media release of the issue by the EAP department is being planned at present.



SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE ACTIVITY

- Top Search Bar Terms: 1. Dr John Hillery, 2. Attention Deficit Disorder, 3. Moodie, 4. Depression, 5. CPD
Total Website Visitors: 14,335
Total Pageviews: 43,295
Visits to Covid-19 Section: 2,518

Covid-19 Video Series:

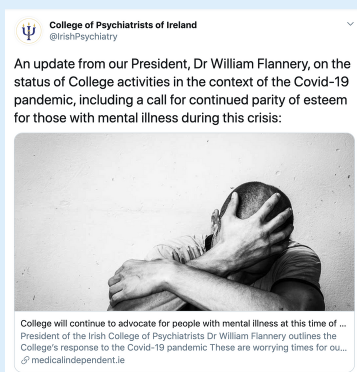
Most Viewed on YouTube

- 1. ADHD - Dr Kieran Moore
2. Autism - Prof Louise Gallagher

Total Views on YT

1,691

Top Tweet



2,997 Views

89 Clicks



MEDIA ROUND-UP

EAP Media Activities: The College and the press April & May 2020

Medical Independent April Issue

Dr William Flannery's President's message to members regarding COVID-19 in March 2020 was included in online and print editions of the Medical Independent in April.

Coverage of College Covid-19 Video Series

The College video series was featured on IrishHealth.com and on the Limerick FM website.

Other Media Activity:

Dr Maeve Doyle has written an opinion piece on youth mental health during and in the aftermath of COVID-19 which has been pitched to the Journal.ie

Press Statements:

(i) Detailed statement released on "Continued support, flexibility and guidance needed for those with mental illness and neurodevelopmental conditions during coronavirus outbreak".

(ii) 3 x statements circulated during the stepped release of 5 videos in the College COVID-19 series on "Supporting Families of Young People with Mental Illness".

(iii) 2 separate statements were drafted and released by the Faculty of Intellectual Disability regarding (1) highlighting need for additional safeguarding for those in residential centres for Intellectual Disability and (2) the need for support and guidance for families/carers of children with an Intellectual Disability at home.

# EAP COMMITTEE REPORTS

**HUMAN RIGHTS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE** Chair: Dr Pauline Twomey, Vice-Chair: Dr Ciaran Clarke

**AIMS:**  
To provide support and advice to the College and its members on the ethical dimension of patient care.  
To ensure there is an ethical input into College submissions, policy and position papers.  
To ensure members have an awareness and expertise in Human Rights Legislation and its impact on mental health care.

Next Meeting: TBC

**LAW COMMITTEE** Chair: Dr Mike Scully, Vice-Chair: Dr Valerie Murphy

**AIM:**  
To provide expert psychiatric opinion based on mental health and law and to contribute to development of better mental health law.

**OBJECTIVES:**  
To respond to requests for submissions on legal issues related to mental health.  
To inform and educate members on matters related to law and mental health.  
To assist the College in informing the general public on matters related to law and mental health.

- Valerie Murphy was elected as **Vice-Chair of the Committee** at a meeting on Tuesday, 17th November 2019.
- The main item of activity/concern, currently, remains the proposed DoLs addendum to the ADM (C) Act.

Next Meeting: TBC

**REFOCUS - RECOVERY EXPERIENCE FORUM OF CARERS AND USERS OF SERVICES** Joint Chairs: Dr Mia McLoughlin and Ms Christine McCabe

**AIMS:**  
To engage actively in genuine partnership with the College so that training, ongoing competence and day to day practice of Psychiatry is informed and guided by those who have had experience of mental illness, or who have cared for those with mental illness. The forum comprises 23 members which includes service users/patients (8), family members/carers (8) & psychiatrists (8)

- Diarmaid Ring has been appointed Joint-Chair of REFOCUS and will take up this position at the September meeting. The group would like to sincerely thank outgoing Joint-Chair, Christine McCabe, for her dedication to REFOCUS over the past few years.
- Approval in principle has been granted in relation a proposed suite of videos on the themes of "Psychiatric Diagnosis" and "Family Dynamics". Between 6 and 8 short videos will be produced in-house by the EAP Team and will feature REFOCUS members.
- Owing to the success of the day, it has been proposed and accepted in principle that the Monetary Impact of Mental Illness symposium is run again in the future.
- Invited to co-produce online family resource by Gina Delaney of Mental Health Ireland. See "External; Stakeholders" section below.

Next Meetings: 22nd May 2020 (via Zoom) & 18th September 2020

## EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS

### ***Mental Health Ireland and HSE Mental Health Recovery and Engagement***

REFOCUS members are currently meeting with Mental Health Ireland and HSE Mental Health Engagement and Recovery to co-produce an online resource (which will be housed on the HSE website) listing available supports and services for family members. The working group has met twice using Zoom Videoconferencing and is in the process of researching and collating resources.

### ***Engagement with Relevant Awareness Days on Twitter***

World Maternal Mental Health Day 2020 (and publication of HSE information leaflet series for women before, during and after pregnancy), International Nurses Day 2020 and International Day of Families 2020 highlighted on College Twitter.