



College of Psychiatrists of Ireland

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Press Statement 20th February 2013

Getting the most out of Training CPsychI NCHD annual conference a success

The recent annual NCHD Conference '*Beyond Memberships - Getting the most out of Training*', organised by the dedicated working group of the Trainee Committee of the College of Psychiatrists of Ireland (CPsychI) was a great success, with over one hundred NCHD's in attendance the Hilton Hotel, Kilmainham, Dublin.

The theme of the one day conference reflected Trainees' focus on development and research in psychiatric training and was chaired by Dr Eric Kelleher, Chair of the Trainee Committee.

NCHD's received plenary talks from Dr Anne-Marie O'Dwyer (Consultant Liaison Psychiatrist, St James's Hospital), Dr Brian Fitzmaurice (Cognitive Behavioural Therapy Course Director, Trinity College Dublin and Consultant General Adult Psychiatrist, Newcastle) and Prof David Meagher (Professor of Psychiatry, University of Limerick and Consultant Psychiatrist).

Dr O'Dwyer described her own experience of setting up a Liaison Psychiatry Service in St James's Hospital in 2000 and also helping to establish a dedicated Psycho-Oncology Service in 2004. Dr Fitzmaurice delivered an insightful talk on incorporating psychotherapeutic skills into daily practice and Prof Meagher's final plenary focused Trainees on developing the research aspect of their careers.

Following the plenary talks, the winner and runner-up of the CPsychI Medical Student Essay Competition 2013 were announced. Submissions had been invited from students of each of the medical schools in Ireland on the topic of "*No man is an island - the role of the family in mental well-being/recovery*". The prize on offer to all six finalists included free entry into the College's NCHD Conference and Spring Conference 2013, together with the winner receiving a medal and cash prize. A large number of submissions were received and among the six shortlisted students who attended the Conference, the runner-up was Liam Kennedy (TCD) and the winning prize was awarded to Susan McGrath (UCC).

The afternoon workshops afforded delegates a wide choice of relevant and topical sessions on the theme of research and development with additional workshops focusing on clinical topics.

Dr Eric Kelleher said, "*We are delighted with attendance at the NCHD conference this year which is an increase again on other years and indicates the importance this event has built up in the diary of psychiatry NCHDs. We hope delegates left with a sense of how to employ the expertise and skills described in their own clinical practise but also with the value in networking with peers and consultants.*"

To close the day the NCHD's attended a social event, where they had the opportunity to speak with fellow NCHD's working across Ireland in many different areas of Psychiatry.

See photos attached

Ends

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