



**College of Psychiatrists
of Ireland**

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Press Statement 28th February 2013

‘MedFest’ gives UCD Medical Students insight into their future profession

UCD Medical Students were treated to an engaging selection of films on the theme, *‘The Power of Medicine’*, at the launch of ‘MedFest’ in UCD cinema this week.

Building on a successful tour of 20 universities in the UK, the medical film festival was brought to UCD by the Trainee Committee of the College of Psychiatrists of Ireland in collaboration with their trainee colleagues from the Royal College of Psychiatrists in the UK who pioneered MedFest. Students from ‘PSYCHED’ (UCD Psychiatry Special Interest Group) and UCD MedSoc helped to organise the exciting event. Dr Eric Kelleher (Chair, Trainee Committee), who chaired the evening, opened up active discussion among the panel and the audience on a range of social, political and ethical topics.

The first session explored the theme the *‘Power of Medicine for the Patient’*, showing documentary films relating to addictions, elaborated upon by Dr Des Crowley (Addiction Specialist GP) and Dr Michael Doran (Consultant Psychiatrist in the Mater Hospital and Drug Treatment Centre Board). Both doctors spoke of the difficulties facing drug users and their families as they attempt to overcome addictions and the various paths to recovery they can take.

An engaging animated film in the second section on the *‘Power of Medicine for the Doctor’*, which focused on Obstetrics, was reflected upon by Dr Rhona Mahony (Master Designate of the National Maternity Hospital). The film highlighted the close relationship which is formed between patients, midwives and doctors through the shared experience of such significant and emotionally charged events. This section also featured the short film *‘A different life’* which showed students the positive experience of working as a trainee in psychiatry.

The final part of the evening, the *‘Power of Medicine for Society’* included a segment from a documentary on doctors working for Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF).

Dr Ceppie Merry (Senior Lecturer in Global Health Medicine at Trinity College Dublin and Consultant Specialist in Infectious Diseases at St James's Hospital, Dublin), who regularly works in Uganda, spoke of her difficulties treating patients with a lack of resources but also the rewarding experience it can provide for the doctor.

Dr Brendan Kelly (Senior Lecturer in Psychiatry at UCD and Consultant Psychiatrist at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital) gave students an inspiring outlook on their future profession, speaking of the privilege that enables doctors to bring about effective solutions for patients and society.

“The event was a great success. Using the medium of film, Medfest encourages students to reflect on their future role as doctors” said Dr Eric Kelleher. *“The films shown linked a range of specialties at both an individual and population level. What really came across in the discussion was the importance*

of a collaborative relationship between doctors and patients and how rewarding our work can be. We look forward to bringing MedFest to other universities in 2014”.

Feedback from the students indicated that MedFest gave them a greater understanding of the diversity of psychiatry as a specialty and encouraged them to consider entering into the profession. Eimear Pilkington, UCD 4th year Medical Student, who co-ordinated the event on-site commented *“It was an absolute pleasure to host Medfest here in UCD. The students felt they really engaged with the topical and relevant medical issues presented by the selection of short films and discussed by the high calibre guest speakers. Many commented that it gave them a real insight into both the challenges and rewards of medicine today and energised them towards their future profession”.*

To close the evening, the students welcomed the panel to a reception, which gave everyone an opportunity to further analyse the film’s provocative themes.

Photos attached

Ends

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