

**PRESS RELEASE: 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

**College's first week long Foundation Year Induction Programme "should be replicated again and again by other specialities" say psychiatry trainees.**

The College hosted its first week long **Foundation Year Induction Programme 2018** for incoming psychiatry trainees which, in addition to welcoming them, aimed to orient them to skills and knowledge required at this early stage in and throughout their training. Their **communication style, awareness and skills**; confidence and psychological well-being; as well as **issues of patient safety** they face were areas of focus for the programme which was delivered through a blend of presentations and workshops. It also provided an opportunity for networking and encouraged trainees to build support networks amongst themselves as doctors.

This one-of-a-kind week long programme aims to **lead the way in introducing medical students into their speciality training** and should benefit both the incoming trainees and the patients they treat.

The training received very positive feedback with one trainee stating:

*"This was a vital and important week of training that should be part of all training services. The programme should probably be replicated again and again by other specialities."*

Another main focus was on the **cultural aspects of Irish life** which will impact the work of these future psychiatrists. This is important as many of the new trainees have come from overseas to begin their training in psychiatry. Presentations on mental illness and the **Irish traveller community, refugees in Ireland, spirituality, sports culture, and LGBT awareness were delivered by specialists in each area.**

The Dean of Education, **Professor Gregory Swanwick**, opened the programme which included presentations from **Dr Justin Brophy**, Clinical Lead, National Office for Suicide Prevention & Chair of the Forum of Postgraduate Medical Training Bodies, who spoke about doctor stress, and consultant psychiatrists **Dr Brendan McCormack** and **Prof Brendan Kelly** who provided sessions on working within the Irish Health System.

**Dr Anne Jeffers**, Clinical Lead for the National Clinical Programme and joint chair of **CPsychI REFOCUS** (Recovery Experience Forum of Carers and Users of Service) spoke on Suicide Response

training with fellow REFOCUS member **Mr Rick Rossiter** who shared his lived experiences with mental illness.

*“The personal stories were fascinating. It’s good to be reminded of how far we have come in terms of stigma and attitudes towards mental ill health.”* – Trainee feedback on REFOCUS plenary presentation.

Facilitated group workshops on **communication skills and physical health skills training** allowed trainees, consultants and REFOCUS members to work together to ensure trainees consider their methods of communication when speaking with patients, family members and members of the MDT, delivering a diagnosis, and connecting with patients.

The full programme of presentations and workshops can be [found here](#).

**For media queries please contact:**

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**Ends**

**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 2006 national policy on mental health services *A Vision for Change* in line with recommendations for adjustment 11 years on.

**Photos (larger versions can be emailed directly to you):**

Psychiatry Trainees at Foundation Year Induction Training:



Ms Elizabeth Kavanagh, Manager, Postgraduate Training Dept., Prof Greg Swanwick, Dean of Education, Dr William Flannery, Vice-President, Ms Miriam Silke, Chief Executive, Ms Rosarii Mannion, National HR Director, HSE:



Prof Greg Swanwick, Dean of Education, facilitating Communications Skills Workshop:

