



College of Psychiatrists
of Ireland

Wisdom • Learning • Compassion

Press Release: 18th September 2018
**Medical Students and Interns gain insight into psychiatry at
Psychiatry Summer School**

Organised by the **Trainee Committee** of the College of Psychiatrists of Ireland* for the eighth consecutive year, the **Psychiatry Summer School** for medical students and interns gave students the opportunity to gain insight into the career opportunities within the psychiatric specialties, subspecialties and other areas of interest **which are often not covered in undergraduate studies**.

Students gained a first-hand look at the **many roles psychiatrists play** as clinicians, researchers, multi-disciplinary team members and leaders in the mental health field through clinical site visits at the **Central Mental Hospital, Linn Dara CAMHS** inpatient unit, **National Drug Treatment Centre, St Patricks University Hospital** and **St. James' Hospital**.

"The effort made to accommodate the site visit was great; it was the highlight of the day." –
Medical student feedback on site visit

Throughout the programme students were presented with insights into the many subspecialties of psychiatry through presentations from various consultants. **Dr Eamon Keenan**, Consultant Addictions Psychiatrist and **National Clinical Lead for Addictions Services**, spoke to the students about setting up Ireland's first safe injecting facility, his work at the National Drug Treatment Centre, the rising issue of addiction to GHB (chemsex drug) and his **involvement in the recent harm reduction #DoYouUseCocaine campaign**.

Dr Rachael Cullivan, discussed General Adult Psychiatry, followed by a lively Q&A session which was well received by the students. **Dr Lisa McLoughlin** detailed the human rights aspects of working as a Forensic Psychiatrist. **REFOCUS**** (Recovery Experience Forum of Carers and Users of Service) committee members **Laura Louise Condell** and **Julie Healy** spoke about their lived experiences of using the mental health services and supporting a family member with a mental health difficulty.

Drs David Weir and Anna Feeney, co-chairs of the CPsychI Trainee Committee, advised students on the training route to psychiatry and **Dr Sarah Casey** discussed the many research opportunities in the field.

Students praised the day as helpful and insightful in showcasing the multifaceted aspects of psychiatry;

"There was a positive, encouraging atmosphere at the Summer School. There were incredibly informative and engaging speakers who broadened my understanding of a career in psychiatry."

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

**** REFOCUS** stands for Recovery Experience Forum of Carers and Users of the Services, reflecting the strong belief of the forum in the wellness and Recovery philosophy. REFOCUS is a forum where the views of people with experience of using the Mental Health Services, and family members and carers of those who have used the services, aim to inform and influence all aspects of College business particularly the training experience of young future psychiatrists and identifying ways to improve the mental health services with psychiatrist members. This ties in with the College mission to promote excellence in the practice of psychiatry including advocating for better services.

Photos (higher quality versions can be emailed directly to you):

Drs David Weir and Anna Feeney of the Trainee Committee:



Medical Students & Interns visit Lin Dara CAMHS In-Patient unit with Dr David Weir:



Medical Students and Interns at the social reception for the Summer School:



Dr Eamon Keenan, Consultant Addictions Psychiatrist and National Clinical Lead for Addictions Services addresses students at the Psychiatry Summer School:

