



20th August 2019

Press Release

Careers in Psychiatry Event for Medical Students and Interns

The Psychiatry Training Scheme achieved the highest score for overall training experience among medical specialist trainees for the 3rd consecutive year. As part of its continuous recruitment drive, the College aims to attract Junior Doctors and Medical Students to consider Psychiatry as their specialty by highlighting this feedback and showcasing opportunities and insights at its upcoming career days.

This week, the College Trainee Committee will begin hosting **Medical Students and Interns** at their 9th annual Careers in Psychiatry events. Taking place in Cork and Dublin, with a third event to take place in Galway in November, these **free, day-long programmes are designed to showcase the career opportunities available within Psychiatry** and its-sub-specialties.

Attendees will be afforded a practical insight into what it's like to work and train in Psychiatry, and the particular skills and personal qualities that are important when working within mental health services.

Across all events, there will presentations from Consultant Specialists and Trainees in Child and Adolescent, Addictions, Old Age and Liaison Psychiatry, amongst others, as well as the opportunity to meet with members of the College REFOCUS** committee, a group of people with first-hand, personal experience of using mental health services.

Remarking on the events **Dr Aoibhinn Lynch, Dean of Education** noted,

'Young doctors and doctors in training may have limited experience and knowledge of mental health services and Psychiatry so the programme is devised to apprise them of the many and rewarding aspects of training in Psychiatry and working in those services they may not be aware of.'

'We hope that the Careers days helps junior doctors make an informed choice when considering an application to Basic Specialist Training in Psychiatry.'

Additional features of the programmes on offer include a **visit to a local mental health service**, where attendees can meet with **multidisciplinary staff and service users**, and an interactive movie screening, discussing and dissecting **the portrayal of mental ill-health on the big screen** with a number of current Psychiatry Trainees.

These recruitment events take place fresh off the back of the release of the results of **"Your Training Counts - 2017"**, the annual Medical Council survey of Postgraduate Medical Trainees and their training environments, wherein **Psychiatry training was ranked highest for training experience** across every category. Psychiatry training has consistently achieved the highest D-RECT(Dutch Residency Educational Climate Test)*** score since the 'Your Training Counts' survey was first released in 2015.

The feedback from previous attendees has been overwhelmingly positive:

"Incredibly informative and engaging speakers... Broaden(ed) my understanding of a career in psychiatry..."

There are a limited number of places remaining for the Careers in Psychiatry events in University College Cork on Thursday, 22nd August and in the Maldron Hotel, Pearse Street, Dublin 2 on Friday, 23rd August. Medical Students and Interns can register their attendance for free by emailing Vivienne Keeley at vkeeley@irishpsychiatry.ie.

See full programme and further information [here](#).

Contact:

Karen McCourt
Communications and Policy Officer
College of Psychiatrists of Ireland | 5 Herbert Street | Dublin 2
Tel: 01 -634 4379 Ext: 201
Email: kmccourt@irishpsychiatry.ie web: www.irishpsychiatry.ie

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.

*****The D-RECT (Dutch Residency Educational Climate Test) measurement** provides a global, composite measure of trainee views of the clinical learning environment on a scale of 50 (lowest possible score) to 250 (highest possible score), with Psychiatry reaching a 200.10 overall score.