



September - December 2019 : EAP Summary

EAP Q4 HIGHLIGHTS

- The annual CPsychl Spike Milligan Public Speaking Competition took place in the Button Factory, Dublin on Thursday 21st November. Juan Lopez Tiboni and Emma Pounder, medical students from RCSI, were named the winners on the night for their "culture vs science" take on the theme "Cannabis: Path to Nirvana or Road to Perdition?".
- The REFOCUS Annual Report 2018 has been published and is now available to view on the College website. It was also included in the October 2019 Members' newsletter.
- A College Harms of Cannabis Committee has been set up to look at the mental health harms of cannabis and related policy and legislation. The committee has met three times. Draft fact-sheets have been developed around: (i) cannabis and its harms to mental health, educational attainment, work performance and other aspects; (ii) CBD products; (iii) policy around the control of cannabis with the risks/benefits these have on the harms of cannabis. These will have both a medical professional and public education purpose. The drafts will be distributed to College faculties/committees for feedback and then to Council.
- A College Position paper titled "Recovery: Supporting Personal Recovery - The Role of the Psychiatrist" has been approved and will be designed, published and printed in the coming months.
- The College Professional Ethics for Psychiatrists document has been published, printed and posted to College members.
- Position Papers on (i) Gambling Disorder and (ii) Telepsychiatry have reached the draft stages and will be circulated to faculties for comment shortly.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

EAP Media Activities: The College and the press

September - December 2019

"Exploring Psychiatry and Conflict", Medical Independent, Nov 2019

Dr John Hillery, as CPsychl President, spoke with the Medical Independent about the programme for the joint Winter Conference with RCPsych NI in Belfast, as well as his thoughts on the growth in popularity of Psychiatry training in Ireland, and the challenges this creates including funding of adequate posts.

Launch of "Paying the Price: The Hidden Impacts of Caring", Nov 2019

Phase 2 of the findings of research carried out in collaboration with Family Carers Ireland and UCD School of Nursing, Mid-Wifery and Health Systems, was launched at the FCI annual conference. In tandem, Dr John Hillery carried out a number of media engagements, and was subsequently quoted on Galway Daily and IrishHealth.com, and interviewed on Clare FM about the launch of the joint report which highlighted carer abuse and its impact on the health and wellbeing of family carers.

"Regulator gets Prescriptive on Meds Misuse", Medical Independent, Oct 2019



Dr John Hillery was quoted in a Medical Independent article discussing recent MCIrl guidelines around the prescription of Benzodiazepines, Z-drugs and pregabalin.

Newstalk Interview - Lunchtime Live with Ciara Kelly

Dr Maeve Doyle spoke on Lunchtime Live on Newstalk (caller phone-in show presented by GP, Dr Ciara Kelly) after a request to discuss HSE figures showing that 1/10 CAMHS appointments are not attended. Dr Doyle explained that DNAs are followed up.

"How Common are Real Personality Disorders?" - The Irish Times

Dr Caragh Behan, College spokesperson, spoke with IT journalist about the prevalence of Personality Disorders in Ireland.



SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE ACTIVITY

(1st Sept - 31st Dec 2019)

In November we reached 4,000 Twitter followers!

Most Visited EAP Page: "What is a Multidisciplinary Team?"

Total No. Website Visitors 44,610

Average No. of Website Visitors: 11,152 p/month

Top Tweet

'we shouldn't have to come here today...we look to you the politicians to lead us, to give us the resources to provide high quality care...but you are ignoring us.. ENOUGH'. Clear, passionate and all said in just over 2 minutes. Well done Dr Gabrielle Colleran #CareCantWait-

Dr Gabrielle Colleran, IHCA Vice Pres: "We shouldn't have to call you out on something as basic as not having enough people to safely staff our teams." @LeoVaradkar @SimonHarrisTD @FineGael "It's time for you to actually do something."



86 Engagements & 5,345 Views

13

Number of additional media queries dealt with by the EAP Department between September and December 2019

5

Number of Press Statements issued to National, Regional and Medical press between September and December 2019

EAP COMMITTEE REPORTS

HUMAN RIGHTS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE Chair: Dr Pauline Twomey, Vice-Chair: Dr Ciaran Clarke

AIMS:

To provide support and advice to the College and its members on the ethical dimension of patient care.
To ensure there is an ethical input into College submissions, policy and position papers.
To ensure members have an awareness and expertise in Human Rights Legislation and its impact on mental health care.

- The **Professional Ethics for Psychiatrists** document has been designed, published and printed in full-colour, A5 format and has been recently distributed to members.
- The Committee are preparing a parallel session for the **Spring Conference 2020** in Kilkenny, based on their theme "The Right to Treatment". There is also ongoing discussion on a title for a position paper relevant to this theme which could bring in issues such as the prison and homeless populations, advocacy, whistle-blowing, lack of resources and more.

Next Meeting: 25th February 2020

LAW COMMITTEE Chair: Dr Mike Scully, Vice-Chair: Dr Valerie Murphy

AIM:

To provide expert psychiatric opinion based on mental health and law and to contribute to development of better mental health law.

OBJECTIVES:

To respond to requests for submissions on legal issues related to mental health.
To inform and educate members on matters related to law and mental health.
To assist the College in informing the general public on matters related to law and mental health.

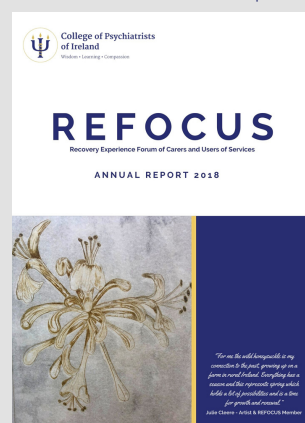
- Valerie Murphy was elected as **Vice-Chair of the Committee** at a meeting on Tuesday, 17th November 2019.
- The main item of activity/concern, currently, remains the proposed DoLs addendum to the ADM (C) Act.

Next Meeting: 18th February 2020

REFOCUS - RECOVERY EXPERIENCE FORUM OF CARERS AND USERS OF SERVICES Joint Chairs: Dr Mia McLoughlin and Ms Christine McCabe

AIMS:

To engage actively in genuine partnership with the College so that training, ongoing competence and day to day practice of Psychiatry is informed and guided by those who have had experience of mental illness, or who have cared for those with mental illness. The forum comprises 23 members which includes service users/patients (8), family members/carers (8) & psychiatrists (8).

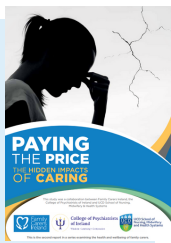


- The 2018 Annual Report has been published, and is now available on the College website. The cover artwork was kindly provided by REFOCUS member, Julie Cleere.
- Members Eileen McCluskey and George Bridges attended the REFOCUS stand at the recent **Winter Conference in Belfast** and spoke with attendees about the work of the group throughout the year. The 2018 Annual Report was available as well as copies of previous reports and position papers.
- A REFOCUS-run **symposium on the Monetary Impact of Mental Illness**, aimed at Consultant and Trainee members is scheduled to take place on Thursday, **23rd January 2020** in the Ashling Hotel, Dublin. The event is approved by CPsychI for 5 External CPD Points.



Next Meeting: 6th March 2020

EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS



Family Carers Ireland (FCI)

Phase 2 report of research carried out on carer health and well-being, titled "**Paying the Price: Hidden Impacts of Caring**", was launched at the FCI Conference on 17th October 2019. This follow-up report concentrates on safety and exposure to abuse of carers, again highlighting deficits in services, home-support hours, access to respite and safeguarding.

The EAP team met with FCI to discuss further potential media engagement around the phase 2 findings report from January 2020 onwards.