



EAP 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 twice. 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.
The first measures of the Public Health (Alcohol) Act were progressed on 13th November 2019, with restrictions now in place around advertising near schools, creches, playgrounds, on public transport and in cinemas. The College is part of the Alcohol Action Health Alliance steering group which met on Friday, 29th November 2019 to address further potential activity to ensure commencement of all aspects of the act going forward.



In November we reached 4,000 Twitter followers!

Top Search Bar Terms: 1. John Hillery 2. CPD Diary 3. Spike Milligan

Average No. of Website Visitors: 11, 696 (1st Oct - 27th Nov 2019)

MEDIA ROUND-UP

EAP Media Activities: The College and the press

October - November 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.

Other Press Activity:

(i) Dr John Hillery spoke with the Sunday Business Post regarding issues around the number of HST posts available for 2020.

(ii) Dr John Hillery, as President of the College, will be featured in Hospital Professional News as part of the Top 100 healthcare professionals for 2019. This will tie in with the College 10 year anniversary in 2019.

(iii) Query from Irish Times re. ADHD drug prescription - data analysis to be published in coming months.

(iv) EAP department are currently liaising with the Press Association on a story re. schizophrenia and lack of inpatient mental health service beds.

(v) Dr Maeve Doyle was lined up to discuss an increase in psychiatry prescription rates in under 15s since 2009 on Newstalk Breakfast Radio, following data received by them under an FOI request to the HSE. Maeve was cancelled at the last minute by the station who featured Prof Brendan Kelly speaking independently, instead.

Press statements issued by the EAP department:

(i) Spike Milligan Public Speaking Competition - sent pre-event and post-event.

(ii) "Is there a Crisis in Crisis intervention" - Joint Winter Conference with RCPsych NI in Belfast.

(iii) Launch of the Phase 2 report on research with Family Carers Ireland/UCD School of Nursing Mid-Wifery and Health Systems, titled Paying the Price - The Hidden Impacts of Caring.

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

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 published and printed for distribution to members.
- The Committee have taken **"The Right to Treatment"** as their theme for activity in 2019/2020 and are preparing a parallel session for the **Spring Conference 2020** in Kilkenny. This topic can focus on many issues such as the prison and homeless population, advocacy, whistle-blowing, lack of resources and more.

Next Meeting: 17th December 2019

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.

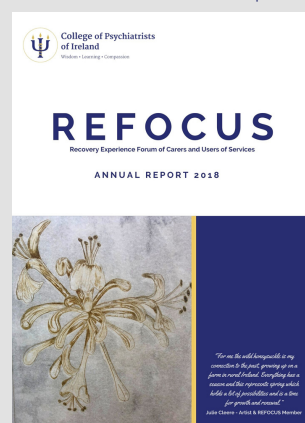
OBJECTIVES:
To respond to requests for submissions on legal issues related to mental health.
To inform and educate members on matters related to law and mental health.
To assist the College in informing the general public on matters related to law and mental health.

- 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)

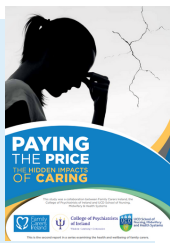


- The 2018 Annual Report has been published, and is now available on the College website. The cover artwork kindly provided by REFOCUS member, Julie Cleere.
- Members Eileen McCluskey and George Bridges attended the REFOCUS stand at the recent **Winter Conference in Belfast** and spoke with attendees about the work of the group throughout the year. The 2018 Annual Report was available as well 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. Booking will open shortly, with this event will be accredited for CPD.



Next Meeting: 6th December 2019

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.