CPSYCHI
COLLEGE OF PSYCHIATRISTS OF IRELAND

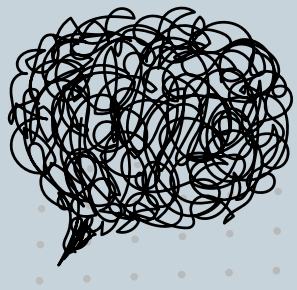
THE TRUTHFUL NATURE AND IMPACT OF SUICIDE PROGRAMME

FRIDAY 4th SEPTEMBER 2026

VENUE: THE ASHLING HOTEL, PARKGATE STREET, DUBLIN 8

WORKSHOP REGISTRATION OPEN TO ALL NCHD'S

COST: MEMBER - €150, NON MEMBER - €175



Suicide is a pervasive concern in clinical work, often looming quietly but profoundly in patient interactions. Despite its importance and the intense fear it evokes, our understanding of suicide's nature and causes remains incomplete.

This workshop, *The Truth About Suicide and Its Impact on Those Bereaved (Including Clinicians)*, confronts those complex realities by examining the psychodynamics of suicide and suicide bereavement, using real cases to explore questions around causation and prevention. The workshop will address the profound impact of patient suicide on clinicians, including the trauma and grief experienced, and share insights into processing this loss.

In emotionally charged aftermaths, narratives of blame can overshadow the complex truths of suicide. To provide support, Dr Gibbons will share UK-based resources and postvention guidance, offering practical tools to help both clinicians and families navigate this challenging landscape.

09:30 - 10:00	REGISTRATION & TEA / COFFEE
10:00 - 10:30	THE IMPACT OF PATIENT SUICIDE ON THE PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LIVES OF PSYCHIATRISTS AND PSYCHIATRISTS IN TRAINING IN IRELAND Dr Eibhlin Walsh
10:30 - 11:30	THE TRUTH ABOUT SUICIDE AND ITS IMPACT ON THOSE BEREAVED (INCLUDING CLINICIANS) Dr Rachel Gibbons
11:30 - 11:35	SHORT BREAK
11:35 - 12:35	SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS
12:35 - 13:30	LUNCH
13:30 - 14:30	THE IMPACT OF SUICIDE ON CLINICIANS - WHAT HELPS? Dr Rachel Gibbons
14:30 - 15:30	SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS
15:30 - 15:40	COMFORT BREAK
15:40 - 16:40	LARGE GROUP PLENARY: WHAT ARE WE LEFT WITH?



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Dr Rachel Gibbons is an expert on the psychodynamics of suicide and homicide, with a focus on their impact on clinicians and the bereaved. Over the past 20 years, she has worked in the NHS as a consultant psychiatrist, medical psychotherapist, psychoanalyst, and group analyst. She chaired the Royal College of Psychiatrists' Working Group on the Effect of Suicide and Homicide on Psychiatrists and has led the development of two RCPsych guidance documents for all mental health organisations in the UK on the pastoral care of mental health staff following a patient's death by suicide and a patient-perpetrated homicide (PPH).

The guidance on suicide is now incorporated into England's National Suicide Prevention Strategy (2023).

She has published extensively in this field, including papers in collaboration with Prof Keith Hawton and the Oxford Centre for Suicide Research. Further resources, including her papers and tools to support those affected are free to download from her website: drrachelgibbons.co.uk.

Dr Gibbons has also been facilitating a support group for consultant psychiatrists affected by suicide for 15 years and is co-editor of the Royal College of Psychiatrists' book Seminars in the Psychotherapies..

Dr Eibhlín Walsh is a postdoctoral researcher working with the National Suicide Research Foundation, Cork.

Eibhlin's research interests include suicide prevention in applied settings and suicide bereavement among young people and health professionals.

In 2024, Eibhlín graduated with a PhD in Psychology from the University of Limerick which was funded by the National Institute of Studies in Education.



The Ashling Hotel is accessible by city bikes, bus, LUAS tram, train and taxi.
Car Parking is also available with a limited number of spaces in the hotel multi-storey car park. The rate for parking is €4.00 per hour, with a maximum charge of €23.00 per day