



ROYAL COLLEGE OF  
PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND

PUBLIC MEETING SERIES  
*Promoting a healthy nation*

## Suicide in Ireland: A Conversation and Journey through Loss with Science and Arts

Friday, April 30 and  
Saturday, May 1, 2010

Royal College of Physicians of  
Ireland, No.6 Kildare Street, Dublin 2



# Suicide in Ireland: A Conversation and Journey through Loss with Science and Arts

As part of the *RCPI Promoting A Healthy Nation Public Meeting Series*, the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland is pleased to announce this public meeting on the subject of Suicide in Ireland.

## Programme

### Chairs

**Dr John Sheehan**, *Consultant in Liaison Psychiatry at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital and the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin*

**Dr Ed Carroll**, *Director, Blue Drum – The Arts Specialist Support Agency*

### Speakers

**Prof Kevin Malone**, *Dept of Psychiatry, Psychotherapy and Mental Health Research at UCD and St Vincent's University Hospital Dublin*

**Mr Seamus McGuinness**, *GMIT, Artist and UCD Ad Astra PhD Scholar in Suicide Studies*

### Media Discussant

**Prof Janis Jeffries**, *Professor of Visual Arts in the Department of Computing, Goldsmiths University of London, UK*

Friday	Saturday	
12.30 pm	11.00 am	Presentation by Prof Kevin Malone and Mr Seamus McGuinness in Corrigan Hall. Meeting will be chaired by Dr John Sheehan and Dr Ed Carroll
1.30 pm	12.00 pm	Viewings of the visual art installations in Dun's Library and Graves Hall
5:30 pm	2.00 pm	Presentation by Prof Kevin Malone and Mr Seamus McGuinness in Corrigan Hall. Meeting will be chaired by Dr John Sheehan and Dr Ed Carroll
6:30 pm	3.00 pm	Viewings of the visual art installations in Dun's Library and Graves Hall

## Overview

The increase in the number of people, particularly males, taking their own lives in Ireland in recent years is a major cause of concern. Suicide is a societal problem and is one of the highest causes of potential life lost for all males in Ireland, superseded only by deaths from circulatory diseases, cancers and respiratory diseases. Moreover, it is the leading cause of death in young males, exceeding road traffic accidents and cancer. The need to

improve the skills of young people in dealing with emotional and other problems in life is a pertinent factor in prevention. Other factors include the high prevalence of depression and alcohol misuse, variable access to primary healthcare, mental health and social services, and the need to develop tailored care plans, especially for younger people. We also need greater knowledge and understanding of suicide in modern Ireland.

Hidden behind the statistics, however, lie personal, untold, stories of lived lives of loved ones lost to suicide. Some of these stories of loss, and of lived lives, have been captured in a unique collaborative project, led by Prof Kevin Malone in collaboration with Mr Seamus McGuinness. The project is the result of conversations and research interviews with 104 suicide-bereaved families from all over Ireland over the past four years with a focus on younger suicide deaths. The methods combine scientific research and visual arts practice in search of new knowledge and understanding through a unique collaboration with families bereaved by suicide.

In essence, this project, the first of its kind internationally, having its first public

presentation, unites science, arts and humanities reflecting the lived life as well as the impact of loss on society through suicide.

In this public gathering, Kevin and Seamus will present conversations from their research, captured through data, stories, vignettes and narratives associated with the lived lives of loved ones lost to suicide. Seamus's artworks from the project include installations created from objects, images and belongings of the deceased donated by the families to the Visual Arts Research Project. Participants in this public gathering on suicide will be invited to be part of this conversation to engage with the stories and to journey through the artworks, which will be a platform for shared reflections on their experience.

## Attendance

The presentations will run twice on Friday, April 30 and twice on Saturday, May 1. Attendees will then be guided through the art installations after each presentation. Allow 2 hours if you plan on attending the meeting. There is no charge for attendance. However, attendance is

by ticket only. Members of the public are asked to apply for tickets by registering at [www.rcpi.ie/publicmeetings](http://www.rcpi.ie/publicmeetings), emailing [college@rcpi.ie](mailto:college@rcpi.ie), by contacting RCPI directly at (01) 863 9700, or by completing and returning the form below as indicated.



## Registration Form

To obtain tickets please return this form by post to *Public Meetings, RCPI, Frederick House, 19 South Frederick Street, Dublin 2*, email [college@rcpi.ie](mailto:college@rcpi.ie), telephone (01) 863 9700 or fax (01) 672 4707. For more information please visit [www.rcpi.ie](http://www.rcpi.ie).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate which meetings you wish to attend:**

Friday, 12.30 pm & 1.30 pm [ ]

Friday, 5.30 pm & 6.30 pm [ ]

Saturday, 11.00 am & 12.00 pm [ ]

Saturday, 2.00 pm & 3.00 pm [ ]

**Please indicate how you learned of this meeting:**

RCPI Website [ ] Press [ ] Poster [ ] Word of mouth [ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_

