

**2011  
2012**

**The Psychological  
Society of Ireland  
ANNUAL REPORT**



Cumann Síceolaithe Éireann

# Grantham House

The Psychological Society of Ireland  
Cumann Síceolaithe Éireann

SMART

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# 1 Council

## 1.1 President: Dr. Michael Drumm

Welcome to the 2011-2012 Annual Report. It has been a very busy year for the Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI) and reading the Annual Report will give an indication of the impressive work and enormous activity undertaken by a large number of members in their free time. The Society is a voluntary organisation and we depend very much on volunteers to help with the range of activities that the various Divisions, Special Interest Groups, Working Groups and Committees are involved in.

The PSI is the learned society for psychology in the Republic of Ireland and the professional body for psychology in the Republic of Ireland representing all psychology and providing guidelines on best practice and standards in the profession. As such, the PSI seeks to promote the science and profession of psychology in Ireland and beyond, for the advancement and dissemination of psychological knowledge. The PSI needs to continue to evolve into an inclusive Society that is supportive of members and strives to ensure high standards in education and training, professional development, research and practice. We must also strive to ensure that the PSI continues to be primarily about psychology (rather than psychologists). However, in recent times the PSI has also attempted to improve the experience of members and to make the Society more meaningful and relevant, while also looking to attract new members.

The move to our new offices in Grantham House, Dublin 2, now offers excellent facilities to members for meetings and events and is a valuable asset to serve the membership into the future. A comprehensive Skype

based system is now available for use for conference calling in the Boardroom which will assist members input to meetings if unable to attend in person.

A new accounts system and membership database is now up and running and will ensure the smooth running of the administration of the Society into the future. We are also looking at installing visual equipment in the training suite so that members who are unable to attend in person may still be able to avail of CPD events.

The Society's Strategic Plan was developed to provide a guide for the PSI from 2010 to 2013 and continues to be an invaluable tool to assist the Society in these challenging times. While the Society has made considerable progress in recent years, the current economic climate and challenges necessitate further changes in order to ensure the continued modernising of the PSI. A Strategic Plan Working Group is in the process of being set up to review the Strategic Plan. In addition, while the PSI Articles of Association have served the Society well they will also need to be reviewed in light of the introduction of Statutory Registration and the implications for the membership.

The introduction of Statutory Registration, through the Health and Social Care Professionals Bill, will result in the establishment of the 'Psychologists' Registration Board' (PRB) - which will consist of 13 persons, six of whom will be psychologists. The PRB will have direct responsibility for designing and implementing Statutory Registration and the introduction of the necessary by-laws. CORU is the umbrella body which will ultimately be responsible for regulating all health and social care professionals. CORU's role is to protect the public by promoting high standards of professional conduct, education, training and competence across 12 health and social care professions, of which psychology is one. The PSI continues to work hard to develop close links with CORU and to support CORU in its role to promote high standards and to ensure the adequate protection of the public.

A PSI position paper on Statutory Registration has now been completed. Dr. Gerry Mulhern, PSI Director of Professional Development (DPD), is now the Chair of the Statutory Registration Reference Group for the next piece of work on Statutory Registration. This will involve a focus on preparing the

Society's position on the Common Code to ensure that we are ready to respond effectively when consulted by CORU on a Code of Conduct and Ethics for Psychologists.

Dr. Gerry Mulhern, as DPD, is working hard to ensure we are well placed to cope with the introduction of Statutory Registration, to educate and support our members on the process and time frame and to ensure that the tasks that CORU take over from the PSI - registration, accreditation of post graduate training and arrangements for continuing professional development - reflect the principles consistent with those of the PSI. In addition, Dr. Richard Booth is the psychology representative on CORU, having taken over from Mitchel Fleming and ensuring that we continue to have a presence on CORU.

All practitioner psychologists working in the Republic of Ireland will need to be registered with the Health and Social Care Professions Council (see [www.coru.ie](http://www.coru.ie)), who will provide detailed information on requirements of registration. CORU will be a generic register of "psychologists". This will ensure that all psychologists are registered on one generic register, which will be easier to establish and operate via the PRB. Also, it will allow for the possibility of the PSI developing higher standards for specialisms via the PSI Divisions. Having specialisms defined by eligibility for membership of Divisions would be clearer and would allow the development and refinement of standards and competencies for each specialism/Division. Each of the

PSI Divisions could develop a statement of proficiency for each specialism and a list of competencies, specialist skills and experience required. Therefore, one could be a 'Registered Psychologist' with CORU and a member of a PSI Division as, for example, a 'Professional Member of the Division of Educational Psychology' or a 'Fellow of the Division of' or a 'Chartered Psychologist of the Division of'.

It is hoped that at the time of the Annual Conference the PSI will have developed a Framework of Competencies document that will map generic and domain specific competencies for professional psychologists and will guide employers in the recruitment of a professional psychologist. The Framework of Competencies will also guide the review of the accreditation of post graduate professional training in psychology and allow the Divisions to develop prestige membership categories, while ensuring that PSI is compliant with EU law and at the same time striving to maintain high standards in psychology in Ireland.

The Society also continued our accreditation processes for undergraduate and postgraduate courses and we are looking at streamlining the process which will hopefully lead to improvements in these areas. With the advent of the Statutory Registration the PSI's role in this area will change but we look forward to working with CORU to ensure that standards are maintained.

As many of you are aware I attended numerous events throughout the year as President representing the Society.

I attended the Student Careers Event in March jointly hosted by the NIBPS & PSI held in Mary Immaculate College, Limerick. It was an occasion for undergraduate psychology students from around the country to hear about a range of careers in psychology and at the same time learn about their professional body and the benefits of becoming a member.

I attended the British Psychological Society (BPS) Annual Conference in London in April as a guest of the BPS. It was a hugely enjoyable and inspirational conference, and allowed for opportunities to further develop relationships between the PSI and the BPS.

In May I attended, and gave a keynote address at, the Annual Conference of the Northern Ireland Branch of the British Psychological Society (NIBPS) in Killadeas, Co. Fermanagh. This is a long tradition between PSI and NIBPS and a fantastic opportunity to continue to forge links between the two organisations on the island of Ireland.

To coincide with the arrival of the Olympic Flame in Dublin in June, the PSI and NIBPS jointly organised a free public lecture in Trinity College Dublin, given by Professor Aidan Moran and entitled 'Imagination in Action: Mental Practice and Skilled Performance in Sport and Surgery'. This free public lecture also coincided with the 50 year celebrations of the Trinity College Dublin School of Psychology, a fitting opportunity to reflect on the huge influence the school has had on the on-going development of psychology in Ireland.

Dr. Gerry Mulhern, DPD, and I travelled to Cape Town in July to attend the 30th International Congress of Psychology (ICP) and represent the PSI as delegates at the General Assembly of the International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS). The Society's impact and standing was significantly enhanced by our presence. Several projects arising directly from networking opportunities are currently being followed up. A detailed report was prepared by the DPD for the October Irish Psychologist and there is a poster presentation at the Annual Conference this year outlining PSI's involvement.

It is the ambition of the PSI to develop strong links between our organisation and other international psychological organisations. Reciprocal relationships with other professional bodies are mutually beneficial to all our members, including with the British Psychological Society (BPS), the American Psychological Association (APA), the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA), South African Psychological Society of South Africa (PsySSA), as well as fellow societies in Europe and Australia. Developing partnerships with other organisations for the benefit of members as well as engagement with other national and international organisations is a primary objective of the PSI going forward. In addition, it is hoped that the PSI and the NIBPS can continue to forge stronger links and evolve over time to embark on more joint events and conferences in the future.

The PSI needs to continue to improve the support we provide to undergraduate and postgraduate students in Ireland as they

embark on their career in psychology. These students are the future of psychology in Ireland and the future of the PSI. They need to be supported, mentored and guided on their path as they transition as new graduates to careers in psychology. We are keen to develop the experience and services offered to undergraduates and new graduates and hope to offer them a better service in the future. As well as the Student Affairs Group (SAG), an Early Careers Psychology Group is in the process of being set up and we hope to develop a PSI guideline document on the role and function of assistant psychologists in conjunction with Heads of Psychology Services Ireland (HPSI) and the psychology vocational group of IMPACT.

I hope that the PSI will continue to value our relationships between members, across Divisions and Special Interest Groups, and to facilitate collective action and enhanced cooperation. We need to acknowledge that as psychologists we have more in common than we have differences, that we can acknowledge, respect and value our different skills sets and their suitable application in different contexts. As a Society I feel we need to strive for parity of esteem among members and ensure a continuation of respect and acceptance of the other.

I would encourage all members to consider getting actively involved in the PSI to experience the rewards of volunteering and making a contribution to the Society. We need to engage with our membership (and non-members, potential members and lapsed members), actively seek feedback and

reflect on that feedback so that we consider how we can better support the profession of psychology and adapt, develop and grow as a more professional high quality organisation into the future.

Although it is high risk to single out anyone for particular special mention I am going to make an exception in relation to Dr. Suzanne Guerin. She took over editorship of the Irish Journal of Psychology (IJP) in 2009 and the improved access and appearance of the Journal now offer a great deal to members. The Irish Psychologist (IP) changed substantially in 2009 and has been dramatically improved. Special thanks are also due to Dr. Suzanne Guerin and the IP editorial team for their hard work and dedication to ensure the Irish Psychologist is produced to such a high standard every month.

Dr. Gerry Mulhern, our new Director of Professional Development, took up his role with the PSI in February. He was former President of the British Psychological Society (BPS) and prior to moving to the PSI he worked at the School of Psychology at Queens University Belfast. He brings significant expertise to the PSI and is a valuable asset to the Society. Already he has proven to be vital to the PSI on so many levels but in particular as we prepare for Statutory Registration and the changing role of the Society.

Shaun Adams took over the Director of Operations (DOO) job last year and since coming into the role he has made a remarkable contribution to the Society and it was a pleasure working with him.

A special thank you goes to the members of Council for their generosity, commitment and expertise they gave to the PSI over the year.

I would like to welcome our newest member of staff to the office, Sinead Dunne, Membership Officer. She started in August and already she had made a significant contribution to the Society. We look forward to her continued role in serving the membership.

Niamh O'Byrne as Office Manager, Heather Weight as Business Development Officer and Lisa Stafford, as PR & Events Manager, all combine to ensure that the Society is well supported by dedicated and committed staff.

The field of psychology is a powerful force in modern society and its influence is widespread. Psychology is part of our language; it influences our perception of ourselves and impacts on legal and social policy. The PSI, as the professional body of psychology in the Republic of Ireland, has the capacity to be in a position of significant influence. In addition to ensuring standards in training, professional development and practice, the PSI must also act to ensure better access to psychological knowledge and the continued contribution of psychology to Irish society.

What a thing to be able to say "I am a psychologist", a truly varied and dynamic profession, a life less ordinary. Psychology is not in its infancy in Ireland but it needs minding and careful attention. I believe the PSI is part of the future of psychology in Ireland. The membership

of the Society includes practitioners, educators, researchers, graduates and undergraduate students. The Divisions and Special Interest Groups represent key areas across the broad range of the discipline of psychology. It is hoped that the Society has something to offer those working and studying in all areas of psychology.

It was a privilege and an honour to serve as President of the PSI and was an immensely enjoyable and rewarding experience, made so much easier and pleasant by the support received from all involved. I wish Eric Brady, our President Elect, every success in his year as President and I am more than happy to support him in the year ahead.

#### Council attendance for the year (10 meetings were held)

Name	No. of Meetings
Michael Drumm (President)	10
Mary Morrissey (Past President)	8
Eric Brady (President Elect)	10
Claire Donohue (Hon. Secretary)	7
Patrick Holahan (Hon. Treasurer)	8
Tara Murphy (Membership Secretary)	5
Fiona Kelly Meldon	9
Margaret O'Rourke	5
Peter Clarke	7
Anne Marie Regan	9
Brendan Rooney	7
Maurice Ward	9
Anne Hickey	6
Natalie Hession	7
Catherine Darker	8
Aileen O'Reilly	10
Michael Byrne resigned as of July 2012	N/A
Paul D'Alton	6
Margaret Grogan	9

## 1.2 Honorary Secretary: Claire Donohue

As Honorary Secretary, I would like to focus my report on the staff of the Society and to thank them for their huge commitment and endless professionalism which they have continued to show during another very busy year. Without exception I have found the staff team to be a pleasure to work with and they have offered me help and assistance whenever I have needed it. I have been a member of Council for three years now and, although I was very aware that the Society's work is largely undoable without a dedicated staff, I believe that this is the first year that I have come to fully appreciate the enormous amount of work which is actually taken on by the relatively small number of staff which we have. In many ways this year has been even more difficult as for much of the year we had a depleted staff. We were initially missing a Director of Professional Development (DPD) and for most of the year we were without a Membership Officer. As much of this extra work as possible therefore had to be taken up by our other staff members which has led to huge demands and very tight deadlines being met by all office staff for the year. For all of their work, which I know included working late into many evenings and working weekends, I would like to extend my profound and sincere thanks.

As I have already stated, it has been quite a challenging year in terms of staff shortages for the office team. The gap left by the absence of a DPD was very challenging to both Council and to the office staff and it was wonderful to welcome our new DPD, Dr. Gerry Mulhern, in February of this year. Gerry has brought an enthusiasm and professionalism to a very demanding post and his considerable experience is evident in the way he has dealt with some very difficult issues facing the Society, such as the lead in to Statutory Registration. I believe that Gerry's commitment to working for the benefit of all members of the Society augers well for the PSI's future no matter how uncertain that future might be. Gerry has shown immense interest in all aspects of the Society and has become a great asset to the PSI. He has also been

a tremendous help to me personally and I wish to thank him and offer him all success in his continued role in the Society.

For much of the year we were dealing with such tight financial constrictions that we had to forego hiring a Membership Officer. As a consequence of frugal expenditure during the year, our economic situation finally allowed us to plan for the hire late in the summer and in August of this year we welcomed Sinead Dunne, our new Membership Officer, to the team. Sinead is settling down well in her new role and as one of our aims and hopes is that our membership will continue to expand in the coming years I imagine her role will be both demanding and hopefully rewarding.

Shaun Adams took over as Director of Operations last year and has continued to make the role his own during the year. He has been an invaluable help in particular to me as Honorary Secretary during my term and has always been available to discuss any issues which arose. I would like to offer him my sincere thanks for helping to make my job as easy as possible. Shaun has kept a keen eye on the Society's financial situation during the year and has consistently worked to keep costs as low as possible while maintaining as full a range of services and benefits to members as possible. He has continued to work on projects which will ensure a smoother day-to-day running of the Society and to this end a new interlinked membership and accounts system was introduced into the office. In addition the Society's website [www.psihq.ie](http://www.psihq.ie) has



been completely re-vamped during the year and the functionality, ease of use and additional membership benefits, which are now available as part of the new website, are tangible results for all of the time and effort that was put into this demanding task. I would like in particular to thank Niamh O'Byrne for all of her work on this venture and to congratulate all of the staff on the successful completion of such a challenging project.

Niamh also took on the demanding role of Officer Manager during the year and has succeeded exceptionally well. She also took on extra roles during the year such as the chairing and support of various committees and groups and has proved time and again that she is well up to the task of Officer Manager. I wish to offer her my own personal thanks for all of her support during the year and many congratulations on a job well done.

Heather Weight, Business Development Officer, and Lisa Stafford, PR and Events Manager, have also continued to show unfailing commitment to the Society in their ongoing duties and with an eye towards the Society's future prospects, both have continued to look for best value for money and possible earning potential for the Society through their endeavours. I would like to mention Lisa in particular for all her hard work in contributing to such impressive PSI Annual Conferences.

I would also like to especially mention Paul O'Hanlon and Una Ni Bhroithe who were taken on as interns during the year. They both showed extraordinary dedication to the Society for essentially unpaid work and helped the staff team when they were especially short on resources. For all of their work and for all of the work of the entire staff I would like to formally, on behalf of Council and of the entire PSI membership, offer resounding thanks.

### 1.3 Membership Secretary: Tara Murphy

#### Overview

This is my third and final report as Membership Secretary of the PSI. I was encouraged by a good friend of mine (who happens to be a Past President of the Society) to take up this role in April 2009 and, from that day forth, have found myself on a very steep learning curve. Admittedly I had no real understanding of the PSI prior to this. Certainly I was a student subscriber and later a graduate member benefiting from receiving journals, attending conferences, and paying reduced membership fees. However, I had a limited knowledge of the strategic aims and objectives of the Society; the responsibilities of Council; as well as the roles and relationships between various Committees, Divisions, and Special Interest Groups (SIGs). The previous three years have coincided with a greater understanding and an enormous appreciation of the PSI's work and in particular, of those individuals who voluntarily commit themselves to various and oftentimes complex tasks for the benefit of the Society. My term as Membership Secretary is ending and I am extremely grateful to my colleagues both on Council and on MQRC for sharing their knowledge, skills and expertise with me. I would encourage members who have an interest in contributing to or learning more about the Society in terms of, for example, governance, strategic planning, operations, course accreditation, membership, etc, to seek further information from the website, [www.psihq.ie](http://www.psihq.ie), and indeed from those who currently sit on the various Committees (perhaps a friend, a colleague, a former supervisor, or someone from your course). Consider adopting a more proactive role in your Society; a Society that represents you!

#### Membership

Students Subscriber membership decreased from 247 to 206 while the number of Graduate Members increased by 65 - a slight increase but in the right direction. Those applying for Registered Membership increased, an achievement considering impending Statutory Registration. However, it must be noted that the PSI has placed a huge focus on promoting the benefits of the Society to members including valuable opportunities for CPD for all membership groups, and enhancing professional recognition. Readers may recall that last year's Annual Report included a misprint in the table of membership categories for Associate Fellow/ Fellow and this year we present more accurate figures. There was only a slight increase in the numbers applying for those categories and we would therefore encourage all our Registered Members to visit the PSI website, read the criteria for membership for these particular categories, review the application form, and consider applying. You never know – it could be you!

Table 1- Membership by Category

Membership Type	May '08-Jun '09	Jul '09-Oct '10	Nov '10- Jul '11	Aug 11 to Sept 12
Student Subscribers	126	217	247	206
Graduate Members	1360	1297	1163	1228
Registered Members	744	866	843	912
Associate Fellows	295	298	298	305
Fellows	41	42	42	43
Total PSI Members	2104	2163	2006	2140

## 1.4 Director of Operations: Shaun Adams

The past year has largely been one of consolidation following the office re-location that took place in 2011. The move to the Grantham House location and the accompanying change of business model is fundamental to the strategic positioning of the Society. The Society is currently operating within appropriate financial constraints, while endeavouring to continue to deliver quality service to meet our members' needs.

On a personal note, the last year has proved to be extremely challenging and enjoyable and I would like to thank the PSI Council and members for their continuing assistance and support. This voluntary assistance provides the cornerstone of the Society and will remain crucial to enable the Society to flourish.

### Property

The Society has successfully negotiated with the landlord of the former CX House premises in order to terminate the lease.

The Grantham House premises have enabled the Society to significantly widen its provision of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) training and events. The office is now a real hub of activity in terms of events. A significant proportion of these events are initialised and run via the Divisions and Special Interest Groups (SIGs), in tandem with the office staff, and I would like to thank all the members who give so generously of their time.

All information in relation to events can be accessed via the dedicated Events section of the [www.psihq.ie](http://www.psihq.ie) website.

Furthermore, all the Divisions, SIGs and Committees now hold their meetings at the Grantham House office.

### IT Infrastructure – Website

The [www.psihq.ie](http://www.psihq.ie) website has now been completely overhauled and acts

as a portal for all members to access information including in relation to forthcoming events, podcasts and Society news. The information and functionality has been tailored to meet the needs of our members and this is constantly monitored and modified. The re-vamped website represents a significant technical change and asset for the Society.

### IT Infrastructure – Membership Database and Accounts Package

The last year has seen the design and roll-out of a website based Membership Database and accompanying accounts package. These inter-linked systems enable the automation of certain administrative tasks and improve the operational effectiveness of the Society, thus underpinning the routine service provided to members.

### Human Relationship Management

Following a comprehensive selection process, Sinead Dunne was appointed to the role of Membership Officer. This role will be crucial to the day to day service provided by the Society to the members.

### Membership Benefits

The Society now has a spectrum of industry and non-industry related member benefits, including a preferential agreement with Income Protection providers. Also, the Group Scheme was launched in December 2011 and this provides a plethora of discounts across a range of goods and services to the members. At the time of writing, over 280 members have registered with the Group Scheme, availing of an average saving of c. €150.

### The Future

The Society now has the infrastructure in place to enable it to face the challenges posed by the current economic climate and the forthcoming introduction of Statutory Registration.

I would like to thank my colleagues in the PSI: Gerry Mulhern; Niamh O'Byrne; Heather Weight; Sinead Dunne; and, Lisa Stafford. I would also like to thank Council for all the help they have given me in my role.

## 1.5 Director of Professional Development: Dr. Gerry Mulhern

As I write I have just completed seven months as Director of Professional Development (DPD) with the Society. My appointment followed 11 months of hiatus in the DPD function following Dr. Katie Baird's resignation in March 2011. The absence of a DPD undoubtedly placed significant strain on Presidents Mary Morrissey and Dr. Michael Drumm, on Council members, on those working on subsystem committees, and on Society staff, so I should like to begin by paying tribute to all these and others who kept the show on the road during this demanding time.

Although challenging, the absence of a DPD had the effect of forcing the Society to reconsider aspects of its modus operandi and, through necessity, to adapt tried and trusted processes. My sense is that this has been a welcome spin-off of an otherwise difficult period. It was no less challenging for a new DPD to take up post following this period of enforced change and adaptation. Inevitably, with an emphasis on keeping the essential business of the Society moving forward and on prioritising important governance matters and external relations, some policies and processes that might otherwise have been progressed have had to be held over. Following my appointment, the resulting pent up demand has been released and the last seven months can rightly be described as busy in the extreme for the President, other Honorary Officers, the DPD and other office staff.

### 1.5.1 Statutory Registration

Following several false dawns, we are finally on the brink of the statutory regulation of psychologists. Over its 40+ years as a learned society and professional body, the PSI has, to an increasing extent, governed all aspects of our discipline and has done so most impressively. Of course, our oversight of standards of education, research and scholarship, professional training, practice and development, and member conduct has been voluntary rather than statutory and the wide acceptance of our role is a testimony to the quality and professional integrity evident in the Society's processes. As a result, the professional and academic standards

we now take for granted are among the highest in Europe and beyond.

The forthcoming system of Statutory Registration is a different kettle of fish. Psychology will join 11 other professions in being regulated by Government through CORU which is keen to be, and to be seen to be, at arm's length from the professional bodies representing these professions. Statutory Registration is a complex process and it is imperative that the Society is well positioned to assist in whatever ways deemed appropriate. It is also imperative that members and all other stakeholders are fully informed of the significant implications of Statutory Registration for the Society and for the Society's own processes of accreditation, membership

grades, member conduct and services to members, all of which we expect to continue in their own right post-regulation.

As DPD, one of my first tasks was to help prepare for meaningful engagement with the process by assisting the Statutory Registration Working Group, chaired by Mary Morrissey, in producing a Society position paper on Statutory Registration. I am pleased to report that this has been achieved and that the Society is well placed to adapt to the process of regulation which should begin with the appointment of a Psychologists' Registration Board (PRB) in the first half of 2013. I have also been asked to chair a new Statutory Registration Reference Group to replace the Working Group which has

fulfilled its original terms of reference. I look forward to working with the Reference Group as we continue to prepare the ground for a managed transition from voluntary to Statutory Registration.

## 1.5.2 Accreditation

### 1.5.2.1 Undergraduate Accreditation Committee (UAC)

Since the last Annual Report, the Undergraduate Accreditation Committee has made recommendations to Council resulting in the accreditation or reaccreditation of the following programmes:

- MA Psychology, University of Limerick;
- BA Psychology, NUI Maynooth;
- BA Psychology (International Pathway), NUI Maynooth;
- BSc Psychology, NUI Maynooth;
- BA Psychology (International Pathway), Waterford Institute of Technology;
- BSc Applied Psychology, Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art Design and Technology.

Further accreditation recommendations are also pending. I am grateful to Chair, Professor Julian Leslie, and the members of the UAC for their excellent support throughout the year.

### 1.5.2.2 Postgraduate Accreditation

The DPD provides executive support to accreditation panels for all postgraduate courses. Since the last Annual Report, the following courses have been awarded accreditation or reaccreditation:

- Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, Trinity College Dublin;

- Master of Arts in Educational Psychology, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick;
- Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, University of Limerick.

Three further accreditations are currently in process and due for completion by January 2013.

I should like to thank all who have agreed to serve on accreditation panels during the year, including those who have offered their expertise as chairs and as external panel members. Due to the expertise and effort of these accreditation panels, our standards of postgraduate and professional training remain among the best.

### 1.5.3 Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

The DPD is responsible for the management of the Society's CPD policy and processes. This includes management of the audit of CPD logs of Registered Members, reviewing applications for CPD training events and awarding of credits, responding to enquiries from members about CPD and their CPD status, liaising with Divisions on CPD matters, and keeping CPD policy under continuous review.

#### 1.5.3.1 CPD Audit

The third two-year CPD cycle is due to end in December 2012 and all Registered Members will be required to submit their record of CPD activity during this period. Traditionally, the submission and review of CPD logs has coincided with the membership renewals process in the Society Office and this has placed

significant strain on PSI staff. Accordingly, at its meeting on 9 September 2012, Council approved a proposal from the DPD and Director of Operations (DOO) to put the submission date for CPD logs back until 1 April 2013. The period for the CPD audit will remain unchanged at 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2012.

### 1.5.4 Expert Validation Committee

The DPD chairs and provides executive support to the Expert Validation Committee (EVC). Details of the work of the Committee are given in the EVC report elsewhere in this Annual Report.

### 1.5.5 Psychometrics and the PSI Standing Committee on Psychological Evaluation

The former Working Group on Psychometric Testing was replaced by the Standing Committee on Psychological Evaluation (SCoPE) in 2011. The role of the DPD is to provide executive support to the committee. The committee is also assisted by the PSI Office Manager, Niamh O'Byrne.

The main business of SCoPE, chaired by Catherine Darker, has been to develop a system for certifying competence in psychological testing on behalf of the Society. The Committee has been actively exploring the most appropriate model for such a system which is intended to enhance public safety and to cover all domains of psychological practice.

### 1.5.6 PSI Working Group on Equality and Inclusive Practice

As DPD I support the Working Group on Equality and Inclusive Practice (EQulP)

chaired by Dr. Paul D'Alton. The Working Group is also assisted by the PSI Office Manager, Niamh O'Byrne.

During the year, the Working Group embarked on the first of three annual action plans intended to implement and enhance the Society's Policy on Equality and Inclusive Practice launched in 2008. The 2011/12 Action Plan is due to be completed in November 2012 and is currently being reviewed. A significant part of the plan has been a survey of psychology departments and interviews with postgraduate course directors, the results of which are currently being analysed. The purpose of the survey was to assess current practice and relevant curriculum content in postgraduate training and research, to explore resource requirements and pooling of materials and resources, and to raise awareness.

### 1.5.7 EFPA

The Society is currently finalising arrangements for submission of our application to EFPA to establish a National Awarding Committee for the award of the EuroPsy Certificate, and a Specialist National Awarding Committee for the award of the Specialist EuroPsy Certificate in Psychotherapy. As DPD I have been tasked with completing the relevant documentation for both certificates. The Society is fortunate to have Dr. Rosaleen McElvaney as a member of the EFPA European Awarding Committee for the EuroPsy Certificate and as Chair of the Specialist European Awarding Committee for Psychotherapy.

### 1.5.8 External representation

Since taking up post, I have been pleased to represent PSI at meetings of external bodies, including:

- With the President, representing the PSI as delegates to the General Assembly of the International Union of Psychological Science in Cape Town;
- With the President, attending the International Congress of Psychology in Cape Town;
- Attending the 1st European Meeting of Psychological Competent Authorities in Brussels;
- Liaison with the BPS on matters concerning the PSI/BPS Memorandum of Cooperation and related issues;
- Meeting with the Centre for Effective Services;
- Attending meetings of the Mental Health Reform Stakeholders Advisory Group;
- With the Chair of SCoPE, meeting with the National Centre for Guidance in Education;
- Participating in the work of the Professional Bodies Group and liaising with Council on proposals for a Professional Bodies Alliance.

### 1.5.9 Meeting members' needs and supporting the development of the profession

**1.5.9.1** Since taking up post I have received comments and queries from members and the wider public on a daily basis. The volume of correspondence has illustrated the important role of

the Society in leading, regulating and supporting the discipline in Ireland. As a staff body, we endeavour to answer all correspondence in as timely a manner as possible and we are constantly seeking to improve our performance within the available resources.

**1.5.9.2** As DPD I have also sought to support the President, other PSI Officers and Council members in producing a wide range of written responses and submissions. I am indebted to these individuals for their support and warm welcome since I joined the Society. In particular, I should like to pay tribute to the support, collegiality, humour and warmth of PSI President Dr. Michael Drumm. It has been a true pleasure to work with him over the past seven months.

**1.5.9.3** It has undoubtedly been among the most challenging years in the Society's history. I am grateful to all volunteer members for their contribution to the work of the Society. My role as DPD and the work of my colleagues would simply be impossible without such support. I would also like to thank my fellow members of staff within the PSI Office. My fellow Director, Shaun Adams, has been a pleasure to work with. I am also grateful to Niamh O'Byrne, Office Manager, for her work in assisting me in supporting several committees, including the EVC, SCoPE and EQUiP. Finally, I am grateful to Heather Weight, Business Development Officer, and Lisa Stafford, PR and Events Manager, and our new colleague, Sinead Dunne who recently filled the role of Membership Officer, for their hard work and support.

## 1.6 Boards and Committees

### 1.6.1 Annual Conference Committee

Due to illness the Conference Committee Chair, Patrick Holahan, was not available to compile this report. Therefore, this report has been compiled by Lisa Stafford, PSI PR and Events Manager.

#### Listing of Committee members

Chair	Patrick Holahan
Secretary	Tim Trimble
Other Members	Kevin Tierney Elizabeth Nixon Vinnie McCormack Anne Marie Regan.

The Committee was assisted by Lisa Stafford, PSI PR and Events Manager.

#### Meetings of the Committee

A range of meetings took place with regard to organising the 2011 PSI Annual Conference. Amongst these were the key meetings in relation to planning the format of the Conference, choosing the venue, layout and logistics in relation to the venue, liaising with PSI staff, and programming.

#### 2011 PSI Annual Conference

The 2011 PSI Annual Conference was held in the Galway Bay Hotel, Salthill, Galway, from Thursday 10th to Sunday 13th of November. The actual Conference programme was one day shorter than previous years as there were no presentations on the Thursday due to the introduction of a pre-conference workshop and a public lecture. The shortening in duration of the Conference produced a challenge for the Conference Committee in choosing papers and fitting

presentations into an extremely tight schedule. However, with years of past experience behind them, the Committee produced a fantastic programme that was well received by delegates.

The pre-conference workshop, presented by Dr. Mary Creaner, also proved to be a hit with delegates. Entitled 'Introduction to Clinical Supervision – Key Principles and Best Practices', the workshop comprised presentation, experiential exercises, group work, and group discussion and was participatory in nature.

The individual papers, symposia, workshops and poster presentations included in the programme were very well attended. For the second year running, the PSI AGM took place at the Conference which gave Conference delegates the chance to attend.

Friday's keynote speaker, Prof. Gordon Turnbull, presented 'PTSD: Friend or Foe?', with Saturday's keynote speaker, Steve Potter, presenting 'Adult Empathy: our struggle with relational intelligence and the magic of maps and speed supervision'.

Due to the success of the 2011 PSI Annual Conference, it was decided that the same schedule, to include pre-conference workshops, a public lecture and a two and a half day programme, be adopted for future PSI Annual Conferences. Sincere thanks must go to the Conference Committee, the PSI staff, and the Conference Support Team, including their co-ordinator, Sue Holahan. The organisational skills,

management expertise and patience of all those involved were what made the 2011 Conference such a success. And of course, a huge word of thanks goes to all the presenters and delegates who attended the Conference.

*Lisa Stafford*

*PSI PR and Events Manager*

### 1.6.2 Board of Professional Conduct

#### Continuing Board Members

Suzanne Guerin (Chair), Brendan Broderick (Deputy Chair), Mark Latimer (Secretary), John Brennan, Bernie Fay, Fergal MacEonín, and Jennifer Wilson O'Raghallaigh.

#### New Board Members

Claire Donohue and Natalie Hession.

#### Departing Board Members

Eric Brady, Derek Deasy, Fiona Lyddy, Donal McAnaney, Blathnaid McCabe, and Elizabeth Nixon.

#### List of Meetings

11 meetings were held, each month apart from August 2012.

#### Activities

The Board of Professional Conduct (BPC) has responsibility to investigate complaints against members of the Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI) in accordance with the Code of Professional Ethics and the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Society, and to advise the Council on matters relating to professional conduct.

The major work of the Board each year relates to correspondence regarding possible complaints and the investigation

of complaints received. As in previous years, this year the Board received a number of complaints which related to psychologists who are not members of the Society, or related to legal proceedings, which cannot be considered by the Board. There were six outstanding investigations carried over from the previous year and five new investigations were initiated. All cases previously carried over from 2010 were closed, in addition to five cases opened in 2011.

The BPC continues to review and revises its procedures and three motions proposed by the BPC to the 2011 AGM were approved. The first of these proposed a change to the Memorandum and Articles which would clarify when a lesser course of action may be selected following a complaint and specify the actions available to the BPC in the case where it opts to take a lesser course of action. The second introduced the option to take no further action in a complaint. Finally, the third motion approved at the AGM clarified the options for appeal where a lesser course of action is chosen by the Board. We are grateful to the members who attended the AGM for their contributions to the discussions regarding these changes.

Given the planned introduction of Statutory Registration of psychologists, we continue to reflect on and discuss the implications of registration for the work of the Board. We will bring a motion to the 2012 AGM which proposes a change to the make up of Panel Hearings.

As a final note, it is important to acknowledge the commitment and hard work of all Board members in what has been a very busy year and to note the

key role that non-psychologist members of the committee played in assisting the Board in carrying out and improving its role. We would like to thank those members who left the Board during the past year for their contribution and commitment, particularly Dr. Donal McAnaney who stepped down as Chair of the Board. We are also very grateful for the ongoing support received from Ms. Niamh O'Byrne, PSI Office Manager.

*Suzanne Guerin*

*On Behalf of the Board of Professional Conduct*

### **1.6.3 Expert Validation Committee**

#### **Current membership of the EVC**

Sinead Fitzgerald  
William Kinsella  
Sharon Hardiman  
Ladislav Timulak  
David Hevey  
Aisling Whyte  
Rita Honan

The Expert Validation Committee (EVC) was established in 2008 to advise the Department of Health and Children (DoHC) on applications from psychologists with overseas qualifications wishing to practice in Ireland. Prior to its establishment, this work had been undertaken by the Membership, Qualifications and Registration Committee (MQRC). Throughout the year, the EVC has dealt with a significant volume of applications from overseas psychologists referred to the Society by the DoHC.

Inevitably, during the last year, the modus operandi of the EVC had to adapt to the absence of a DPD. I am grateful to

the PSI Officer Manager, Niamh O'Byrne, for helping to coordinate the work of the Committee during this period. I am also grateful to the members of the Committee for providing additional psychological input into our advice to the DoHC on applications received from overseas psychologists.

Since taking on responsibility for this function, I have been aware of impending changes that will affect the recognition of overseas qualifications, and of Government's desire to anticipate these changes and to encourage the Society to do so in its role. Notable among these is the recent draft revision of the EU Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications which includes a number of new provisions to enhance mobility among professionals, including the introduction of a European Professional Card. It is clear that, when enacted, the Directive will be intended to ensure that free movement of professionals is permitted in all but the more obvious cases of failure to meet national standards.

In order to assist both the DoHC and the Society in working effectively in this changing climate, a meeting of Department Officials, the EVC and the DPD was held in September 2012. This meeting was extremely useful in clarifying issues and in facilitating and clarifying the modus operandi of the committee and the principles underpinning validation of qualifications going forward.

Of course, following Statutory Registration, the responsibility for advising Government on overseas qualifications will move to the Psychologists Registration Board (PRB) and the Society will no longer have



any formal role. It is expected that the work of the EVC will cease following the establishment of the Register of Psychologists early in 2014. In the meantime, the Committee will continue to fulfil its function and will ensure a managed transition of cases to the PRB.

*Dr. Gerry Mulhern*  
*DPD*

#### **1.6.4 Membership, Qualifications and Registration Committee**

The members of the Committee during 2011 and to date of submitting the report, August 2012, were:

Margaret McGinley (Chair); Damien Davy (Minutes Secretary); Tara Murphy (Membership Secretary); Eunice McCarthy (from September 2010); Aoife Moran; Nicky O'Leary; Carmel O'Neill (from October 2011); Elisabetta Petitbon; Thomas Waldmann.

During 2011, the Committee considered applications for Graduate membership, Registered membership, and Associate Fellowship of the Society. MQRC makes recommendations to Council for these categories of membership.

The MQRC met eight times during 2011. It considered the following numbers of applications, the numbers for 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007 and 2006 are also given:

Applications and queries are attended to promptly and this is greatly facilitated through the assistance of the office administration staff.

During 2011, the MQRC has continued to attend to queries and applications for Graduate membership, Registered membership, and Associate Fellowship of the Society. The PSI staff prepare the information for consideration in summary grids and highlight any queries. The formal MQRC meetings are preceded by a preparatory working group where the applications are checked ready for the formal meeting. The MQRC meeting then completes the processing and all necessary correspondence in a timely manner.

During 2011, the MQRC has continued their processing work and in addition has been updating the various application forms and considering how best to promote PSI membership, registration, and Associate Fellowship of the Society.

I would like to pay tribute to all the above named members of the Committee who have contributed their skills and dedication to the work of MQRC, not just during 2011, but for several years. The Divisions in the Society have continued to nominate members to MQRC and the Committee has thus been able to draw on a wide range of

expertise, which has been invaluable.

During 2011 the MQRC has been ably supported by all the PSI staff, mainly by Shaun Adams and Niamh O'Byrne. The administration staff support greatly improves the efficiency and turnaround time for applications. During recent months the Committee has contributed extra inputs associated with less availability of administrative support. The MQRC look forward to working with Sinead Dunne, the new staff member with responsibility for the membership area.

In recent months, the MQRC has liaised with the new PSI Director of Professional Development, Dr. Gerry Mulhern and his support is greatly valued.

The Committee specially thank Carmel O'Neill who retired in October 2011. Carmel had been a member of MQRC since July 2007, and during that time she distinguished herself through her grasp of the application procedures and her commitment to all the meetings and follow up work.

We wish to thank the PSI Council for their support, especially the Membership Secretary, Tara Murphy, who liaises between MQRC and PSI Council.

*Margaret D McGinley*  
*Chair*

	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
applications for graduate membership	157	172	160	270	192	215
membership resumed by lapsed members	40	54	50	50	101	74
applications for registered membership	53	75	184	54	62	54
applications for associate fellowship	3	0	3	6	11	3

## 1.7 Publications

### 1.7.1 Irish Journal of Psychology

Dr. Suzanne Guerin (School of Psychology, University College Dublin) and Dr. Gemma Kiernan (School of Nursing and Human Sciences, Dublin City University) are currently in their third year as Editor and Assistant Editor respectively of The Irish Journal of Psychology (IJP). The Editorial Team has recently being joined by Dr. Suzanne Egan (Department of Psychology, Mary Immaculate College Limerick), who will serve as Assistant Editor. We are delighted to welcome Suzanne to the team!

Having completed the transfer of production to Routledge (a division of Taylor and Francis), the past year has seen the redesign of the Journal and the introduction of an online submission process via ScholarOne. All accepted articles appear prior to publication on the IJP website ([www.tandfonline.com/riri](http://www.tandfonline.com/riri)). PSI members and subscribers to the Journal have electronic access to articles and issues as they are released and receive a single hard copy of the Volume. The availability of online articles increases the reach and visibility of the Journal, and also allows authors to track views and citation of their work.

Last year we reported that a key challenge was to re-establish a regular publication schedule. Significant success has been achieved in this area, with both Issue 1 and Issue 2-3 of Volume 33 of the IJP available online at [www.tandfonline.com/riri](http://www.tandfonline.com/riri). Issue 3-4 is a special issue marking the 50th anniversary of the founding of the School of Psychology at Trinity College Dublin and was guest

edited by Ruth Byrne, Richard Carson and Barbara Hannigan, all current staff at the School. It was a pleasure working with the guest editors to prepare the issue and we congratulate TCD on this significant milestone! Issue 4 of Volume 33 is currently in preparation and members will receive the hard copy in December.

Increasing submissions to the IJP continues to be a key priority and we would like to express our gratitude to all our contributors. The editors welcome and encourage contributions in the form of reports of empirical studies, critical reviews of the literature, theoretical contributions and critical book reviews from members of the Society and the broader national and international psychology community.

The following individuals are currently members of the Editorial Board of the IJP:

- Dr. Michael Gormley, School of Psychology, Trinity College Dublin;
- Dr. John McEvoy, Midway Services & School of Nursing, Dundalk Institute of Technology;
- Dr. Brian McGuire, School of Psychology, National University of Ireland, Galway;
- Dr. Conor McGuckin, School of Education, Trinity College Dublin;
- Prof. Mark Morgan, Education Department, St. Patrick's College;
- Dr. Elizabeth Nixon, School of Psychology, Trinity College Dublin;
- Dr. Cathal O'Siochru, Faculty of Science & Social Sciences, Liverpool Hope University;
- Prof. Mark Shevlin, School of Psychology University of Ulster, Magee.

We are grateful to the members of the Editorial Board and to all of the reviewers (national and international) who support the journal. We would not be able to sustain the developments described here without their support.

Information on the Journal and access to the online submission process is available at [www.tandfonline.com/riri](http://www.tandfonline.com/riri) and all other correspondence regarding the IJP should be directed to the Editorial Team by email to [ijp@psihq.ie](mailto:ijp@psihq.ie).

*Dr. Suzanne Guerin*

*Dr. Gemma Kiernan*

*Dr. Suzanne Egan*

- Dr. Sean Commins, School of Psychology, National University of Ireland, Maynooth;
- Dr. Philip Dodd, St Michael's House & School of Medicine, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland;
- Dr. Derek Dorris, PCI College, Dublin;
- Dr. Frank Doyle, Department of Psychology, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland;
- Prof. Colin Feltham, Faculty of Development and Society, Sheffield Halam University;
- Dr. Pamela Gallagher, School of Nursing and Human Science, Dublin City University;

### 1.7.2 The Irish Psychologist

The Irish Psychologist (IP) is an official publication of the Psychological Society of Ireland and is produced in ten issues a year, with joint issues for July–August and December–January. In addition to the print version, issues of the IP are available for members to download in PDF format from the Psychological Society of Ireland website, [www.psihq.ie](http://www.psihq.ie). The move to the new website has interrupted access to back issues of the magazine and, while we are working with the office staff to address this issue, the new functionality on the website offers opportunities to develop the visibility of the IP on the web.

A key aim of the IP is to communicate information and share issues of relevance with members of the Society. Each month the Society Update section of the IP contains reports from within PSI, including Council reports, event reviews, news and information for members. The IP regularly features updates from PSI Committees, Divisions, and Special Interest Groups and we are delighted to promote the activities of the Society in this way. There also continues to be a steady flow of topical review and empirical article contributions from members. The team is very grateful for the support received from all those who have submitted and wish to thank authors both within and outside the Society for their contributions in 2011–2012.

Having worked with the editorial since 2008, Dr. Elizabeth Nixon (TCD) left the team and we are very grateful to her for

her work and support. The team of Dr. Suzanne Guerin, Dr. Dermot Ryan and Dr. Aileen O'Reilly were joined by Dr. Mimi-Tatlow Golden and we continue to explore opportunities to develop the publication. The team receives significant input and support from the staff in the PSI office for which we are very grateful. We continue to work with Dave McMahon and the team at Design Printworks on the design of the magazine. The contributions of members, the commitment of the Society, and our collaboration with Design Printworks have all contributed significantly to the professional appearance of the magazine.

The editors welcome and encourage contributions, suggestions and feedback from members and groups within PSI, and from external authors. We are also happy to respond to queries regarding possible submissions. All correspondence regarding the IP should be directed to the editorial team by email to [irishpsychologist@psihq.ie](mailto:irishpsychologist@psihq.ie).

*Dr. Suzanne Guerin*

*Dr. Aileen O'Reilly*

*Dr. Dermot Ryan*

*Dr. Mimi Tatlow-Golden*

## 1.8 Student Affairs Group

### Committee Members

This year the Student Affairs Group (SAG) was successful in widening their committee base while also keeping hold of some of dedicated committee members from the previous year. At present the following institutions are represented on the SAG committee: UCD; DCU; NUIG; NUIM; TCD; DBS; UCC; IADT; MIC; WIT; QUB; OU; and WIT.

### Communication

SAG continued to use Facebook as a tool to share interesting, funny and useful information with students and psychology societies. SAG has also continued to use their Google Group which is an online forum/ mailing group wherein PSI members and student subscribers can share ideas, event details, job notices, give advice etc.

### Events

SAG organised a number of successful events this year. The most successful events were the "Day in the Life of..." talks, which were held in the PSI Offices and locations outside of Dublin (e.g. WIT, MIC). The "Day in the Life of..." talks are aimed at students and recent graduates who want to gain more information on what exactly a psychologist does. Each month a different psychologist and student studying in the relevant area presents to students. Students also have the opportunity to ask questions and chat with the presenters.

In November 2011, SAG's annual table quiz was held at the PSI Conference; it was a great success and an extremely enjoyable night. In March 2012 the SAG organised a presentation skills workshop in preparation for the student congress. As in previous years, SAG facilitated the process whereby third-level institutions applied to host the Annual Congress of Psychology Students in Ireland and the group provided assistance, advice and encouragement to the organising committee throughout the year. Many of our committee members attended the Congress, which was brilliantly organised by the psychological society and department of QUB.

Throughout the year SAG committee members and students were present at events organised by the PSI. For example, SAG committee members were present at the Careers Day Seminar which was organised by PSI and the NIBPS and held in MIC in February 2012. SAG encouraged students to join the PSI at all events while also writing reviews of events in the Irish Psychologist.

### European Federation of Psychology Students Association (EFPSA)

EFPSA is the organisation which represents the needs and interests of European psychology students. Two committee members attended the annual EFPSA Congress this year for the second time. EFPSA benefits Irish students as it: provides them with the opportunity to write articles in the Journal of European Psychology Students (JEPS); participate in student exchanges; and attend EFPSA summer schools. It has been noted that there has been a large amount of Irish applications this year.

### Preparations for 2012/2013

Despite the majority of students finishing up in May, SAG has spent the summer preparing an event packed year in 2012/2013 whereby there will be a career talk, workshop and an information evening each month. SAG kicked off college term this year with a road show in each institution advertising benefits of joining the PSI to all psychology students in Ireland.

*Sean O'Connell, Chairperson  
Student Affairs Group*

## 2 Divisions

### 2.1 Behaviour Analysis

#### Committee Membership

Prof. Julian Leslie- Chairperson

Dr. Jennifer Holloway- Secretary/  
Treasurer

Dr. Maeve Bracken- Membership  
Secretary

Gillian Martin

Dr. Rita Honan

Niamh McEvoy

#### Student members

NUIG: Michelle Kelly- student liaison  
person

Clodagh Murray

TCD: Niall Conlon

Gemma-Louise O'Brien

Jenny Tomlin

UU: Deborah Ging

Shelley Brady

#### Membership

The DBA represents recognised qualified professionals in the specific science of behaviour analysis. Those wishing to apply for membership must be a member of the PSI and hold a postgraduate qualification in behaviour analysis recognised by the Division Committee. Relevant experience will also be considered. Membership application forms can be found on the PSI website [www.psychologicalsociety.ie/division-behaviour-analysis](http://www.psychologicalsociety.ie/division-behaviour-analysis)

There are currently 25 members of the Division

#### Meetings

The DBA held three meetings over the past year.

#### Achievements

DBA hosted its first poster presentation session at this year's annual conference which was a noted success. It will continue to be a part of ongoing events at the annual BAI/DBA conference.

DBA also began student data share events to provide students studying behaviour analysis an informal forum in which to present and discuss their casework. DBA have hosted two Data Share events this year to date. It provides a great platform to discuss behaviour analytic strategies used by other students/practitioners and can help improve the presentation skills of all attendees. A BCBA professional is present at each data share to ensure that all interventions abide by the ethical guidelines of the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB; [www.bacb.com](http://www.bacb.com)).

#### Workshop and Conference Review 2011-2012

DBA has hosted a number of events over the past year including a number of Student Data Shares and our 6th Annual Conference.

#### 6th Annual Conference

The BAI annual conference was held on the 13th and 14th of April, 2012 in Trinity College Dublin. Attendees had a choice of two of four workshops on the first day from the highly-regarded Professor

William Baum, Dr. Janet Twyman, Professor David Gast and Dr. Kevin Ayres.

#### • Keynote Address- Professor Baum

Professor Baum presented the first keynote address entitled "Why Private Events are a Mistake: Dualism, Behaviorism, and the Molar View of Behavior". Prof. Baum discussed the dilemma faced by behaviour analysts when considering private events. His keynote address stimulated some very interesting and reflective discussion on the subject.

#### • Keynote Address- Dr. Twyman

Dr. Twyman presented the second keynote address, entitled "Getting into the Game: Synergies between Behavior Analysis and Gaming Technology". Dr. Twyman presented on how the features of gaming that appear to be rooted in behaviour analysis. These core characteristics include the identification of target behaviour, the analysis of behaviour change, the role of consequences (positive and negative), schedules, and the evaluation of the effectiveness of contingencies. Dr. Twyman systematically demonstrated the overlap between Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) and game dynamics theories. She made the argument for the use of ABA as a framework for behaviour change "apps" in business and education. She also highlighted the excellent technological resources available for use by practitioners.

#### • Symposia and Individual Papers

Symposia and individual papers were

presented in many areas of the expanding field of behaviour analysis (for example technology in the classroom, applications of behaviour analysis within regular education, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy etc). There is an increasing interest in the application of behaviour analysis across populations. One symposium which reflected this interest was entitled 'Introducing Applied Behaviour Analysis to Marginalised Communities in Ireland: Outcomes and experiences from Dublin's inner city'. The Education Service Manager of An Siol Community Development Project (ansiol.org), gave a comprehensive presentation on how ABA is incorporated within her job.

- Poster Presentation session was introduced to this year's programme and was a great success.

### Finances

Currently the account has €6219.55

*Jennifer Holloway*  
Secretary/ Treasurer

## 2.2 Clinical

### Committee Membership

Brian McGuire (Director, Clinical Psychology Programme, NUI Galway) - Chair

Suzanne McHugh - Secretary

Jonathan Egan - Vice Chair

Sharon Hardiman - Membership Secretary and External Validations Committee

Ann Buckmaster - Treasurer

Felicity Greer - Communications Officer/ PRO (with Aidan McKiernan)

Aidan McKiernan - Communications Officer/PRO (with Felicity Greer)

Anne-Marie Casey - Trainee Representative

Paul Horgan - Trainee Representative

Gráinne Kelly - Committee Member and Outgoing Chair (Resigned July 2012)

Caroline O'Connor - Committee Member

Lorraine McGurk - Committee Member

Eoin Galavan - Committee Member

Michelle Coyle - Committee Member

Edel Crehan - Committee Member

### Meetings of the Division

The Committee met four times since Sept 2011. This included two meetings with Dr. Michael Drumm (PSI President) Shaun Adams (PSI Director of Operations) and Dr. Gerry Mulhern (Director of Professional Development) regarding issues of relevance to DCP such as the imminent arrival of Statutory Registration.

### Finances

Divisional finances increased marginally throughout 2011. Income was comprised of full and affiliate membership fees, along with fees for attendance at the two day Affect Phobia workshop in April 2011. Expenditure largely related to costs associated with organising the Affect Phobia workshop. Other expenses related to the 2010 AGM and committee meeting expenses. The 2011 closing balance of €20,954.48 represents a 3% increase on the starting balance for that year.

Division Accounts (2011)		
Opening balance (01.01.2011)		€20,320.76
Income 2011	€8,236.00	
Expenditure 2011	€7,602.28	
Net income		€633.72
Closing balance (31.12.2011)		€20,954.48

### Activities/Events

The Committee has responded to several calls for contributions from DCP such as:

- Joint Oireachtas Working Group on Mental Capacity (Brian McGuire – written and oral submission in conjunction with Division of Neuropsychology and Learning Disability SIG);
- Competencies for Professionally Qualified Psychologists (Suzanne McHugh);

- Working Group on Psychometric Assessment (SCOPE) (Jonathan Egan);
- Children at Risk working group (Aidan McKiernan);
- Mental Health Commission Questionnaire on MHC Strategic Plan.

The DCP has also considered ways of promoting the profession of clinical psychology such as:

- Correspondence with DCP-NI regarding their experience of the use of professional titles ("Consultant");
- Correspondence regarding improved communication with Heads of Psychology Services in Ireland (HPSI);
- Correspondence with Injuries Board regarding the current ineligibility of clinical psychologists to provide reports ("medical practitioners" only);
- Consideration of strategies regarding rebates from health funds (VHI etc) for clinical psychology services.

### Membership

DCP continues to receive a regular stream of membership applications including several from overseas-trained clinicians. DCP has prioritised a Trainee membership drive - Anne-Marie Casey and Paul Horgan have visited the training programmes to promote PSI and DCP membership, resulting in an increase in Trainee members.

### Other highlights

DCP is investigating ways of using improved web-based communication for members including consideration of an online resource repository which is under active discussion.

The Committee has highlighted the provision of CPD activities as an action for 2012-2013 and has initiated contact with a number of possible high profile international speakers.

*Dr. Brian McGuire,  
Chair, Division of Clinical Psychology*

## 2.3 Counselling

### DCoP Committee

Aine Thompson, Allison Connolly, Anne Davis, Barbara Crowe Barbara Hannigan, Catherine Long Dermot O'Callaghan, Dylan Moore, Ian O'Grady, Jean McCabe-Strange, John Broderick and Megan Gaffney.

Natalie Hession (stepped down March, 2012).

Seven meetings of the DCoP committee were held during the 2011-2012 term.

### Division Membership

Current membership of the Division stands at 171 full members and 33 affiliate members. A sub-committee has been formed in order to examine the rules for membership of the Division and to propose updates if necessary.

### CPD Events 2011-12

- Dr. Heather Sequeira presented a two day workshop on Trauma-Focused CBT for PTSD on March 31st and April 1st
- Professor Robert Bor presented a one-day workshop on Doing Therapy Briefly on May 12th
- Phil Garland and Deirdre Horan-Martin presented an evening forum on Child Welfare and Protection on May 24th
- Felicity Kennedy presented a one-day workshop on The Psychology of Domestic Violence on June 23rd
- Professor Mick Cooper gave a talk on Working at Relational Depth on September 22nd for the DCoP AGM
- Jeremy Holmes presented on Attachment and Psychotherapy on 27th October

The Division was well represented by its members at the 2011 PSI Annual Conference and congratulations to all those who presented their research. Additionally, the Division was represented by Ian O'Grady at the PSI/NIBPS Annual Undergraduate Psychology Careers Event in March.

Three descriptions providing a short, medium and an in-depth version of the definition, role, responsibilities and competencies of the Counselling Psychologist have been agreed and finalised by the DCoP for use by its members. The descriptions will be part of an informational brochure which the Division will be working on next year which eventually will be circulated to members as a promotional tool.

### DCoP Survey

The Division carried out a survey to profile its membership, increase awareness of the Division, and allow the Division to plan goals and activities which match the interests of members and potential members. A total of 221 responses were submitted via Survey Monkey, which will help to inform activities and goals for the Division over the coming years.

### Newsletter

Two issues of the DCoP newsletter were issued this year. An archive folder of past issues was due to become available on the PSI website; however, old editions are available in PDF format by individual request.

The Division has sought to clarify the situation regarding health insurance companies' provision of financial cover to clients for services provided by counselling psychologists. We will continue to work with the PSI office to make representations regarding this issue in the near future

A major part of our work this year has been to continue to make representations on behalf of our members to the HSE regarding their recruitment policies and how they impact on counselling and other applied psychologists. At the last PSI AGM, the Division made a statement asking the Council and members as a whole, to make this a priority. The response was very encouraging and in March this year Dr. Michael Drumm wrote a letter stating the position of the Society in relation to recruitment of psychologists. While

there is still much work to do, there is a sense that rather than working on our own as a division, we are working together as a Society.

In regard to the sale of psychometric tests in Ireland, there has been agreement with the publishers and the test suppliers to amend the rules for Ireland. The publishers have agreed that, similar to the UK, Registered Counselling Psychologists can purchase tests which previously had been restricted to educational and clinical psychologists.

### Treasurer's Report

Finances for the year ended 31 December 2011

	2011 €
Opening balance as at 1 January	39,835.88
Income for the year	6426.00
Expenditure for the year	(1915.44)
Closing balance as at 31 December	44,345.44

The accounts for the Division of Counselling Psychology are maintained by PSI offices, and the above information has been provided in respect of the year ended 31 December 2011. At 31 December 2011, the Division's financial position was strong, with a surplus of income over expenditure for the financial year in the amount of €4,510.56. There are a number of queries related to the above financial figures and we are currently working with the PSI office to resolve these queries.

### Goals for 2012-2013

- 1 Continue to make representations to providers of mental health services on behalf of our members
- 2 Provide good quality affordable CPD events both in Dublin and at other locations
- 3 Forge stronger links between the Division committee and its members in order to address members' professional needs
- 4 Produce informational leaflets for use by members to promote counselling psychology
- 5 Encourage evidence based practices by supporting research in areas related to counselling psychology

Anne Davis  
Chair



## 2.4 Educational

### Committee Members 2011-2012

Chair	Colm O'Connor
Deputy Chair	Des Swan
Secretary	Alison O'Meara
Treasurer	Sadhbh Coyle
CPD Events Organisers	Yvonne Cunningham & Elaine O'Brien
Membership Secretary	Kevin Keane
Committee Member	Rita Wall

### Committee Meetings

The committee met on ten occasions during the year. We also had regular communication by email and I would like to thank committee members for giving of their time and expertise in such a generous way.

### Information Bulletin and Emails

We continued this year with the issue of the Information Bulletin to members and we have also alerted members, by email, to important DES and NCCA circulars. Committee members also regularly responded to email queries directed to the Division, through the PSI website.

### Careers Information Booklet

The current DEP committee has updated and edited a new Careers Information Booklet for people considering a career in Educational Psychology. We will upload this document to the DEP webpage in the coming weeks and hope that it will be a useful resource.

### CPD Events

The Division of Educational Psychology organised a CPD event in February 2012 to address requests of members related to supervision training. Joyce Scaife, University of Sheffield and author of *Supervision in Clinical Practice: A Practitioner's Guide* (2009) and *Supervising the Reflective Practitioner* (2010) facilitated the training day. The training was well attended by members of the Division of Educational Psychology and also members of other divisions.

Dr. William Turton, School Psychologist and Assistant Professor in the Chicago School of Professional Psychology was the guest speaker at the AGM and he spoke on School Neuropsychology and new developments and practices within this area of psychology.

### PSI Annual Conference

The DEP is delighted to announce that we will be again holding a Symposium at the 2012 PSI Annual Conference in November.

Symposium Submissions - As we have already indicated to current students through their course directors prior to the closing date for Conference, the Division will pay €100 each to the first four applicants who indicate to us that their conference proposals have been accepted by the Conference Committee. This of course applies only to educational psychologists who will have newly graduated this year, prior to the Conference date.

The DEP Committee also provided Peer Reviewers for the PSI Conference and will do so again this year.

### DEP Representation on External Committees

- **PSI Council** – Fiona Kelly-Meldon is the DEP's representative on Council.
- **DARE** - Alison O'Meara, Committee Member, has attended meetings of the DARE (Disability Access Route to Education) Advisory Board on behalf of the DEP. The new 2013 DARE Guidelines are due to be issued in September and will be brought to the attention of members then.
- **Child and Family Support Agency** - DEP Member John Doyle represented the DEP on the committee of a new Child and Family Support Agency in HSE West.
- **DAWN** - Rita Wall, Committee Member, recently represented the DEP at a meeting of the DAWN Committee. This is a committee which is involved in devising standardised assessment/ examination procedures and policies for all students with disabilities across the 3rd level sector.
- **SCoPE** - Kieran Sweeney, DEP member, has represented the DEP on SCoPE. The Standing Committee on Psychometric Evaluation ((SCoPE) has met approximately eight times over the past twelve months. One of the primary functions of SCoPE is to advise PSI Council on policy as it relates to the use of psychometric tests. In March 2012, PSI Council

accepted a proposal put by SCoPE to adopt the European Federation of Psychologists' Associations (EFPA) standards 'Qualifications in Tests and Testing: Work, Education, Health and Social care, Levels 1 and 2' in Ireland. The EFPA standards are based on a competence based accreditation model which is intended to increase quality and reduce risks.

- **NEPES** – Jacqueline Horan, DEP member, has represented the DEP on NEPES. NEPES is the Network of European Psychologists in the Educational System and is part of the European Federation of Psychologists Associations (EFPA). Currently, discussions are taking place on the development of a position paper on Inclusive Psychology, the review of school psychological services models of service delivery and the improvement of communication within the Network of representatives from each country.

### Membership

There are currently 131 Full members and 22 Affiliate members.

### Financial Statement

Our current balance is €13,970.21

### New Committee Members

I wish to welcome William Kinsella and Michelle Howard to next year's committee. Sadhbh Coyle and Yvonne Cunningham are stepping down from the committee. I wish to thank Sadhbh for her role as Treasurer and Yvonne for

organising many interesting CPD events for members over the past number of years.

*Colm O' Connor*  
Chair

## 2.5 Forensic

Following a vote by the membership to continue the Forensic Division as it stands, a meeting was held with the PSI President and Director of Professional Development in July 2012 at which Dr. Patrick Randall agreed to chair the Division and Dr. Davina Walsh agreed to take on the task of secretary. The Division has, together with our colleagues in the BPS, done significant work on attempting to establish a professional forensic training course on the island of Ireland. While this initially looked promising and proposals had advanced substantially, this did not take place, given funding and other pressures in the current economic circumstances.

The present focus of the Division is to increase membership. In order to do this we need to review current membership criteria as this was agreed when it appeared likely that an Irish training programme was imminent. However, these criteria do not serve the Division well now that this is not likely in the short to medium term. In addition, the Division needs to further its aims of promoting the development of forensic psychology in Ireland by hosting CPD events and activities, and exploring alternative training strategies for forensic psychologists within Ireland.

The Division expresses its gratitude to the tireless efforts of Geraldine O'Hare, outgoing chair, and Dr. John Bogue, outgoing secretary, in coalescing the Division and devoting many hours to training proposals and meetings to establish professional forensic training in Ireland.

*Patrick Randall*  
Chair

## 2.6 Health

### Committee Members 2011 – 2012 (Elected at 2011 AGM on 04/04/11)

Chair	Anne Hickey
Hon. Secretary	Philippa Coughlan
Hon. Treasurer	Catherine Darker
Ordinary Members	Karen Keogh (Membership Secretary)
	Frank Doyle
	Laura Coffey (Publicity, PR)
	Andrea Gibbons (Publicity, PR)
	Lisa Mellon

### Membership and meetings of the Division

The Division had 49 members as of June 2012. Committee members attended 4 ordinary meetings and the AGM on 20/06/12. They also represented the Division on other committees:

- PSI Council (Anne Hickey, Catherine Darker);

- PSI Scientific Affairs Board (Anne Hickey, Chair);
- PSI Standing Committee on Psychometric Evaluation (Catherine Darker, Chair);
- PSI Steering Group on Supervision (Karen Keogh);
- PSI Working Groups on Psychologist Competences and on Health Insurance (Philippa Coughlan); and,
- PSI Statutory Registration Reference Group (Anne Hickey).

Committee members also attended meetings for the DHP annual 'Psychology, Health and Medicine' Conference, and with PSI President and Heads of Divisions.

### Professional Development

PSI Council accredited NUIG's MSc programme in Health Psychology in September 2011, prior to the 2011-12 course intake. In effect, this provides a Stage 1 qualification in Health Psychology in the Republic of Ireland.

As yet PSI has no criteria for a Stage 2 qualification but a panel will be set up to address this in 2012 following which further professional training in Ireland can be developed.

Ireland now offers a PSI accredited MSc in Health Psychology at NUIG; a BPS accredited MSc at UU; and a 4-year structured PhD in Psychology and Health at NUIG.

### Employment Opportunities

The DHP Committee highlighted to PSI Council the HSE advertisements for psychology posts which identify health and forensic psychologists as ineligible to apply. Clarity regarding the competences of the different specialities has been raised as a key issue for addressing this with potential employers. PSI is establishing a Working Group to examine competences in all specialisms.

### Statutory Registration

Council has agreed that all full DHP members who are also Registered Members of PSI will be eligible for specialist registration as Health Psychologists when Statutory Registration by CORU commences in 2013.

### PSI Annual Conference, Galway, November 2011

A DHP sponsored Health Psychology Symposium, 'Psychological issues in Chronic Illness', was convened by Anne Hickey. Presenters were Anne Hickey, Claire Donnellan, Sally Doherty, Aisling Sheehan, and Patricia White. The DHP issues a call annually for a sponsored symposium from its members. Committee members also staffed an information stand at the Conference.

### BPS DHP Annual Conference, Southampton, September 2011

Sponsorship to attend the BPS DHP Conference was provided to the single applicant.

### DHP Annual 'Psychology Health and Medicine' Conferences

This Annual Conference, jointly organised by the PSI and BPS Divisions of Health Psychology, showcases important research in health psychology in Ireland and the UK.

The 9th Annual Conference was hosted by the Department of Psychology, Queen's University Belfast on 04/04/2012. Keynote speakers: Professor David Marks (Journal of Health Psychology editor); Dr. Anne Marie Groarke (NUIG); and Professor Ronan O'Carroll (University of Stirling).

### PR

The Division continues to publicise health psychology in PSI and nationally through contributing to the IP, developing the DHP webpage, and providing information at the Annual PSI and other conferences at which a DHP stand or speaker is present, e.g. PSI Open Day in September 2011 (Anne Hickey), and the joint PSI/NIBPS Careers Events held at UCD in 2011 (Catherine Darker) and at MIC Limerick in 2012 (Philippa Coughlan).

### Conference bursaries

The DHP Committee approves conference travel bursaries (to a max. of €1,000 per annum provided the financial status of the Division is satisfactory) towards registration fees, accommodation, and travel expenses for UK or European health psychology conferences.

**Links with other organisations**

NIBPS: the DHP liaises with their counterparts in the Northern Ireland Branch of the BPS in organising the joint annual 'Psychology, Health and Medicine' conferences.

EHPS: the DHP nominates a National Delegate, currently Dr. Molly Byrne, to the European Health Psychology Society.

EFPA: Dr. David Hevey represents health psychology in Ireland on the Advisory Committee to the Congress on Psychology for Health in the European Federation of Psychological Associations.

**Finances**

	€
Balance as of 1st Jan. 2011	8,997
Income 2011	8,360
Expenditure 2011	5,518
Balance as of 31st Dec. 2011	11,839

**Other highlights**

**Employment of health psychologists**

There have been recent positive developments on this and the DHP will continue to work with PSI Council in this regard.

**Professional Development**

The health psychologists' document prepared by Catherine Darker will be subsumed into the sub-committee working to develop professional training accreditation criteria for PSI. This work is key to future recognition of health psychology as a practitioner discipline within the Irish health services.

**Health Insurance**

The DHP continues working with PSI to enable the inclusion of professionally qualified practitioner psychologists in health insurers' schemes that provide reimbursement for attending private psychology sessions.

**DHP Annual Conference 2013**

The 10th Annual 'Psychology, Health and Medicine Conference' will be hosted by the Department of Psychology in DCU on 1st May 2013 and will incorporate the Division's next AGM.

*Anne Hickey*  
DHP

**2.7 Neuropsychology**

The Committee for the Division of Neuropsychology (DON) for 2010/11 includes the following members:

Chairperson	Ms. Patricia Byrne
Vice-Chairperson	Dr. Simone Carton
Secretary	Dr. Neil Austin
Treasurer	Dr. Robert Coen
Ordinary	
Members	Dr. Corinne Pearson
	Ms. Mary Fitzgerald
	Dr. Nick Kidd
	Dr. Karen Looney
	Dr. Elaine Rogers (on maternity leave)
	Dr. Brian Waldron

The aims of the Division of Neuropsychology are to address issues relating to the promotion, advocacy and support of neuropsychology in Ireland, including:

- Promoting a high standard of practice in neuropsychology across clinical and other applied settings within the Irish health care context;
- Promoting good practice guidelines including provision of clinical and peer based supervision;
- Promoting evidence-based practice in clinical neuropsychological research;
- Sharing and dissemination of information, experience and resources among those working and interested in neuropsychology;
- Developing a clinical/academic support network for Psychologists working in Neuropsychology in Ireland, in particular to discuss current clinical issues;
- Advocating and highlighting the needs of service users with health conditions where neuropsychology issues are relevant;
- Contributing actively as a Division of PSI to matters of the society by our representation on a range of working groups;
- The promotion and the teaching of Neuropsychology in academic fora with particular reference to post graduate psychology training programmes.

During 2011 -2012, membership of the Division continued to increase, to date there are 39 members. The membership criteria continue to work well with no particular difficulties but we shall continue to monitor them. As before, our priority is to strike that delicate balance between inclusivity of members with a

general interest in this area and those who have a more specialised approach / role. As always, the maintaining of clear professional standards for those who are working in the area remains a priority of the Division.

As part of its ongoing mission to advocate for the needs of patients and health service users, the Division were joint authors of a submission to the Oireachtas on the Capacity Bill. This submission was made jointly by DON and colleagues in the Clinical Division and the Learning Disability Special Interest group of PSI. It was presented to the Oireachtas committee in April 2012 by Dr. Brian Maguire.

The Division's year ended well at the PSI's Annual Conference in November 2011, with Neuropsychology papers being well represented on the clinical programme. The recipient of the annual Deirdre McMackin award was Damien Lowry for his presentation on Investigating Neurocognitive Functioning in an Iatrogenically Infected Homogeneous Hepatitis C Patient Cohort (Lowry, D., Burke, T., McCarthy O., et al). On a social level, the inaugural Wine & Cheese reception was well attended, this was instigated as a sociable way for current and prospective members to meet up and network. It was kindly sponsored by Brainworx, and much appreciated by all who attended!

Over the past year DON convened four meetings which focused on processing the applications for membership and discussing clinical, academic and organisational issues of relevance to

DON. The impetus continues this year to provide a clinical forum for practitioners to discuss current clinical cases in a safe and supportive environment. This forum has been very positively received with a useful exchange of opinions, practice and experiences. In addition during 2012, two members of the Division presented excellent and well attended papers on two diverse areas of Neuropsychology. In January 2012, Dr. Robert Coen spoke on the topic of Memory Clinics, and in September 2012, Dr. Brian Waldron presented on the topic of CBT and its use in patients with an acquired brain injury. Further meetings, presentations and clinical case discussions have now been approved for CPD points for all PSI members who attend.

DON has now ceased current membership of the Federation of European Societies of Neuropsychology (FESN). In light of our small numbers we had requested that the FESN consider DON for an affiliate membership that does not incur large fees, unfortunately the FESN were unable to accommodate this request. In conjunction with our colleagues in the FESN, we agreed that we would suspend our membership on a temporary basis, and keep it under review pending increased membership of the Division.

Current committee membership and contributions from DON in 2011-2012 included the following:

- Dr. Carton represents DON and PSI on the HSE Clinical Directorate National Stroke Project, to plan Stroke Services for Ireland from acute to community care;
- Dr. Carton represents DON on the PSI Psychometric Testing group in order to establish standards for best practice in the administration of psychological tests;
- Under the stewardship of Dr. Robert Coen, DON also completed in August 2012, a submission to the Department of Health on the National Dementia Strategy.

*Patricia Byrne*  
Chair

## 2.8 Teachers and Researchers

### Committee Membership

The Division of Teachers and Researchers in Psychology Committee members for 2011-2012 were: Nicola Porter (Chair), David Hevey (Secretary), Aileen O'Reilly (Treasurer), Deirdre Desmond, Fiona Lyddy, Suzanne Guerin, Maria Dempsey, Suzanne Egan, Olivia Hurley, and Brian Hughes. Brian Hughes resigned from the Committee during the year. The Committee wishes to thank Brian for his work on the Committee. The Committee welcomed one new Ordinary Member: Pamela Gallagher.

- DON is represented on the Irish Stroke Council of the Irish Heart Foundation by Drs. Simone Carton and Neil Austin;

**Membership and Meetings of the Division**

The membership of the Division currently stands at 6 affiliate members and 35 full members. A Committee meeting followed by the AGM was held on 21 April 2012 in the PSI Office, Grantham House (seven Committee members in attendance). A quorum was not present and the meeting was adjourned to 3 May 2012 in the Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design & Technology. Committee meetings were held on:

Date	Location	No. of Committee members in attendance
21 September 2011	PSI Office, Grantham House	4
13 November 2012	Galway Bay Hotel, Galway	3
21 January 2012	Trinity College Dublin	4
21 April 2012	PSI Office, Grantham House	7
13 June 2012	PSI Office, Grantham House	4

**Activities of the Division**

The Division was established following support of a motion put to the PSI general meeting in November 2007 and its founding meeting was held in April 2008. The activities of the Division aim to support the keys objectives of the Division as set out in the Division rules, namely: to promote best

practice in teaching and research in psychology; to provide a forum for the sharing of knowledge and expertise; to promote and maintain high ethical and professional standards among teachers and researchers in psychology; to promote and encourage scientific research as it applies to teaching and learning within psychology and to promote the use of scientific methods in psychological research; to liaise with relevant bodies in the promotion of the goals of the Division and its members; to represent the views of psychology teachers and researchers within PSI.

The Division organised a number of events during the year, including:

- A seminar on the topic of “Teaching Thinking Skills at University” delivered by Dr Arlene Egan, Educational Director at Building2Think at the Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design & Technology on Thursday, 17 November 2011. This seminar was presented in association with the Department of Learning Sciences in IADT. Special thanks to Dr. Olivia Hurley, the organiser of the event;
- A symposium at the PSI Annual Conference in the Galway Bay Hotel, Galway in November 2011 on the topic of “Teachers and Researchers in Psychology: Doing More with Less”.

**Planned activities for the coming year**

The Division has planned a number of events for the coming year. The Division’s first conference took place on Saturday, 22 September 2012, in University College

Dublin. In October, the Division will be co-hosting a statistics workshop with the Student Affairs Group (SAG). Suzanne Guerin and Brendan Rooney will deliver this workshop. A symposium has also been planned for the PSI Annual Conference in November.

**Finances**

Opening balance as at 1 January 2011	€1,510.00
Income	€1,060.00
Expenditure	€20.00
Closing balance as at 20 April 2012	€2,550.00

*Nicola Porter  
Chair*

## 2.9 Work and Organisational

### DWOP Executive Committee 2011-2012

Yseult Freney (Chair, CPD), Aoife Lyons (Secretary, Chair Elect) Kathryn McCarthy (CPD), Shane Barry (Treasurer), Ciara Bolger (Membership Secretary), Joan Tiernan (Research), Eunice McCarthy (Newsletter Editor, Research), Peter Clarke (Promotion), Ian Clifford (Newsletter), Jerry Dixon (Research, Promotion), Edel Moloney (Wellbeing at work), Marian Vickers (Wellbeing at work) Eric Brady. Peter Clarke, past chair, and Eric Brady both serve on PSI council. Prof. Eunice McCarthy serves on the board of IAAC and will be attending their international conference.

### Strategic Plan

The committee of the Division continued to use the Strategic Plan 2009-12 to inform its activities. The Mission of the Division has remained constant.

**Pillar 1: CPD and Supervision** – DWOP strives to provide guidance on the PSI CPD process, and to provide relevant CPD opportunities to promote best practice in W&OP amongst its members, and to assist members maintain registration.

**Pillar 2: Wellbeing at Work** – DWOP strives to be identified and known to state, community and media bodies as the authority and national resource for work and organisational issues that relate to and promote human wellbeing.

**Pillar 3: Research** – DWOP strives to provide a proactive platform for presentation and active dissemination of cutting edge research findings in its specialised events. Constructive networking facilitates this proactive platform with key sponsors and, in some cases, the provision of concessionary membership and student research awards.

**Pillar 4: Membership and Public Relations** – DWOP strives to be the recognised expert body on all W&OP matters and strives to increase membership through active promotion of the Division and the benefits that membership provide.

The following is a report of the activities of the Division using the strategic plan as a framework:

### CPD and Supervision

DWOP and the Coaching Psychology Group (CPG) collaborated to provide a variety of topical seminars and skills workshops throughout the year. The majority of these competitively priced events were held in PSI's Grantham House and were open to all PSI members. These attracted healthy audiences and delivered significant CPD to members.

The following events took place:

**November '11:** The Ageing Worker (Jan Cleveland) (Held in UL)

**November '11:** Solution Focused Coaching (Brendan Madden)

**December '11:** Resilience (Stela Ivanova)

**January '12:** RE-employment & 1- to-1 coaching (Jerry Dixon)

**March '12:** Dynamics of complexity, stress management coaching (Eunice McCarthy)

**April '12:** Employee Engagement (Yseult Freney)

**May '12:** Career Development (Career Gro)

**June '12:** Mindfulness for Coaches (Michael Chaskalson)

### Research

PSI Annual Conference continues to be a major outlet for the research work of members of the DWOP. Furthermore, the Division of Work and Organisational Psychology had a very full and active conference participation internationally including:

- American Psychological Association Annual Convention, Washington;
- Academy of Management Annual Meeting, Boston;
- International Congress of Psychology, Cape Town;
- Positive Occupational Health Psychology International Seminar, Dublin.

### Membership, DWOP Profile and Public Relations

In excess of 224 (91 DWOP and 133 CPG) people, of whom 61 are members of DWOP, are Registered Psychologists. Of the 91 members of DWOP, 6 are Affiliate Members and 85 are Full Members. Membership spreads widely across the profession, business and organisations.

DWOP LinkedIn site is established and now has in excess of 460 members – 50% are based in Ireland and 50% are international. The site is managed by Ciara Bolger and Shane Barry. A new DWOP membership application form has been designed and will be launched for the 2012-2013 year.

We continue to enjoy strong professional relationships with several European associations, networks and groups:

- European Association of Work and Organisational Psychology (EAWOP);
- European Network of Organizational Psychologists (ENOP);
- International Association of Applied Psychology.

Our newsletter "Voices from the Edge" continues to be produced by Eunice McCarthy with strong back up from Ian Clifford. Yseult Freeney (Chair) has become a regular contributor to George Lee's 'The Business' programme on Radio 1, all of these activities helping to raise the profile of work and organisational psychologists in Ireland.

### Finances Overview

Opening Balance	€14,450.05
Income 2011	€6,165
Expenditure 2011	€5,850
Closing Balance 31/12/2011	€14,765.05

*Yseult Freeney*  
Chair

### Secretaries Report

#### Media Initiative

DWOP has initiated a new programme to create a register of DWOP members who are willing to speak to the media or write articles on topics of expertise. This initiative is designed to raise the profile of psychologists in the media and promote psychology in a proactive manner.

#### Accreditation of Masters Programme

Working with the new Director of Professional Development, DWOP committee members will be involved in the accreditation of the Masters in Occupational Psychology Programmes in Dublin City University and University of Limerick.

#### Committee developments

The committee has set up two emails to ensure members of DWOP have easy access to the committee – Dwopsecretary@gmail.com for the Honorary Secretary and Dwopmembership@gmail.com for the committee member with responsibility for membership. There has been a significant amount of communication

with members throughout the year, principally around CPD events but there have also been a significant number of jobs advertised. The committee met with the new Head of Professional Development on the 12th June. This was a very useful meeting for the committee and will help us in drawing up our new Strategy statement for the committee, particularly in light of the Statutory Registration process that is being introduced.

*Aoife Lyons*  
Secretary



## 2.10 Coaching Psychology Group

### Committee Members (2012 – 2014)

Ruth Mullally (Chair)  
 Hugh O'Donovan (Past Chair)  
 Dr. Joan Tiernan (Chair Elect)  
 Frances O'Neill (Honorary Secretary)  
 Margaret O'Donnell (Honorary Treasurer)

Carmel O'Neill (Supervision and Membership co-ordinator)  
 Karen Lopez (CPD Co-ordinator)  
 Albert Osthoff (Student Liaison Officer)  
 Professor Eunice McCarthy (Research and Supervision Team)  
 Marian Lee (Communications & Publications Team, Socially Committed Psychology)  
 Dr. Arlene Egan (Communications & Publications Team)  
 Jerry Dixon (Communications Team)

DWOP's Coaching Psychology Group (DWOP CPG) has had a busy, challenging and productive year with several executive committee meetings and sub-committee meetings. Members of DWOP's CPG also took part at the PSI Annual Conference.

### Committee Task forces/sub-committees

The work of the sub-committees is specific to strategic issues identified by the executive committee. These include Continuous Professional Development, Supervision, Membership, Socially Committed Coaching, Research, and Communications & Publications. Members are kept informed of the progress of these strategic plans and issues.

### Membership

DWOP CPG membership has continued to grow in diversity and geographical reach and now stands at 133 members. The General Mailing List has also increased to 182 members.

The DWOP CPG LinkedIn has proved popular with a total membership of 63, spanning Ireland, UK, Germany, India, France, Azerbaijan, USA and Australia. Visitors to the site can find discussions on a wide range of topics and coaching issues.

### Finance

All CPD events have generated a profit with the DWOP CPG making in excess of €2,962.10 this year.

### Newsletter

The CPG publishes three newsletters annually – November, February and May. The main purposes of the newsletter are:

1. Updating members on the activities and initiatives being taken by the Coaching Psychology Group's sub-committees;
2. Informing members of up-coming events;
3. Acting as a forum for members to communicate on their coaching experiences.

The Newsletter format and colour in our last issue was upgraded to align more closely with the new DWOP CPG banner. Feedback on the newsletter has been very positive.

### Socially Committed Coaching

Socially Committed Coaching (pro bono coaching) is at the forefront of DWOP CPG's ambitions to add value to the wider community. Five coaches participated in a successful pilot this year through a local organisation that works with mental health issues called MyMind. The pilot took place between July and December and included three peer supervision sessions. A research element was also incorporated into the pilot.

### Events during the year

DWOP CPG provide a variety of topical seminars and skills master classes throughout the year that were well attended by members and non-member professionals with an interest in coaching psychology. These were formulated around members' needs and were well received and favourably evaluated by attendees. There have been five executive meetings and four CPD events which are listed as follows.

- **Solution Focused Coaching**

**Date:** November 2011

**Presenter:** Brendan Madden

**Type:** Master Class

- **Re-employment and Coaching Psychology: Squaring up to the Big Issue**

**Date:** January 2012

**Presenter:** Jerry Dixon

**Type:** Seminar

- **Complexity, Stress, Coaching and Change**

**Date:** March 2012

**Presenter:** Eunice McCarthy

**Type:** Seminar

- **Mindfulness for Coaches**

**Date:** June 2012

**Presenter:** Michael Chaskalson

**Type:** Master Class

#### Future Events

DWOP and the CPG continue to collaborate and published their joint programme of events in August 2012. For the CPG this includes:

- NLP Coaching and Appreciative Enquiry;
- Emotional Intelligence and Coaching;
- Mental Health and Coaching;
- Principles of Sports Psychology related to coaching ;
- 2nd International Congress of Coaching Psychology.

#### International News

DWOP CPG continues to foster and develop strong links with coaching psychology groups and coaching organisations. Members have represented DWOP CPG at events both here and in the UK.

Our growing international profile continues to be enhanced in the following ways:

- DWOP CPG has become part of the International Congress of

Coaching Psychology (ICCP). The aim of the ICCP is the promotion of the development of the coaching psychology profession globally;

- DWOP CPG is also represented on ICCP's Steering committee by Carmel O'Neill;
- DWOP CPG Members have also presented at various international conferences. Hugh O'Donovan (Past Chair) presented a workshop at the 3rd European Coaching Psychology Conference in London in December 2011. In July, Professor Eunice McCarthy and Jerry Dixon presented at the 30th International Congress of Psychology in Capetown, South Africa.

Sincere thanks to the committee of the past year for all their support and hard work. Particular thanks to Gay White and Gráinne Carrickford-Kingston who are stepping down from the committee. Gráinne has contributed extensively to the Socially Committed Coaching Team, the CPD Team and, most recently, the Coaching Supervision Team. Gay was a cornerstone of our Communications Committee. Both have been involved with DWOP CPG since its first meeting and the committee wish them well in their future endeavours. Thanks also to the Past Chair Hugh O'Donovan for his vision, hard work and commitment to DWOP CPG. We extend our sincere appreciation and thanks to the Psychological Society of Ireland and all staff members for helping us to meet the emerging needs of our members.

*Ruth Mullally  
Chair DWOP CPG*

## 3 Special Interest Groups

### 3.1 Autistic Spectrum Disorders

Listing of Committee members

Chair	Lorraine Crawley
Secretary	Miriam O'Donohue
Treasurer	Rita Honan
Public Relations Officer	Paula Cummins

Ordinary Committee Members

Christine Chapple,  
Damien Connolly  
Mitchel Fleming  
Catherine Hallissey  
Davida Hartman  
Moira Kennedy  
Aoife Martin  
Aisling Whelan  
Louise Condon,  
Michelle Kelly  
Mark Latimer  
Anne O'Connor  
Arthur O'Reilly

#### Membership and meetings of the Group

The Group is open to and welcomes all members of PSI.

The Group is always interested in new members joining and adding to the Group, as well as establishing links to further enhance the basis of professional psychological knowledge in the area of Autistic Spectrum Disorders. If PSI members are interested in joining the Group, have questions, or would like

more information please contact the Group on [lc.asdsig@gmail.com](mailto:lc.asdsig@gmail.com).

In the previous year, there have been meetings every two to three months, and these meetings have included the SIG PSI Annual Conference meeting, the AGM and a Committee meeting to plan future events.

#### Achievements

Last year saw the launch of the Guidelines on Best Practice for the Assessment and Diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorders in Children and Adolescents. Committee members are continuing to promote the Guidelines; most recently Christine Chapple and Moira Kennedy presented the Guidelines in January 2012 at the 'Autism Spectrum Disorder: From clinical practice to educational provision' conference which was organised by the Centre for Autism and Developmental Disorders, NUI Galway, in partnership with Autism Speaks and the American Ireland Fund. An online version of the Guidelines is available to PSI members on the PSI website.

Following discussions in the first half of 2011 with the Learning Disabilities SIG Committee, a joint meeting took place between the ASD and LD SIGs at the PSI Annual Conference in November 2011. Members discussed the overlap in topics suggested for future individual SIG events. Requests from members for a practical, skill-building joint event led to a partnership on the 2012 Easter Workshop. Future collaboration is planned to modify the workshop intervention for the families with whom we work.

#### Activities/ Events

- For the 2011 PSI Annual Conference, the SIG sponsored a student research symposium to represent the range of ASD research being undertaken by PSI Student members. Sonia Morris (TCD) investigated the use of Social Story intervention by teachers and their perceived merit for children on the Autism Spectrum. Claire Lacey (TCD) discussed her study on the determination of preferences and provision of choices to children with autism in the context of parent training. Aisling O'Donovan (QUB) presented her research on word learning cues in autism. Rion O'Farrell-Walsh (TCD) presented results from her study of Irish Clinician's perspectives on alternative interventions for autism.
- ASD SIG members were in strong attendance at the Centre for Autism and Developmental Disorders NUI Galway's 2012 Conference: 'Autism Spectrum Disorder: From clinical practice to educational provision'. The SIG was represented in a plenary talk and a workshop. Moira Kennedy and Christine Chapple took the stage for the plenary talk discussing the 'Best Practice Guidelines for the Assessment and Diagnosis of ASD'. Other members who developed the document were also in attendance. Louise Condon and Lorraine Crawley presented at an afternoon workshop on 'Practice in Ireland – Challenges and Solutions' focusing on parent stress in the area of ASD.

- The ASD SIG and LD SIG jointly held the Easter workshop this year on Stress Control. Stress Control is a psychoeducational CBT approach devised by Dr. Jim White (Steps Primary Care Mental Health Team, Glasgow). Research suggests parents of children with disability experience higher levels of stress and more mental health difficulties, and the Stress Control programme could be considered as an intervention for this group. The workshop provided an overview of the stress control model, the six topics, materials, and a more detailed review of presentations on ‘controlling your body’ and ‘controlling your thoughts’. Small group discussions were also facilitated on how the approach could be adapted and modified for parents of children with ASD and ID. Dr. White kindly offered his help and support to the SIGs in setting up and evaluation of the Stress Control model.

Given the geographical spread of SIG members, there is a high level of activity through group email. Members are generous in forwarding links to share with the Group regarding new developments in the area of ASD, such as the NICE guidelines. This forum also provides the opportunity for members to share expertise; recent emails have focused on intervention for adults diagnosed with Aspergers. The SIG hopes to utilise the redesigned PSI website in order to provide another online resource to disseminate information of interest to members.

### Finances

Opening balance as at 1st Jan 2011	€8,355.75
Income 2011	€5,110.00
Expenditure 2011	€3,608.37
Closing balance as at 31st Dec 2011	€9,857.38

*Lorraine Crawley*  
Chair, ASDSIG

## 3.2 Child and Adolescent

### Background

The SIGCAP was reformed following a meeting at the PSI conference in Ennis in 1997, and the inaugural meeting was held in March 1998. Since 1998, the group has run a very successful annual lecture series, as well as a half-day conference in conjunction with the Group’s AGM.

### Aims

1. Develop awareness of child and adolescent issues within the psychology profession.
2. Promote child-centred practice and research.
3. Share experience, knowledge, resources and expertise and to develop a support network.
4. Use our knowledge to inform the public, policy makers and legislators of the needs of children and adolescents.

### Committee Members 2011 - 2012

Chairperson	Christine O’Farrelly
Co-Secretary	Mary Geoghegan and Kate Carr-Fanning
Treasurer	Katrice Sheridan
Information Officer	Éadaoin Clogher
Public Relations Officer	Lynn McKeague
Membership Officer	Jennifer Rogers
Ordinary Committee Members	Kathrin Bayly Deirdre Cowman Aisling Ryan Katie O’Donnell Claire Keogh Natalya Price

The Committee meets once a month, and provides information and collaborates with other professionals and agencies on an on-going basis.

Christine O’Farrelly and Katrice Sheridan stepped down from the Officer positions, this year’s new Chairperson is Kate Carr-Fanning and our Treasurer is Deirdre Cowman.

### SIGCAP Events in 2011 / 2012

- History of the SIGCAP

Katrice Sheridan spent several months compiling and reviewing the history and documentation of the SIGCAP, and wrote an article which was published in the Irish Psychologist (IP).

- Annual Lecture Series 2011-2012

The initial instalment of our lecture series, 'Promoting Positive Mental Health: Policy, Evidence and Practice', was presented by Professor Margaret Barry and Mr John Fitzmaurice. The SIGCAP travelled to Galway for this highly successful collaboration with National University of Ireland Galway (NUIG). November's lecture by Dr. David Delany on 'Integrated Executive Function Training an Endophenotype - Based Approach to Cognitive Remediation and Enhancement', was held in Trinity College Dublin (TCD), and reviewed for the IP by Co-Secretary Kate Carr-Fanning. Kathrin Bayly and Ellen Twist started off the new year with a lecture on, 'The Implementation and Evaluation of the Incredible Years Infant and Parent Programme in Dublin West: Findings of a pilot study', which was held in University College Dublin (UCD). This year's lecture series was concluded with a presentation by the SIGCAP's sub-committee in relation to research 'Developing information resources for Children and Young people on the Role of a Psychologist'. All talks were well attended by psychologists and other professionals, students, and researchers.

- Annual Half Day Conference

This year's Conference took place on Saturday the 28th of April 2012, in UCD. Dr John Sharry discussed his programme, with his talk entitled 'Parents Plus Programmes - Integrating Research Into Clinical Practice'. This described the development of the Parents Plus programmes, their evidence base and the innovative model of delivery which

allows practitioners to evaluate their own practice on a session by session basis. This was followed by Professor Catherine Comiskey, with a talk entitled 'Developing and implementing a model to bridge the gap in policy, research and practice', which saw Professor Comiskey present a range of international and national models developed for bridging the policy, research, practice gap.

After a short coffee break, Professor Sheila Greene, discussed 'Research: How do we know if it makes a positive difference to children's lives?', outlining some of the findings of an IRCHSS-funded project on 'Assessing the social impact of social science research' (Kerrins & Greene, 2010), which placed in the wider context of the author's experience of the challenges involved in conducting policy and practice-oriented research on children and children's issues. Dr Chris Wiles, gave a lively presentation on, 'Children and Young People's Mental Health - the politics of promotion, prevention, and care - a Scottish Perspective.' The event was reviewed by Aisling Ryan for the IP.

### On-going Projects

Developing information resources for Children and Young people on the Role of a Psychologist

A subcommittee made up of Deirdre Cowman, Ruth Davidson, Ruth McIntyre, Christine O'Farrelly, and Mary Geoghegan carried out some exploratory consultations with young people aimed at developing child-centre resources on the role of a psychologist

and what to expect on a first visit. The findings were presented at the PSI Conference 2011 and the final instalment of the lecture series. Currently in the second phase of the project, the team is using survey method to consult with practitioners.

### Members Survey

A sub-committee including Natalya Price, Mary Geoghegan, and Kate Carr-Fanning developed a member's survey, which will facilitate us both in meeting our aims and our member's needs. Launched at this year's Conference, findings will be used to inform future events and governance restructuring.

*Kate Carr-Fanning  
Secretary, 2011-2012*

### 3.3 Loss, Death and Bereavement

The SIG met to elect new committee members. The following nominations were made, seconded and accepted.

Chair	Dr. Paul D'Alton
Secretary	Dr. Susan Delaney
Treasurer	Dr. Susan Delaney
Ordinary Members	Dr. John McEvoy Dr. Margaret Daly Dr. Sinéad O'Toole Dr. John Dunne Dr. Shelagh Wright

The SIG currently has 72 members and continues to communicate primarily via email. SIG members use the network to seek out information, support, or suggestions from other members. It is also used to identify employment, therapy, research and supervision opportunities. Members receive monthly library updates from the IHF library (which houses over 1,000 titles) and also avail of borrowing privileges.

Continuing education remains a priority for the SIG. Over the last number of years the SIG has been very fortunate to have internationally recognised experts in the Death, Dying & Bereavement field meet with it for informal discussion. Among these have been:

- Professor Bob Neimeyer (Professor in Clinical Psychotherapy Research, Department of Psychology, University of Memphis, USA);

- Dr. Therese Rando (Clinical Director of the Institute for the Study and Treatment of Loss, Warwick, Rhode Island, USA); and,
- Dr. Kathy Shear (Professor of Psychiatry, Columbia University, NY).

The year 2012 saw the very successful series of five lectures on various aspects of loss presented at the PSI Offices. The series presented contemporary research and information in an accessible way and aimed to equip the practitioner with new ways to resource themselves and those they work with. The series covered topics ranging from models of grief, working with death & bereavement, and ways to support staff and self. Over 60 psychologists attended the series and the lectures are now available through the PSI website. Based on the feedback received, the SIG is committed to advancing this type of up-skilling and knowledge sharing in 2013.

In an effort to broaden the context and appeal of the SIG, a name change was agreed upon. The new name aptly reflects this broadening out. The SIG is now known as the Loss, Death & Bereavement Special Interest Group.

*Paul D'Alton  
Chair*

### 3.4 Learning Disability

#### Current Committee members

Chairperson	Jacqueline Flanagan
Secretary	Genevieve Marren
Treasurer	Saoirse Kenny
Other members	Aoife Whelan Mary Atkins Maria Mannion Ruth Melia Sarah Loughman Johnny Watters

Some members of the committee stepped down during 2011 - Mary Davis, Audrey Pidgeon, Marie Claire O'Brien and Marie Walsh. We would like to thank them for their contribution to the LDSIG.

#### Activities for 2011/2012

At the 2011 PSI Annual Conference in Galway, the Group had our AGM. This was followed by a meeting with members of the Autism Spectrum Disorders SIG and we agreed to run a joint event in 2012.

#### Easter Workshop 2012

Our Easter Workshop in Galway was a joint event with the ASDSIG. This was run over two days in April 2012, and the topic was Stress Control. This model of service delivery was devised by Dr. Jim White, who facilitated the sessions. The Easter workshop provided an overview of the Stress Control model, the six topics, materials, and a more detailed review of presentations on Controlling your Body and Controlling your Thoughts. Small

group discussions were also facilitated on how the approach could be adapted and modified for parents of children with ASD and ID. A working group from both SIGs is being formed in order to look at how this approach can be adapted to meet the needs of the population with whom we work.

### PSI Conference 2012

At the PSI Annual Conference in 2012, the Group is hosting a Workshop on Good Practice Guidance for Clinical Psychologists when Assessing Parents with Learning Disability. This Workshop will be facilitated by Dr. Sandra Baum, Consultant Clinical Psychologist, East London NHS Foundation Trust. Sandra has been involved in developing these guidelines in the UK and will provide an overview followed by a discussion.

### Activities of the Group

Committee members have been involved in the Working Group on Team Composition on Progressing Disabilities and have also contributed to the NCSE review on supports for students with Special Educational Needs. An article on the history of the LDSIG has been submitted for publication in the Irish Journal of Psychology.

The group will hold its AGM at the PSI Annual Conference in Cork and new members are always welcome.

*Jacqueline Flanagan*  
Chairperson LDSIG

## 3.5 Media, Art and Cyberpsychology

### Listing of Committee members

Chair	Brendan Rooney
Secretary	Nicola Fox Hamilton
Events	David Hayes
Communications & PR officer	Dean McDonnell
Other members	Fiona Boyd
	Liam Challenor
	Stephen Doherty
	Susan Dunne
	Vincent McDarby
	Elizabeth Quinn

Being only one meeting old, the Special Interest Group in Media, Art and Cyberpsychology (SIGMAC) is currently in the formation stages. It aims to explore and promote research, teaching, evidence-based practice and professional development in relation to Media, Art and Cyberpsychology. For this reason the report will be short this year, but rest assured that it will be jam-packed in future.

### A bit about SIGMAC

SIGMAC is concerned with the scientific exploration of the way humans interact with and design technology, mass media communication, art and fiction. It encompasses all psychological phenomena that are associated with or affected by emerging art, media and technology. It also recognises the profoundly influential bidirectional nature of human interaction with these

constructs and the importance of a multidisciplinary approach to exploring this interaction.

### Aims and Objectives

The establishment of the SIGMAC will offer members new areas to engage with and explore, it will offer the Society a centre for a new area of expertise to support pre-existing areas e.g. the use of technology in applied areas. It will also actively establish links with related SIGs and groups within and outside the Society. These tasks, aims and objectives are deeply rooted within the PSI's strategic goals.

### Membership and meetings

SIGMAC have met once at the time of sending this report, and have scheduled two more meetings that will have occurred by the time of reading. SIGMAC's initial start-up mailing list has 102 names and these will hopefully transfer to membership of the SIG when properly up and running. SIGMAC is open to any member/subscriber of the Society using the basic PSI membership categories: Registered/Graduate Member and Student Subscriber. Affiliate members/subscribers will also be encouraged to join, recognising the need for multidisciplinary perspectives.

### Activities / Events

SIGMAC will host its first symposium entitled "Exploring emotion, cognition, relationships and therapy through the paradigm of media, art and cyberpsychology" at the 2012 Annual PSI Conference. In September, SIGMAC

member, Dr. Irene Connolly (IADT) appeared on Síle Seoige's national radio show on Newstalk to discuss issues of internet trolling and cyberbullying (podcast available online).

### Other highlights

SIGMAC has continued to engage with all those who are interested via the SIGMAC Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/psisigmac](http://www.facebook.com/psisigmac), sharing articles, research and generating discussion around topics of interest.

*Brendan Rooney*  
Chair

## 3.6 Political and Environmental

The Political and Environmental Psychology Special Interest Group was set up to bring together those interested in looking at research, practice and policy making from the perspective of psychology and how it might be applied to political and environmental contexts.

At the PSI Annual Conference in Galway last year, the SIG co-participated in a symposium entitled 'Where do we go from here? Psychological perspectives on Ireland's past, present and future.' Lesley Storey from Queen's presented research which looked at the long-term consequences of The Troubles in West Belfast. In particular, she looked at experiences of conflict and the legacy of violence across the generations. The research appeared to suggest that the experience of the so called "peace dividend" may be minimal and that younger

generations are strongly affected by the legacy of the Troubles. Finally, Paula Roseingrave presented a presentation entitled 'Making the world safe for capitalism: Understanding the role of psychology in Ireland's "experiment" with capitalism', which give a historical account of the international political economic agenda since the end of the Second World War, primarily "making the world safe for capitalism". The presentation highlighted some of the significant milestones in recent European and US history that gave rise to the current global economic crisis, culminating in Ireland's spectacular fall from grace with the EU/IMF bailout. It explored the role of psychology in the development of the Celtic Tiger and also critically evaluated the work of David McWilliams, the Irish economist, whose seminal works have depicted Ireland as a country with a varying array of social identities, which woven together, prepared the ground for the country's "boom and bust".

If you would like to become a member of the Political and Environmental SIG, please contact [politicalsig@psihq.ie](mailto:politicalsig@psihq.ie). Membership fee is €10.

*Paula Roseingrave*  
Chair

## 3.7 Sexual Diversity and Gender Issues

The aims of the SDGISIG are:

- 1 To provide a forum for psychologists (including researchers, educators and practitioners) to share knowledge, resources and expertise with regard to sexual diversity and gender-related issues;
- 2 To promote psychological research, teaching, evidence-based practice and professional development opportunities in the area of sexual diversity and gender-related issues;
- 3 To collaborate with similar professional groups situated within and outside of Ireland; and
- 4 To inform policy makers and the general public on matters relating to sexual diversity and gender-related issues.

The SIG currently has 31 members.

Over the year the group engaged in three major areas:

- PSI policy on inclusive practice;
- provision of training;
- development of guidelines for best practice in working with LGBT clients.

### Working Party: Equality and Inclusive Practice (EQUIP)

With regard to PSI policy, the SDGISIG was represented on the PSI Equality and Inclusive Practice Working Group chaired by Dr. Paul D'Alton. The Working Group is responsible for the development of the PSI



policy on 'Promoting Equality and Inclusive Practice'. In the past year the group has met on several occasions, focusing on implementation of the policy. A Strategic Plan was developed that covered four areas: Education, Training, Practice and Research and the members are working in several areas to implement this strategy.

### **Training**

Over the past year the SIG provided training to trainees in Clinical Psychology and Counselling Psychology. Training inputs included: placing best practice related to sexual orientation in the context of ethical commitments to best practice; presenting the latest conceptual and methodological advances in understandings of sexual orientation; providing an overview of APA guidelines for best practice in psychotherapy with lesbian and gay clients; providing an overview of relevant research in specific areas.

### **Guidelines for best practice**

The Group has been developing Guidelines for best practice with LGBT through two strands of activity: a consultative process, and a review of current international guidelines for practice. A draft of the Guidelines is currently completed and will be presented at the SIG meeting at the PSI Annual Conference.

Please contact the Sexual Diversity and Gender Issues Special Interest Group at PSI: email: [info@psihq.ie](mailto:info@psihq.ie) or email the chair at [ger.moane@ucd.ie](mailto:ger.moane@ucd.ie).

*Geraldine Moane*  
*Chair*

## 4 Honorary Treasurer's Report

Due to illness the Honorary Treasurer, Patrick Holahan, was not available to compile this report. Therefore, this report has been compiled by John Smith, Auditor, and Shaun Adams, PSI Director of Operations.

The accounts for 2011 are outlined in the following pages. For the fifth year in a row, our spending was more than our income. Our liquid assets (cash in bank) are now €331,376.00. This is partially due to the loss incurred, as detailed in the Income and Expenditure account, but mainly due to expenditure on fixed assets (office re-location fit out and website/IT infrastructure).

Expenditure continues to be stringently managed and monitored. On the expenditure side, there was a significant reduction in the cost of publication, printing etc. Staff costs also fell in 2011 due to reduced staffing levels.

As per all previous years, membership fee revenue is the predominant source of income for the Society. Conscious of the economic climate we have not raised fees for some years. Furthermore, focus continues to be placed on enhancing the membership offering and support.

The Society's cash flow will continue to come under pressure in the coming years. We will continue to reduce costs where possible but with the exception of some once off costs incurred in 2011, most costs will still be there in the years ahead.



John Smith, Auditor



Shaun Adams, Director of Operations



# 5 Appendix - Annual Financial Report

## The Psychological Society of Ireland (Limited by Guarantee)

### REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2011

Company No. 110772

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# Directors and Other Information

DIRECTORS	Michael Drumm, Patrick Holahan. Eric Brady.
SECRETARY	Claire Donohue.
REGISTERED OFFICE	Grantham House, Grantham Street, Dublin 2.
AUDITORS	Smith & Co., Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors, 3C Centrepoint Business Park, Oak Road, Dublin 12.
BANKERS	AIB, 40/41 Westmoreland Street, Dublin 2.

# Directors Report

The Directors present their annual report and audited accounts for the year ended 31st December 2011.

## Principal Activities and Review of the Company's Activities

The company's principal activity consists of the advancement of Psychology as a pure and applied science and as a profession in Ireland and elsewhere.

## Results for the Period and State of Affairs as at 31st December 2011

The results for the year are set out in the financial statements on pages 47 to 51. The company had a loss before taxation of €62,632 (2010 - €39,996) on its activities for the year. Due to its charitable status, the company is exempt from taxation on any profits.

## Dividends

The payment of dividends is not permitted under the company's Memorandum of Association.

## Directors and Secretary

During the period Michael Drumm and Claire Donohue were appointed as directors and Mary Morrissey retired as director. Eric Brady was replaced by Claire Donohue as secretary. There were no other changes of director or secretary during the year or between the balance sheet date and the date of this report.

## Auditors

Smith & Co. Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors, have expressed their willingness to continue in office in accordance with Section 160(2) of the Companies Act 1963.

## On Behalf of the Board



Director  
Michael Drumm



Director  
Claire Donohue

# Statement of Directors' Responsibilities

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the directors are required to :

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgments that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Acts 1963 to 2009. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud.

The measures taken by the directors to ensure compliance with the requirements of Section 202, Companies Act, 1990, regarding proper books of account are the implementation of necessary policies and procedures for recording transactions, the employment of competent accounting personnel with appropriate expertise and the provision of adequate resources to the financial function. The books of account of the company are maintained at Grantham House, Grantham Street, Dublin 2.

## On Behalf of the Board



Director  
Michael Drumm



Director  
Claire Donohue

# Auditors' Report to the Members of the Psychological Society of Ireland

We have audited the financial statements on pages 47 to 51 which have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out on page 49.

## Respective Responsibilities of Directors and Auditors

As described on page 45 the company's directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with applicable law. It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on those statements and to report our opinion to you.

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 193 of the Companies Act, 1990. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with the relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland applicable to Smaller Entities, and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Acts, 1963 to 2009. We also report to you whether in our opinion: proper books of account have been kept by the company; whether at the balance sheet date, there exists a financial situation requiring the convening of an extraordinary general meeting of the company; and whether the information given in the directors' report is consistent with the financial statements. In addition, we state whether we have obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of our audit, and whether the financial statements are in agreement with the books of account.

We also report to you if, in our opinion, any information specified by law regarding directors' remuneration and directors' transactions is not disclosed and, where practicable, include such information in our report.

We read the directors' report and consider the implications for

our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it.

## Basis of Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

## Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland applicable to Smaller Entities, of the state of company's affairs as at 31st December 2011 and of its loss for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Acts 1963 to 2009.

We have obtained all the information and explanations we consider necessary for the purpose of our audit. In our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the company. The financial statements are in agreement with the books of account. In our opinion, the information given in the Directors' Report on page 44 is consistent with the financial statements. The company is limited by guarantee and does not have issued share capital, accordingly the provisions of Section 40(1) of the Companies (Amendment) Act 1983 do not apply.

**John Smith F.C.A.**

**For and on Behalf Of Smith & Co.**

**Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors.**

**3C, Centrepoint Business Park, Oak Road, Dublin 12.**

**Date: 26th September 2012.**



# Profit and Loss Account

## For the Year Ended 31st December 2011

	NOTE	€	2010 €
Profit/(Loss) on Ordinary Activities Before Taxation	2	(62,632)	(39,966)
Taxation		0	0
Profit/(Loss) on Ordinary Activities After Taxation		(62,632)	(39,966)
Profit/(Loss) Brought Forward		493,618	533,584
Profit/(Loss) Carried Forward		430,986	493,618

There are no recognised gains or losses in the current or proceeding financial year other than those dealt with in the Profit/(Loss) for the year.

### On Behalf of the Board



Director  
Michael Drumm



Director  
Claire Donohue

The notes on pages 49 to 51 form part of these accounts.

# Balance Sheet

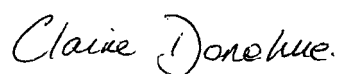
## For the Year Ended 31st December 2011

	NOTE	€	2010 €
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible Fixed Assets	6	275,016	35,714
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors & Prepayments		7,150	17,984
Cash at Bank and at Hand	4	331,376	673,921
		338,526	691,905
CREDITORS:(AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR)	5	156,819	208,264
NET CURRENT ASSETS / (LIABILITIES)		181,707	483,641
TOTAL NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)		456,723	519,355
Represented By			
CAPITAL AND RESERVES			
Capital Reserves		21,353	21,353
Revenue Reserves		4,384	4,384
Profit & Loss Account		430,986	493,618
		456,723	519,355

**On Behalf of the Board**



Director  
Michael Drumm



Director  
Claire Donohue

The notes on pages 49 to 51 form part of these accounts.

# Notes to the Financial Statements

## For the Year Ended 31st December 2011

### 1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the company's financial statements.

#### a) Basis of Preparation

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles under the historical cost convention, and comply with the financial reporting standards of the Accounting Standards Board, as promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland.

#### b) Cash Flow Statement

The company meets the size criteria for a small company set by the Companies (Amendment) Act 1986 and therefore, in accordance, with FRS 1:Cashflow Statements, it has not prepared a cash flow statement.

#### c) Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is calculated to write off the assets over their estimated useful lives at the following rates:

Computers	20% Per Annum
Fixtures & Fittings	20% Per Annum
Improvements to Leasehold Building	10% Per Annum
Website	20% Per Annum

### 2 PROFIT/(LOSS) ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION

The profit/(loss) on ordinary activities before taxation is arrived at after charging:

	€	2010 €
Auditors Remuneration	3,000	3,000
Directors Remuneration	0	0
Depreciation	42,178	8,929
Staff Costs (Note 3)	207,382	340,331

### 3 STAFF COSTS

	€	2010 €
Employee costs during the period amounted to:		
Wages and Salaries	181,665	279,342
Pensions	6,761	32,016
Social Welfare Costs	18,956	28,973
	207,382	340,331
The average number of persons employed by the company during the year was:		
Administration	5	7

### 4 CASH AT BANK & AT HAND

	€	2010 €
Psychological Society of Ireland	331,376	673,921
SIG/Divisions	0	0
	331,376	673,921

### 5 CREDITORS: (AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR)

	€	2010 €
Trade Creditors and Accruals	170,352	173,159
Bank Overdraft	0	0
Payroll Taxes	(13,533)	35,105
	156,819	208,264

## 6 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Improvements to Leasehold Building €	Fixtures & Fittings €	Website €	Computers €	Total €
<b>COST OR VALUATION</b>					
Balance 1st January 2011	0	0	116,718	24,045	140,763
Disposals	0	0	(85,550)	(14,476)	(100,026)
Additions	264,885	13,410	3,185	0	281,480
Balance 31st December 2011	264,885	13,410	34,353	9,569	322,217
<b>ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION</b>					
Balance 1st January 2011	0	0	86,920	18,129	105,049
Disposals	0	0	(85,550)	(14,476)	(100,026)
Charge for the period	26,488	2,682	9,149	3,859	42,178
Balance 31st December 2011	26,488	2,682	10,519	7,512	47,201
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>					
Balance 31st December 2011	238,397	10,728	23,834	2,057	275,016
Balance 31st December 2010	0	0	29,798	5,916	35,714

## 7 APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS

The final accounts were approved by the Directors on 26th September 2012.

# Income & Expenditure Account

## For the Year Ended 31st December 2011

	€	2010 €
Income		
Annual Subscriptions	500,430	546,402
Other Income	112,236	166,364
	612,666	712,766
Less: Overheads		
Audit & Accountancy	10,694	12,066
Meetings, Seminars and Related Expenditure	104,578	79,809
Insurance	3,422	3,353
Legal & Professional Fees	45,533	38,518
Printing, Postage & Stationery	118,343	191,362
IT & Computer	34,803	16,704
Pensions	6,761	32,016
Rent & Rates, Light & Heat	88,716	39,551
Repairs & Maintenance	5,815	3,929
Subventions & Affiliations	2,431	5,477
Sundry	2,361	4,432
Salaries	200,621	308,315
Telephone & Internet	9,042	8,271
Depreciation : Improvements to Leasehold Buildings	26,488	0
Depreciation : Website	2,682	0
Depreciation : Computers	9,149	7,450
Depreciation : Furniture	3,859	1,479
	675,298	752,732
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	(62,632)	(39,966)



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