

## **2008 IPA European Meeting, Dublin – Impact on the development of the specialty in Ireland**

Gregory Swanwick, 2008 IPA European Meeting Co-chair • Ireland

IPA's recent international meeting in Dublin was highly successful as you will learn on these pages. While providing an excellent scientific program is important for all of IPA's meetings, it is also a priority to hold the meetings in various parts of the world in order to support and develop psychogeriatrics in that area or country.

Psychiatry of Old Age is a relatively new specialty in Ireland – the first service began in 1989 and since then a further 20 public services have been developed. In addition, there are a number of private services and further expansions of the public services are planned. Against this background, the staging of a successful IPA international meeting in Dublin was of great significance in consolidating the importance of the discipline in the minds of key stakeholders. To this end, the meeting successfully involved a number of key individuals. **Dr. Philip Crowley**, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health and Children chaired the public lecture on Tuesday, 8 April. This lecture received coverage on a very popular national radio program and attracted a capacity crowd. **Mr. Martin Rogan**, Assistant National Director (Mental Health) in the office of the CEO of the Irish Health Service Executive chaired the first plenary session on Wednesday, 9 April. Later that day, **Dr Jimmy Devins**, Minister of State at the Irish Department of Health and Children with responsibility for Disability and Mental Health delivered a speech and welcomed delegates. Also, **Ms Bairbre Nic Aongusa**, Principal, Mental Health Services, in the Irish government's Department of Health & Children co-chaired a symposium on health policy. Finally that day, **Dr Consilia Walsh**, Chairman of the Irish College of Psychiatrists welcomed delegates on behalf of the Irish College prior to the evening satellite symposium. These stakeholders had the opportunity to talk with IPA President Prof Helen Fung-kum Chiu and thereby further appreciate the importance of continued development of the specialty in Ireland.