

# Michael Gerard Kelly (1921-2004)

## 'Life levels all men: death reveals the eminent' – GB Shaw

Brian O'Shea

*Ir J Psych Med 2005; 22(1): 33-34*

Michael G C Kelly MD, MRCPsych, DPM, was my first boss in psychiatry. My decision to pursue my career was as a result of a talk with this charismatic gentleman in the Drug Centre in Jervis Street Hospital. I was moved to undertake this journey by his inspiring words and presence. When my first stuttering attempt at having a paper published was flatly rejected, Dr Kelly ransacked it with a red pen and turned beast into beauty!

Michael, who hailed from Derry and attended school there and in Dublin, worked in a bank and other lines of business before doing medicine at Trinity College, Dublin. Following jobs in England he proceeded to the Karolinska Institute in Sweden. From there he went to Jervis Street Hospital (the 'Jerv' or Charitable Infirmary – now a shopping centre) and developed the famous National Drug Treatment Centre. He was also consultant to the Mater Dei Institute in Drumcondra.

My two years with Michael Kelly were extremely full and

**Brian O'Shea**, Clinical Director, Newcastle Hospital, Greystones, Co Wicklow, Ireland.

fulfilling: inpatient and outpatient substance dependence service, eating disorders, irritable bowel syndrome, Coolmine Therapeutic Community, the launch of the Rutland Centre (with Fr Raphael Short back from the States armed with Glasser's reality therapy), adolescent problems in Drumcondra, public lectures (schools, medical societies, Customs & Excise), the Drug Squad (with Dinnie Mullins), the 'Late Late Show' (with Rod Taylor and Oliver Reed), a junior position on an interdepartmental committee considering the new misuse of drugs legislation, private patients in Dun Laoghaire, weekly articles in the *Irish Medical Times*, and, with JPA Ryan, general psychiatric clinics and ward consultations! On top of all this we saw general medical cases referred from industry. It would be difficult to find a job like that today.

Michael Kelly was a boss who was there when you wanted him. He picked you up when you faltered and made you think that you could fly. He even found the time to write to me during his final illness.

Our heartfelt condolences to his widow (Rosalind) and three children (Justin, Johanna, and Jonathan) on the loss of someone very special.,

# Professor Thomas Lynch (1922-2005)

Marcus Webb

*Ir J Psych Med 2005; 22(1): 33-34*

The death occurred on January 6, 2005 of Thomas Lynch, the first Professor of Psychiatry at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. From the perspective of his colleagues in psychiatry Tom Lynch came to the speciality at an important, formative time in Ireland. His contribution over four decades to the development of the specialty was a considerable one.

Tom Lynch grew up in Dublin. His parents were teachers who spoke Irish at home, and who became involved in the volunteer movement for Irish freedom. Tom's father was one of the leaders of the 1916 Easter Rising; he served as a minister in the first Irish Government, and subsequently as a circuit court judge.

Educated at St Mary's College, Rathmines, and the RCSI medical school, Tom Lynch graduated in 1946 with a first class honours degree. His intern year was at the Richmond Hospital and he then began his training in psychiatry at St Patrick's Hospital under the guidance of Dr Norman Moore.

**Marcus Webb**, Professor Emeritus, Consultant Psychiatrist, St Patricks Hospital, James's St, Dublin 8, Ireland.

Lynch later often talked of his time, more than a decade, at St Patrick's and of his friends and colleagues there: his fellow psychiatrists were an impressive and entertaining group of true individuals. Tom related that he learnt much about psychiatry and also about hospital management there. During this time he obtained his MRCPI and DPM.

1956 was an important year for Tom as he married Sheila O'Donovan, a medical graduate of UCC, and he was appointed staff psychiatrist at St Patrick's. A year spent at the Maudsley Hospital and the Institute of Psychiatry in London, during the reign of the formidable Aubrey Lewis, added to Lynch's training before he was appointed RMS of St Otteran's Hospital, Waterford.

It was in Waterford that Tom Lynch began to demonstrate his ability to get things done in a cash-starved public psychiatric service. He recognised the abilities of many of his colleagues, medical, nursing and administrative staff, and found ways with them to deliver new and improved services. An early success was the opening of the first general hospital psychiatric unit in the Republic, at Ardkeen Hospital in

Waterford. There are now over 20 such units around the country, and Tom Lynch's concern to reintegrate psychiatry with other medical disciplines is still influential.

Subsequently, Tom fostered the development of psychiatric rehabilitation units – often initially staffed by nurses – and he was a founder, later Chairman, of the Mental Health Association. This has become a countrywide body dedicated to educating the general public about psychiatric disorders and their treatment.

Lynch was also a member of the National Rehabilitation Board, and of the Boards of the Central Remedial Clinic and the Rehabilitation Institute.

Tom Lynch was appointed the first Professor of Psychiatry at RCSI, in 1968. With this appointment came the responsibilities of Clinical Director for the Eastern Health Board, his clinical work being at St Brendan's Hospital, Grangegorman and at James Connolly Memorial Hospital, Blanchardstown, where he also opened a psychiatric inpatient unit. His administrative responsibilities continued to accumulate, with appointments to the National Drugs Advisory Board and to the Eastern Health Board.

Professor Lynch's teaching plan opened a new vision of psychiatry for students at 'Surgeons'. With the help of a number of consultant colleagues, particularly Vincent Greene, Gerry Gorman, RD Stevenson, Aidan McGennis, Bill Delaney and Jim O'Boyle, he extended the clinical base for learning, making good use of videotaped interviews. Tom Lynch's respect for the dignity of each individual was a corner-stone of his teaching. The professor was also on the side of his students, showing tolerance of their failings while ensuring that the occasional actual examination failure was used to stimulate adequate learning.

Tom Lynch was also much involved with the initiation of postgraduate medical training in psychiatry, with his colleague-professors Peter Beckett, Ivor Browne and Norman Moore. They formed the Irish Postgraduate Psychiatric Training Programme, which later embraced regional training in Cork, under Professor Robert Daly and in Galway, under Professor Thomas Fahy. This was a propitious time, when the few academic psychiatrists in Ireland were expected to take on much committee work in hospitals, health boards and national initiatives and organisations in order to promote the development of psychiatry.

Tom was a valued committee member, perhaps particularly as chairman, where he showed his relaxed but quietly persuasive style to great advantage. Psychiatrists at the time were striving for better conditions for their patients and for recognition for psychiatry as a mainstream medical discipline. Tom was a firm supporter of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, of which he served on the Court of Electors, and became Vice-President in 1981. He chaired the Irish Division, now the Irish College of Psychiatrists, from 1979-1983, recognising the academic and professional benefits that this body was able to bring to Irish psychiatry.

Tom was universally popular. Everyone saw him as sympathetic, good humoured and friendly, and he earned widespread respect for his achievements. Tom was a true family man, but it may not have been by chance that the windows of his Dublin home looked out over Milltown Golf Club. He was a fine golfer, at one time holding a handicap of four, and he captained both Waterford and Milltown Golf Clubs.

We wish to express sympathy to his wife Sheila and to his daughters Mairead, Sally-Ann and Fionnuala and his sons Niall and Timothy.

## Letters to the Editor

Ir J Psych Med 2005; 22(1): 34-35

## ADHD in adulthood

Re: *The (debated) persistence of adult attention deficit hyperactivity disorder into adulthood. B O'Shea. Irish Journal of Psychological Medicine 2004; 21(4): 144.*

While adult ADHD is still a controversial issue in Ireland and Dr Brian O'Shea is correct to use the word 'debatable' it is not so in the rest of the western world. The evidence for the persistence of childhood attention deficit hyperactivity disorder into adulthood is overwhelming.

Longitudinal studies have found rates of persistence of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder symptoms into adolescence and young adulthood to vary between 50%-75%.<sup>1</sup> The mean heritability of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder equals.

An excellent prevalence study of adult Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder in the United States where 9,282 were studied found a rate of adult attention deficit hyperactivity disorder of 4.4%.

To debate the existence of adult Attention Deficit Hyper-

activity Disorder is equivalent to debating the existence of bipolar disorder or schizophrenia. Clearly all these conditions are on a spectrum.

**Michael Fitzgerald**

Henry Marsh Professor Child & Adolescent Psychiatry  
Trinity College Dublin  
Dublin 2  
Ireland

### References

1. Kirley A, Fitzgerald M. Adult attention deficit hyperactivity disorder: a controversial diagnosis. *Ir J Psychol Med* 2002; 19(3): 86-91.

## ECT administration

We note with interest the recent marks ascribed to the Chairman of the Mental Health Commission (*The Irish Times, January 31, 2005*) regarding the putative regional variation in rates of ECT administration.

Given the reliance of the Mental Health Commission on