

large part to the foresight and persistence of one exceptional young researcher.

Despite many entreaties to stay in the Institute of Psychiatry, Eadbhard returned to Dublin in 1991 to take up a post as consultant psychiatrist and tutor in the St John of God rotational training scheme – his old Alma Mater. He returned full of ideas and energy and inspired many psychiatric trainees to consider carrying out research on psychosis. With the support of a Health Research Board (Ireland) Unit Grant and a Stanley Foundation (USA) Center grant, he began to build up a productive research group in Dublin. His favourite question to new trainees was, 'So what do you think causes schizophrenia?' He retained his passionate interest in epidemiology and his belief that this was the only way that the 'big' questions in psychiatry could be solved. His MD thesis on obstetric complications and schizophrenia was followed by a DSc and FRCPsych. His academic achievements were honoured by his appointment to a personal chair as Newman Professor of Mental Health Research in University College Dublin. He was awarded an International Gold Medal by the Italian Cognitive Neuroscience Research Society in 2001.

Eadbhard gradually began to focus more on clinical research and became concerned at the long duration of untreated illness among patients with psychosis. His work in this area led him, with a group of like-minded colleagues, to set up the first early detection and intervention service for psychosis in Ireland, which remains an exemplar of clinical innovation and good practice. A new cohort of trainees in psychiatry, psychology, nursing and occupational therapy became enthused with his belief in the importance of early intervention and saw the difference they could make to people's lives.

Before his untimely death he had become interested in an inclusive youth mental health model of service incorporating early intervention for a wide range of illnesses. He was attending a Youth Summit in Killarney in May 2010 when he became ill. After a very difficult year ending 2 May 2011, he died. An Annual Youth Mental Health Research Prize has been established in his honour.

Eadbhard was a shy man who disliked public speaking yet he lit up a room when he entered and was a memorable if reluctant speaker. He was a skilful tennis player and enjoyed sailing and cycling, even managing in recent years to cycle some of the Tour de France route – a long-held ambition. Eadbhard's passing has left all who knew him, both colleagues and patients, with a great sense of loss. His family including his wife Virginia and their four sons, Caolán (21), Oisín (19), Harry (16) and Eadbhard Junior (9) feel that loss most of all. He was so proud of his four sons and all they had achieved, and his wife was the love of his life and a rock of support during that difficult final year.

There is of course one person who would disagree with most of the praise heaped upon him here and would have said quietly, 'But surely you must be thinking of someone else'.

Robin Murray, Mary Cannon

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Dr Mary Headley Welsh

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Mary Headley Welsh, who died aged 58, was part of a group of enthusiastic trainee psychiatrists responsible for transforming practice of the specialty in Northern Ireland throughout the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Born in Lurgan, Co. Armagh on 7 September 1953, Mary was one of seven children. She attended the Assumption Convent Grammar School in Ballynahinch, Co. Down. She was a natural leader who became a very effective head girl.

She began her undergraduate medical training at Queen's University Belfast in 1972. However, in her 5th year she had her first encounter with serious illness – Hodgkin's lymphoma. Treatment interrupted her studies and delayed her graduation until 1979.

She obtained her first consultant post at St Luke's Hospital, Armagh, in 1988 where she developed services for the elderly. In 1990, when general management was introduced to Northern Ireland, she was appointed to the newly created post of Unit General Manager of the Mental Health Unit of the Southern Health and Social Services Board. Following the introduction of trusts, she returned to full-time clinical work in 1996. She was a member of the Mental Health Review Tribunal for Northern Ireland from 1995 to 2000.

When she married her husband Chris Welsh in 2000, Mary left Northern Ireland to take up a consultant post with Norfolk and Waveney Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust. In 2001, she moved to a job with Suffolk Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust based at Wedgewood House, West Suffolk Hospital, in Bury St Edmunds. Illness forced her to retire in 2005.

Mary had an enviable zest for life. She combined a formidable intellect with a keen sense of humour, great warmth and abundant compassion. She cared deeply about work and about mental health issues. She was articulate, vocal and not afraid to speak her mind. Dinners in her home were memorable. She was a fine hostess and a skilled cook and flower arranger. She loved opera and the theatre and was an adventurous traveller.

Mary faced her final illness with characteristic good humour and fortitude, dying from breast cancer on 13 May 2011. She was caring and supportive to her husband Chris who was also seriously ill. In her all-too-short life she touched and enriched those who knew her. She will be remembered as a devoted wife, a loving sister, a loyal colleague and a truly professional psychiatrist.

Helen Harbinson

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