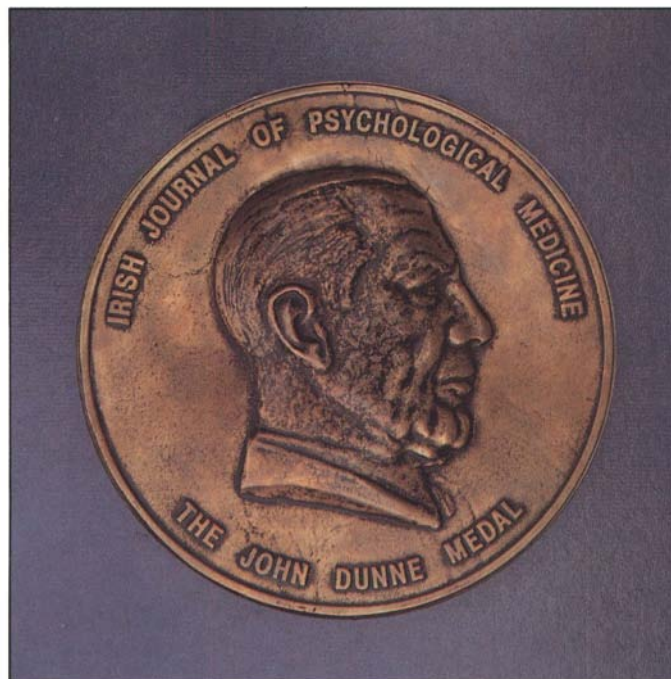


EDITORIAL: The John Dunne Medal



*Thanks to Janssen
Pharmaceutical Ltd. for
their sponsorship of the
John Dunne Medal.*

The **John Dunne Medal** is awarded annually by the *Irish Journal of Psychological Medicine* to a trainee from Ireland, Northern Ireland, or Great Britain. The trainee shall have contributed substantially (though not necessarily as the first author) to an original article, brief or clinical report, published by the Journal in the previous year. (Reviews or perspective articles of particular originality may, exceptionally, qualify). The first authors of all appropriate articles are annually invited to submit, if they wish, a trainee's name into the competition. The bronze Medal is named after Dr. John Dunne, who was the first Psychiatry Professor in Ireland, and the President, in 1955, of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association.

This is the first year that the John Dunne Medal is being awarded, based on articles published by the *Journal* in September '88 and March '89. Ten trainees entered the competition. The panel of adjudicators for this year's John Dunne Medal numbered six: Dr. Anthony Carney, (Senior Lecturer, University College Galway), Dr. Patricia Casey (Senior Lecturer, University College Cork), Dr. Ted Dinan (Senior Lecturer, Trinity College Dublin), Professor Roy McClelland, (The Queen's University of Belfast), Dr. Aidan McGennis (Clinical Lecturer, University College Dublin, Clinical Tutor, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland), and Professor David Sheehan (University of South Florida). They rated each paper on the following six-point scales: Originality (degree of contribution to scientific or clinical knowledge; importance or usefulness of replication study, review article, or case report); Method (design, statistics, materials, validity of conclusions); Relevance (integration with current knowledge, with implications for future research or clinical practice; adequacy and timeliness of references); and Global Evaluation. These scales are taken from the Journal's Assessment Form for submitted manuscripts.

The bronze medal was sculpted by Robin Buick, A.R.H.A., based on a recent profile photograph of John Dunne taken by the sculptor for this purpose. It has been exhibited at the new Gallagher Gallery of the Royal Hibernian Academy, where it has received favourable comment.

There were two tied winners of the competition, both of

whom will receive the Medal this year: (in alphabetical order) Dr. Philip McGarry (Trends in Suicide: N. Ireland 1960-86) from the Mater Infirmorum Hospital, Belfast, and Dr. Moya O'Beirne (The Impact of a General Hospital Psychiatric Unit on Established Patterns of Psychiatric Care) from the Regional Hospital, Galway. Dr. A.J. Mander (Prediction of Rapid Relapse Following Lithium Discontinuation) from the Royal Edinburgh Hospital, Edinburgh, came a close second. The *Journal* wishes them, and all its contributors, continuing success in their future research and clinical careers.

The Editor encourages readers and potential contributors to read the Guidelines for Authors carefully. The revision process has been clarified, simplified and should be speedier. This is due in part to the enlargement of our panel of statistical assessors who will now provide from the start a written statistical assessment on all appropriate manuscripts. (For authors within Ireland and Northern Ireland the *Journal* can also provide, upon request, a mailing list of statistical consultants who are able to give whatever statistical help is needed in the revision process.) The initial assessors of a manuscript will be reused for any future revision. Authors are advised to incorporate only those suggestions that they agree would improve their paper, and to argue point by point against any other suggestions that they will not or cannot follow. Each assessor of a revision will receive this covering letter, as well as the original comments of the other assessors. After the revision and assessors' further comments, the Editor will make the final decision. It is hoped that these changes will result in the publication of the best possible paper, one which will achieve the excellence it deserves.

The new Guidelines also emphasize the importance of careful choice of Title and Key Words, and careful writing of the Abstract, to ensure the availability of the study by computer literature search to the appropriate international audience; and the importance of timely references to integrate the study with current knowledge, and thus highlight the study's relevance for research or clinical practice. As a last point, the new Guidelines emphasize that the scope of subject matter for the *Journal* includes relevant Basic Sciences as well as Clinical studies.

Mark Hartman, Editor



“Few patients require more immediate pharmacological intervention than the agitated, combative and acutely psychotic patient.”¹

Droleptan*
droperidol

*Trademark



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1. Hooper, J. F., Minter G., J. Clin. Psychopharmacol. **3**(4) 262-263 (1983).