

27<sup>th</sup> June 2012

## **IAEM is delighted to welcome His Excellency, President Michael D. Higgins to open ICEM 2012 in Dublin today**

The Irish Association for Emergency Medicine is delighted to welcome His Excellency, President Michael D. Higgins to the Convention Centre, Dublin to officially open the 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Emergency Medicine (ICEM2012) today. The ICEM meeting is the flagship biennial scientific meeting of the [International Federation for Emergency Medicine](http://www.ifem.org) (IFEM), a global organisation that represents 60 countries and regional federations. ICEM 2012 is the first ICEM conference in Europe outside of the UK and is consequently a major coup for Ireland. This international recognition is a singular honour for Emergency Medicine (EM) in Ireland and IAEM is determined that ICEM2012 will be the best ICEM ever. IAEM is particularly grateful to President Higgins for his generous support of our endeavours by his opening of ICEM2012 today. No ICEM conference has ever had an attendance by a Head of State, another first in IFEM's history.

Today we welcome over 2,000 delegates from 59 countries - the largest attendance ever at ICEM. We have also been fortunate in receiving the greatest number of abstract submissions ever (over 1,100). The presence of so many delegates from around the world is a timely fillip to tourism in Dublin and beyond.

The four day conference, which follows three days of pre-conference workshops and courses, will be an opportunity to showcase international state-of-the-art patient-focussed emergency care, whilst also allowing international colleagues an opportunity to appraise themselves of Ireland's own National Emergency Medicine Programme, launched last week by the Minister of Health, Dr. James Reilly TD.

The Conference will cover the whole breadth of EM with plenary sessions on issues as diverse as clinical decision making in EM and public health policy with individual tracks covering everything from informatics in EM to wilderness medicine and EM curricula to end-of-life care. The programme features speakers of international renown from all over the world as well as many experts from Ireland.

We anticipate that all delegates, both international and Irish, will be energised by the innovative scientific content and take home permanent, positive memories of the famous and unique welcome indigenous to our culture.

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