

personal experience of therapy has been hotly debated; the agreement reached was that it is highly recommended but not mandatory.

The CME/CPD Task Force

Fruitful collaboration between the UEMS, WPA, AEP and WHO started in 2002. The problem of how to create a European supranational accreditation system has for some time been a key issue for a number of organisations. The UEMS established the European Accreditation Council for CME (EACCME) in 2001 as a clearing house for accreditation and it has to some extent, but not through any transparent regulation, used the Sections in an advisory capacity. At the same time, other players started operating in the field of accreditation and without any clear affiliation were seeking links with national organisations. This was the background to the establishment of the Task Force on CME. The Task Force is seeking approval from national psychiatric organisations to start an independent accreditation system, free of any commercial and financial interests. The impression from several meetings with the presidents of national associations is that this idea is strongly supported.

Recruitment and retention

There is great concern over the issues of recruitment and retention. Psychiatry has for many years been a specialty low in hierarchy and in recent years a number of countries have seen a movement away from the less

lucrative public sector to the private sector. This creates problems in terms of quality of service and of free and easy access to treatment. The Section has established a working group to investigate the attitudes of medical students towards psychiatry and to give recommendations on to how to increase the attractiveness of the specialty.

Future perspectives

Even though there are differences between the European countries in terms of demography, cultural diversity, service development, family structure and the degree of cultural changes due to migration, for example, the need to educate psychiatrists to encompass these differences and to apply uniform high ethical standards and high levels of qualified skills is increasing. The work of the UEMS Section and Board serves this purpose.

Sources

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- Lindhardt, A. & Saliba, J. (2001) Activities of the UEMS Section and Board of Psychiatry. In *UEMS Compendium of Medical Specialities* (1st edn, issue two), pp. 151–154. Available at www.uempsychiatry.org/common/annualReports/annual2000.pdf. Last accessed 29 April 2004.
- Saliba, J. & Katona, C. (2002) European Union of Medical Specialists – activities of the Section and Board of Psychiatry. *Psychiatric Bulletin*, **26**, 224–227.
- Strachan, J. & Schudel, W. (2004) Accreditation of European training schemes in psychiatry. *Psychiatric Bulletin*, **28**, 19–20.

Information on UEMS Section and Board of Psychiatry can be obtained on www.uempsychiatry.org/ where all reports are posted.

NEWS, NOTES, FORTHCOMING INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

News and notes

For contributions to this column, please contact Brian Martindale FRCPsych, Psychotherapy Department, John Conolly Wing, West London Mental Health NHS Trust, Uxbridge Road, Hanwell UB1 3EU, UK, email brian.martindale@wlmht.nhs.uk

The Okasha Award for Developing Countries

This award is presented by the World Psychiatric Association (WPA) via an unrestricted grant from APEX Pharma. It recognises the contribution of two young psychiatrists or neuroscientists (below the age of 40) whose research efforts have best served psychiatry and mental health in a developing country (as defined in categories B, C and D of the World Bank). Each award includes: a diploma, a medal and a donation of US\$15 000. The two will be given by the President of the WPA, during the opening ceremony of the XIII World Congress of Psychiatry, Cairo, 10–15 September 2005. The breadth of criteria and a nomination form can be found on the WPA website

www.wpanet.org/generalinfo/oaward.html. The closing date is 1 November 2004.

The Prize of Geneva for Human Rights in Psychiatry

The prize is intended to acknowledge an individual or an organisation, for exceptional achievement at regional, national or international level in promoting equity and the humane qualities of care for people with mental illness, reducing the negative discrimination of the mentally ill, defending the rights of people with mental illness, and promoting the application of ethical principles in psychiatric services.

The prize consists of a diploma and a monetary award of 20 000 Swiss francs. The winner will receive the Prize of Geneva during an official ceremony that will take place under the auspices of the Patron's Committee, together with a press conference intended to publicise the work. A scientific or cultural event related to the goals of the Foundation will complete the presentation ceremony.

The next award (the third) will be presented in the closing session of the XIII World Congress of Psychiatry in Cairo (September 2005). Further details are available at www.wpanet.org/sectorial/bulletin/eb1303.html.

Arab mental health website

The Arabpsynet website is for Arab psychiatrists and psychologists working with adults and children. It is edited by colleagues in several countries. The site is in Arabic, English and French. It covers a wide range of subjects and is frequently updated. See www.arabpsynet.com.

European Network for Mental Health Service Evaluation

ENMESH is the European Network for Mental Health Service Evaluation and was established in 1991 under the auspices of the World Health Organization's Regional Office for Europe. It arose out of two areas of concern: the impact of developments in mental health care and rehabilitation initiated without sufficient planning, funding or scientific evidence as to their effectiveness; the profound changes affecting many countries in central and eastern Europe, which require new insights and approaches to mental health care. Its sixth meeting, which will focus on inclusion and mental health in the 'new Europe', will take place on 3–5 September 2004 at the Institute of Psychiatry, King's College, London. There are a number of distinguished speakers and further information can be obtained from www.enmesh2004.org.

Dementia in developing countries

The Faculty of Old Age Psychiatry held a workshop at the annual meeting in Liverpool in March, aiming to stimulate interest in working internationally in developing countries and to discuss the possible role of the Faculty. Nori Graham chaired the workshop. Henry Brodaty talked about experience in Australia and South East Asia, and Martin Prince talked about the 10/66 Dementia Research Group: a network of researchers and clinicians, mostly in developing countries, linked with Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI). ADI's 10/66 Dementia Research Group was felt to offer a useful starting point for identifying potential contacts in countries where people may be interested in setting up a training link. Not all its members are psychiatrists, but all have a clinical and research interest in ageing and dementia. ADI and 10/66 websites are www.alz.co.uk and www.alz.co.uk/1066/.

The workshop concluded by noting that the UK is a world leader in old age psychiatry and in its services for older adults with mental illness. Members considered

that the Faculty should consider forming an International Special Interest Group in this area to increase awareness, stimulate interest and encourage individuals and organisations to take practical action.

Proposed European Group of the College

There are now a number of International Groups of the College and these play increasingly useful functions for College members. It is intended to initiate a European Group of the College for all members and fellows living in Europe but outside the UK. It is expected that this Group could become particularly important in the coming years as the movement of professionals increases within the enlarged European Union. Interested persons should contact Dr George Christodoulou (email gnchrist@compulink.gr).

A WPA International Congress

Treatments in Psychiatry: An Update will be held in Florence on 10–13 November 2004. There will be a comprehensive update on all evidence-based treatments available for the various mental disorders, provided by prominent international experts to more than 5000 delegates from all regions of the world. Accreditation is expected from the WPA and relevant European bodies. There is an attractive social programme, and there will be 16 update lectures, 36 interactive symposia, more than 50 WPA Section and Zonal symposia and more than 50 workshops and 14 advanced courses, forums and new research sessions.

For more details email info@wpa2004florence.org or see www.wpa2004florence.org.

Post-conflict countries and emergency situations in eastern Mediterranean areas

The Eastern Mediterranean Office of the WHO has brought out a report of the inter-country consultation on mental health issues and the rehabilitation of psychiatric services in post-conflict countries and those in current emergency situations (Iraq). The consultation (held in Cairo) was attended by advisers from Afghanistan, Bahrain, Egypt, India, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Morocco, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Tunisia, the UK and the USA.

The objectives were to coordinate strategy, methodology and approaches for:

- rapid identification of the most immediate needs
- more comprehensive assessment and situation analysis
- preparation of a plan of action.

The report acknowledges the richness of the region's cultural history and wide contributions to the development of our societies. It describes a number of the contemporary changes and stressors that have contributed to destabilisation in some countries.

Post-conflict countries and complex emergency situations pose many mental health issues. There is a substantial increase in psychotic and non-psychotic disorders, new psychosocial problems for persons of all ages and specific mental health needs of those with physical injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder. These

increases will be exacerbated by lack of and loss of resources, essential medicines and staff to offer psychosocial and other interventions. The rapid flow of refugees, migration and rapid economic and family breakdown at times of social change will all add to the mental health burden.

Forthcoming international events

6–9 July 2004

Royal College of Psychiatrists' Annual Meeting: Caring for the Carers

International Centre, Harrogate, UK.
Contact: College Conference Office.
Tel: +44 (0)20 7235 2351 ext. 142.
Fax: +44 (0)20 7259 6507.
Email: mbraithwaite@rcpsych.ac.uk.

26–27 July 2004

Bridging the Gap: The Inaugural Conference of International Mental Health at IoP

To raise awareness of many kinds of gaps in the international mental health field.

Institute of Psychiatry, London, UK.
Contact: Marie Eagle, Section of Epidemiology, Institute of Psychiatry, De Crespigny Park, London SE5 8AF, UK.
Tel: +44 207 848 0136.
Email: m.eagle@iop.kcl.ac.uk.

4–8 August 2004

Solidarity/Moral Displacement: Stockholm Group Conference on Social Issues and International Association of Group Psychotherapy

Email: Soci2004@hotmail.com.
Website: www.psykoterapisallskapet.se.

22–26 August 2004

16th World Congress of the International Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions (IACAPAP)

Berlin, Germany.
Contact: Dr Helmut Remschmidt.
Email: remschm@post.med.uni-marburg.de.
Website: www.iacapap-berlin.de.

25–28 August 2004

10th European Symposium on Suicide and Suicidal Behaviour

Organised by the International Association of Suicide Prevention (IASP).
Copenhagen, Denmark.
Tel: +45 7023 5056.
Fax +45 7023 5057.
Website: www.suicideprevention.dk.

3–5 September 2004

Inclusion and Mental Health in the New Europe

User/consumer involvement, mental health policy in the new Europe.
London, UK.
Website: www.enmesh2004.org.

8–10 September 2004

16th International Congress on Addiction.

Center of Interdisciplinary Addiction Research, Hamburg University, with the Medical University of Vienna.
Vienna, Austria.
Contact: Dr Alexander Friedman.
Email: information@addiction.at.

17–19 September 2004

WPA Regional Meeting

Mental Health Resource Center (MHRC) in collaboration with the Pakistan Psychiatric Society.
Lahore, Pakistan.
Contact: Dr Haroon Rashid Chaudry.
Email: pprc@wol.net.pk.

20–21 September 2004

WPA Section on Mass Media and Mental Health

McLean Hospital, Boston, USA.
Contact: Dr Miguel A. Materazzi.
Email: materazzi@arnet.com.ar.

20–23 September 2004

XIII National Psychiatric Congress of the South African Society of Psychiatrists (SASOP)

Drakensberg, South Africa.
Contact: Dr Ian Westmore.
Email: westmore@shisas.com.

22–26 September 2004

14th World Congress of the World Association for Dynamic Psychiatry (WADP)

WPA co-sponsored conference.
Cracow, Poland.
Contact: Dr Maria Ammon.
Email: wadp.congress2004@dynpsych.de.

23–26 September 2004

The Marcé Society International Biennial Scientific

WPA co-sponsored conference.
Oxford University, Oxford, UK.
Contact: Bethan Ramsey.
Email: b.h.ramsey@reading.ac.uk.
Website: www.marcesociety.com.

23–26 September 2004

JPGM GOLD CON: 50 years

International conference on medical writing, editing, journal publishing, electronic publishing, open access, publication ethics.
Mumbai, India.
Contact: Dr Atul Goel.
Tel: 91 22 2412 9884.
Fax: 91 22 2503 2398.
Email: goldcon@jpgmonline.com.
Website: www.jpgmonline.com/goldcon.asp.

28 September–1 October 2004

Translating the Evidence

International Early Psychosis Association.
Vancouver, Canada.
Contact: congress@venuewest.com.
Website: www.iepa.org.au.

3–5 October 2004

Middle East Overseas Group of the Royal College of Psychiatrists

Cairo, Egypt.
Contact: Dr Nasser Loza.
Email: info@behman.com.

6–9 October 2004

8th Congress of the International Association for the Treatment of Sexual Offenders (IATSO)

WPA co-sponsored conference.
Athens, Greece.
Contact: Dr Orestis Giotakos.
Email: giotakos@tri.forthnet.gr.
Website: www.iatsoathens.gr.