

- a bill of rights for patients in mental health facilities
- an obligation on mental health facilities to inform patients of their rights
- the creation of a patients' rights committee in every mental health facility to monitor the human rights of people receiving treatment in those institutions
- an explicit stipulation of the participation of civil society organisations in these patients' rights committees
- a range of sanctions for service providers who violate patients' rights
- monitoring bodies providing an independent review of involuntary admissions
- the establishment of a mental health fund to ensure sustainable financing for mental healthcare, including capacity building for those working in mental health.

Master's degree in mental health policy and services

The International Master on Mental Health Policy and Services is a Universidade Nova de Lisboa initiative, developed through the Faculdade de Ciências Médicas, in collaboration with the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse of the World Health Organization. The degree is a 2-year course in two parts: the first one, with 60 credit points under the ECTS (European Credit Transferring System), will award a diploma from the Universidade Nova de Lisboa; the second one, with another 60 ECTS, will award the master's degree, after approval of a scientific dissertation. The qualification will strengthen the capacity of low- and middle-income countries to improve the mental health of their populations. Further information is available at <http://www.fcm.unl.pt/masterint>.

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EFPT conference

Sir: It was a privilege to assist in hosting the European Federation of Psychiatric Trainees (EFPT) conference this July, based in the historic setting of Clare College, Cambridge. The EFPT is an international psychiatry training organisation, composed of delegates from member countries' national training organisations. The UK hosted the conference this year, as the outgoing president of the organisation, Amit Malik, was a British delegate. Over 80 delegates attended, from 31 countries in an ever-broadening Europe.

Before the conference, delegates were invited to attend a local academic day, hosted by the University Department of Psychiatry. This included a tour of the old asylum in Cambridge, and a visit to the Personality Disorder Service and the modern hospital, as well as the new University Department of Psychiatry.

The conference programme began on 8 July, with talks about the EFPT's history and links with other psychiatric organisations. Country reports outlining the processes of training in member countries dominated the afternoon session, providing an overview of psychiatry training across Europe.

The academic session was held on the morning of 9 July. Distinguished speakers, largely from the Royal College of Psychiatrists, were invited to talk about their areas of expertise. Highlights included Professor Robin Murray, who talked about causes of psychosis; Professor Dinesh Bhugra, the College President, who challenged trainees to think about professionalism; and Dr Joan Marsh, who talked about how to get published.

Two further sessions were used for setting up working groups, where delegates from different nations brainstorm and come up with new insights into an area of common interest. These working groups do most of the work of the EFPT. Ideas are born and later bear fruit in the electronic contact between delegates following the meetings. They concentrate on a large range of topical issues, including research, establishing new trainee organisations, psychotherapy, and

child and adolescent psychiatry. Working groups were partly chaired by expert members of the College.

The General Assembly was held on 11 July, with minutes approved from last year's session in Gothenburg, and a taster of what is to come in Croatia in 2010. Board reports were received from the European Board of Psychiatry (UEMS). This was followed by election of the board.

The conference was extremely well organised, thanks largely to the efforts of Amit Malik and Clare Oakley, current chair of the Royal College's Psychiatric Trainees Committee. We were grateful to receive support from the Royal College of Psychiatrists and the University of Cambridge Department of Psychiatry. The chief executive of the local National Health Service trust as well as the deputy mayor attended the garden party. It was enlightening for members to compare training experiences and to work together to improve training standards. There was much to compare and contrast, for example access to psychotherapy, and training in child and adolescent psychiatry. Trainees were overwhelmingly positive and enthusiastic about sharing experiences and forging international links. The future of European psychiatry appears to be in safe hands, judging by the quality and commitment of EFPT delegates.

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The mental health problems of Iraqi refugees

Sir: Despite the mass atrocities and organised violence experienced by millions of Iraqis since 2003, there is limited discussion and research on the impact of war on the mental health of displaced and exiled Iraqis, including those refugees living in neighbouring countries. This is surprising, since the effects of war