

# Annual elections

## Council and Court of Electors

Fellows and Members of the College are reminded of their rights in connection with the forthcoming elections for the vacancies on the Court of Electors and for Elected Members of Council. The relevant Bye-Laws and Regulations are printed below.

The nominating meeting of Council will be held on 28 April 1997 and the last date for receiving nominations will therefore be 26 May 1997.

### *Extracts from Bye-Laws and Regulations* Bye-Law XXI THE COURT OF ELECTORS

4. At the first meeting of the Council in alternate years after the name of the President for the next ensuing College year has become known, the Council shall nominate a sufficient number of candidates for appointment as Electors to ensure an election, which will be held by a postal ballot of all Members of the College in the manner prescribed by the Regulations. Additional nominations may be lodged with the Registrar between the beginning of the then current calendar year and the end of four clear weeks after the meeting of the Council above referred to. No such nomination shall be valid unless it is supported in writing by twelve Members of the College and accompanied by the nominee's written consent to serve if elected.

### Regulation XIX THE COUNCIL

2. Not less than two of the six elected Members of the Council and two of the six elected Fellows shall be elected or re-elected each alternate year subject to the overall condition that no elected member shall serve on Council for more than six years in that capacity without a break of at least one year. At its first meeting in each alternate College year after the name of the President for the next ensuing College year has become known, the Council shall nominate for election to the Council two Members and two Fellows of the College. Any nominee who is proposed and seconded and gives his or her consent in writing to serve shall be validly nominated. Any twelve Members of the College may make nominations in writing at any time between the first day of January in each alternate year and the date which is four clear weeks after the meeting of the Council at which its nominations are made. Nominations other than those made by the Council shall be lodged with the Registrar and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate to serve if elected. Should there be

more nominations than vacancies, an election shall be held by ballot of the Members of the College. The ballot paper shall not indicate the method of nomination or the names of those nominating. If the number of nominees does not exceed the number of vacancies, these nominees shall be declared elected at the first meeting, whether of the Council or the Executive and Finance Committee, after the expiry of the period of four clear weeks in this paragraph referred to.

## Honorary Officers

Fellows and Members of the College are reminded of their rights in connection with the forthcoming elections for the offices of Dean, Registrar, Treasurer, Editor and Librarian. All Honorary Officers are eligible for re-election, although the Registrar, Professor Chris Thompson, does not wish to stand for re-election.

The nominating meeting of Council will be held on 28 April 1997 and the last date for receiving nominations will therefore be 26 May 1997. The relevant Bye-Laws and Regulations are printed below.

### *Extracts from Bye-Laws and Regulations* Bye-Law XII THE HONORARY OFFICERS

1. The Council shall in accordance with the Regulations, make its nominations for the offices of Dean, Registrar, Treasurer, Editor, Librarian at the first meeting after the name of the President for the next ensuing College year has become known. Written nominations for the above Honorary Offices, accompanied in each case by the nominee's written consent to stand for election, may also be lodged with the Registrar at such time as may be prescribed by the Regulations provided that each such nomination is supported in writing by not less than twelve Members of the College who are not members of the Council.

2. The Dean, Registrar, Treasurer, Editor and Librarian shall be elected from among the Fellows by the Members of the College, in each case in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the Regulations.

### Regulation XII ELECTION OF THE OTHER HONORARY OFFICERS

1. The method of electing the Honorary Officers other than the President and the Vice-Presidents and Sub-Deans shall be the same as that for electing the President,\* save that nominations from Members of the College who are not members of the

Council shall be lodged with the Registrar between the first day of January in any calendar year and the date which is four clear weeks after the meeting of the Council which is first held after the name of the President for the next ensuing College year has become known, or (as the case may be) which is four clear weeks after that meeting of the Council which, in the case of a tie on the second ballot, determines the election of the President.

\*i.e. Written nominations, accompanied in each case by the nominee's written consent to stand for election, may be lodged with the Registrar, provided that each such nomination is supported in writing by not less than twelve Members of the College who are not members of the Council. An election by ballot shall be held in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations.

---

## Approval of Doctors under Section 12 of the Mental Health Act (1983)

---

The College has recently been informed that the Department of Health has confirmed that Section 12 approved doctors may exercise their functions in relation to the Act in any part of England or Wales.

Although guidance had been issued in July limiting the geographical area in which Section 12 approved doctors could exercise their functions, this has now been reviewed.

The advice given by the Department of Health is that, as set out in Circular HSG (96)3, a doctor

approved by any Health Authority (or before 1 April 1996, by any Regional Health Authority or by any District Health Authority in Wales) is approved for the purpose of section 12(2) of the Mental Health Act (1983), and may make recommendations under Part II of the Act (or give evidence to the Courts under Part III) in any part of England and Wales.

PROFESSOR C. THOMPSON, *Registrar*

---

## Meeting the mental health needs of adults with mild learning disabilities

---

The report of the Joint Working Group of the Sections for Psychiatry of Mental Handicap and General Psychiatry on 'Meeting the mental health needs of adults with mild learning disabilities' was approved by the Council of the College on 18 June 1996.

The document examines the context of government policy, College policy, and issues arising from existing services. Characteristics of successful services are analysed, and detailed suggestions are given for creating solutions around key issues.

The recommendations have been summarised in order to give a concise message for purchasers:

- There is a need for specialisation to achieve high standards in services (including adherence to the legal and policy context, responsiveness to the views of carers and patients, and other factors to improve outcome).
- Comprehensive coverage requires attention to potential gaps (arising from age and geography, diverse clinical needs and patterns of services).

- Specialist multidisciplinary mental health teams for people with learning disabilities are required (to enable people with mild learning disabilities and mental health problems to use ordinary health services wherever possible, and to provide help to meet needs which cannot be met through the ordinary range of services).
- Joint working should be promoted (between specialists in psychiatry of learning disability and other specialists). A task for specialists is to improve the ability of other, less specialised services to serve people with mild learning disabilities.

*Working group members:* Neill Simpson (Convenor), Nick Bouras, Greg O'Brien, Adrienne Regan, Allan Calvert, Desmond Dunleavy, Terry Nelson.

Copies of the full report are available from the Publications Department at the College.

NEILL SIMPSON