
Miscellany

Applications for Approval of Higher Training Undertaken in Research Posts

All psychiatric trainees occupying research posts who wish training gained during this period to count towards a CCST must submit an individual application to the HSTC. Application forms are available from the HSTC Office at the College and must be supported by both the relevant training programme director and postgraduate dean.

Although the regulations have always required applications to be made prospectively, the HSTC has in the past always been flexible in giving consideration to the many applications submitted retrospectively. However, in future applications which are submitted more than six months after commencement in a research post will not be considered. This regulation will be strictly applied with effect from **1 February 1999**. In any event, trainees are best advised to apply early since approval is not automatic.

BUPA Foundation Communication Award for 1999

In association with the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges and the Patients Association, The BUPA Foundation will be supporting the Communication Award 1999. There will be two prizes of £10 000 each, one for work completed by individuals or a group of individuals, and one for work undertaken by a college, institution, hospital, or professional body. Entries must demonstrate an improvement in one of the following: doctor-patient communication, communication between doctors and patients, the communication skills of individual doctors, the methods of transferring information between doctors and patients, and finally, patient information systems. Further information: Lady Nourse, 12 Old Square, Lincoln's Inn, London WC2A 3TX (Telephone: 0171 404 0809, Fax: 0171 831 8096).

New publications

Men Behaving Sadly, a new leaflet in the Help is at Hand series, aims to encourage men to recognise their emotional distress and to seek help. The leaflet looks at the signs and symptoms of depression, and at possible reasons why men are less likely to admit that they need help. Tips on 'Helping Yourself' and 'Finding More Help' are given, and there is information on useful

contacts as well as a reading list. Individual copies of this leaflet are available from the Royal College of Psychiatrists, 17 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PG (SAE needed) (e-mail: rcpsych@rcpsych.ac.uk; internet website: <http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk>).

The Health Education Authority has produced a practical guide to help people diagnosed with schizophrenia. Entitled *Healthy Living With Schizophrenia*, the guide will also prove useful for carers, doctors, psychiatrists and others with an interest in schizophrenia. It covers a wide range of topics, from symptoms and self-help, to medication and the Mental Health Act. It also contains a set of summary cards outlining key questions to ask doctors, a personalised crisis card and sources of further information, including helplines and websites. Further information: Gary Ward, Health Education Authority Press Office (Telephone: 0171 413 1998).

The Clinical Effectiveness Project Team (CEPT) at the Royal College of Psychiatrists' Research Unit has produced a series of information sheets focusing on key aspects of clinical effectiveness in mental health. The sheets provide resources and contacts to assist busy professionals within mental health services to access essential information at a glance. Available now, the first three sheets are entitled: *Resources available to support clinical effectiveness in mental health services*; *Training to support clinical effectiveness in mental health services*; and *Psychiatrists' training and involvement in clinical effectiveness activities: statements from the Royal College of Psychiatrists*. Future topics will include national policies for clinical effectiveness and involving service users and carers in audit and guidelines. Priced at £3.00 each, copies and further information can be obtained from: Victoria Thomas, Clinical Effectiveness Project Team, College Research Unit, 11 Grosvenor Crescent, London SW1X 7EE (Telephone: 0171 235 2351 ext. 282, Fax: 0171 235 2954, e-mail: victoria.thomas@virgin.net).

Person To Person by Phoebe Caldwell, with Pene Stevens, is the title of a new practical guide on communicating with people whose behaviour is challenging or displays autistic features. Published by Pavilion Publishing, the book explains the techniques developed by the author in her

approach to enhancing the lives of people with learning disabilities through the use of their own language or familiar stimuli. Available at £19.95, subject to postage and packaging charges.

Further information: Pavillion Publishing, 8 St George's Place, Brighton, East Sussex BN1 4GB (Telephone: 01273 623 222, Fax: 01273 625 526).

Forthcoming events

The Educational Forum for Mental Health will be holding a series of national conferences in March 1999, starting with **Crisis Intervention Approach in Mental Health** on 22 March 1999 and **Community Mental Health Services - Current Developments** on 23 March 1999. These will be followed by **Mental Health of Elderly - Current Developments** and **Dementia - Current Developments**, which will take place on 24 March 1999 and 25 March 1999 respectively. Finally, there is **Autism - Current Developments** on 26 March 1999 and **Services for People with Learning Disabilities and Challenging Behaviour** on 27 March 1999. The venue for all conferences will be the Sir Jack Lyons Concert Hall, University of York, York. Further information: National Conference Secretariat, PO Box B135, Huddersfield HD1 1YG (Telephone: 01484 532 102, Fax: 01484 425 69, e-mail: worldforum@aol.com).

The **Third Annual Meeting of the British Indian Psychiatric Association** will be held on 20-21 March 1999 in the Manchester area. The meeting will comprise of lectures on Advances in Clinical Neurosciences and Implications for Psychiatry, Psychopharmacology - Making Choices, Cognitive Behaviour Therapies - A Panacea?, and Psychological Therapies and the Asians. In addition, there will be a choice of workshops and a social cultural evening. Further information: Dr Thakor Mistry, Organising Secretary, All Saints Hospital, Lodge Road, Birmingham B18 5SD (Telephone: 0121 685 6430; Fax: 0121 685 6206).

The Royal College of Psychiatrists' Research Unit (in association with several other professional organisations) is holding its fourth multi-disciplinary conference on **Clinical Effectiveness in Mental Health**. The conference will take place on 13 May 1999 at the Commonwealth Institute in London, and is aimed at mental health clinicians of all disciplines, clinical audit and effectiveness

staff, service managers, health care commissioners, academic centres and those with a particular interest in effectiveness in mental health. It will centre around three main themes: 'live' examples of clinical effectiveness initiatives, consumerism in mental health and organisational support for clinical effectiveness. Further information: Ms Victoria Thomas, College Research Unit, 11 Grosvenor Crescent, London SW1X 7EE (Telephone: 0171 235 2351, ext. 282, Fax: 0171 235 2954, e-mail: victoria.thomas@virgin.net).

Midland Course in Group Work with Children and Adolescents is the title of a non-residential course being offered by the Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust. Taking place in Northampton on 11 May 1999, as well as during the weekends of 22-23 May 1999, 12-13 June 1999 and 26-27 June 1999, the course will be suitable to those who are interested in group work with children and adolescents, whether they are beginners or have already had experience of group work. Further information: Dr Kedar Dwivedi, Course Director, c/o Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, 8 Notre Dame Mews, Northampton (Telephone: 01604 604 608, Fax: 01604 604 531, e-mail: Kedar@dial.pipex.com).

Taking place on 7-11 June 1999, **The Seventh Manchester Course in Liaison Psychiatry** organised by the University of Manchester, is an intensive week long course in liaison psychiatry particularly suitable for newly appointed consultants and specialist registrars. Emphasis will be placed upon small group teaching and workshops, and in addition to clinical issues, the course will cover managerial and administrative aspects, research and audit. Further information: Mrs Una Dean, Secretary to Dr E. Guthrie, University Department of Psychiatry, Rawnsley Building, Manchester Royal Infirmary, Manchester M13 9WL (Telephone: 0161 276 5383, Fax: 0161 273 2135).