
Miscellany

MRCPsych Examination help – the website for psychiatrists

A website primarily dedicated to the MRCPsych Examinations has been launched. Access to the site is free and is easily accessible as it does not involve registering or filling in a form. Submissions from interested parties are invited. As well as publishing other material relevant to psychiatry training, the site functions as a platform for psychiatrists to voice and exchange their views, and would also be useful for clinical tutors in psychiatry and consultant psychiatrists providing clinical supervision to trainees. Contents are regularly reviewed and new materials added. The site also incorporates a quarterly journal. The site can be visited at www.mrcpsych.com. For further information, please contact MRCPsychExam Help, 34 Walpole Road, Walthamstow, London E17 6PT (telephone: 0181 521 1926; fax: 0181 521 4906; e-mail: info@mrcpsych.com).

College Research Unit

A constant theme that runs through events organised by the Royal College of Psychiatrists' Research Unit is applying research to everyday practice. The Research Unit is looking for presentations featuring live examples for the HoNOS Conference in December 1999, the next Clinical Effectiveness conference on 1 March 2000, the Clinical Effectiveness in Mental Health Services for Older People on 23 May 2000 and the All-Ireland Clinical Effectiveness Conference scheduled for June 2000. If you are interested in presenting at any of these events, please request a submission form from Sam Coombs, CRU Communications Officer (telephone: 0171 235 2351 extension 234; e-mail: scoombs@rcpsych.ac.uk).

Autism '99 – Internet conference

A joint project between The National Autistic Society, The Shirley Foundation and RMR Design, Autism '99 is an Internet conference which will include practical and academic sessions designed to appeal to everyone with an interest in autism – from parents, carers and individuals with autism to health professionals and educationalists. The conference will go live and papers will be revealed on 2 November 1999 (through to 19 November 1999), and the event will feature some of the world's leading practitioners and

experts. Autism '99 can be visited at www.autism99.org.

International Neuropsychiatric Association

Approximately 25 delegates from around the world met in Toronto on 30 May 1998 to establish an organisation dedicated to promoting the study of brain and behaviour from a neuropsychiatric perspective. The International Neuropsychiatric Association (INA) aims to prevent or reduce the suffering of people with brain behaviour disorders by increasing and disseminating knowledge about the relationships between brain function and human behaviour. The first president of the INA is Colin Shapiro. The association encourages clinicians, researchers, and associated professionals of diverse disciplines and backgrounds from all countries to become members of the INA. For further information please contact the Secretariat Office, Toronto Western Hospital, The University Health Network, 399 Bathurst Street, East Wing 6-504, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5T 2S8 (telephone: 001 416 603 5275; fax: 001 416 603 5036; e-mail: INA@playfair.utoronto.ca).

New Publications

Faber and Faber are the publishers of *In Your Right Mind*, by Dr Thomas Stuttaford, in association with Dr Tonmoy Sharma. This user friendly guide addresses the issues surrounding psychiatric and psychological problems by exploring and explaining everyday psychological problems and psychiatric conditions. Illustrated throughout with interesting case studies from history and present day, the book brings readers up to date with the most recent diagnostic criteria, statistics and treatments available. Topics as diverse as the following are covered: eating disorders, impotence, anxiety disorders, depression, schizophrenia, personality disorders, Alzheimer's disease, suicide, drugs, hypochondria and children's psychological disorders. Priced at £16.99 (hardback) and £9.99 (paperback), the book is available from general bookshops.

The Stationery Office for the Mental Health Act Commission are the publishers of *The Mental Health Act Commission Eighth Biennial Report 1997-1999*. This Report describes the work of the Mental Health Commission, between 1997

and 1999, in carrying out its role of keeping under review the Mental Health Act 1983 as it relates to detained patients. Among other key areas, this publication looks at changes in the law and Code of Practice, the performance of mental health practitioners and managers in the use of the Act's provisions for the admission, detention and treatment of patients, and the quality of care and treatment received by detained patients in hospitals throughout England and Wales. Priced at £14.00, copies can be obtained from any Stationery Office Outlet, bookshops, or by writing to: The Stationery Office, PO Box 276, London SW8 5DT (telephone orders: 0171 873 0011).

The Health Education Authority has produced crisis cards for people with a diagnosis of schizophrenia. The cards were originally produced as part of the HEA Guide *Healthy Living with Schizophrenia*, published in November 1998, but are now available separately. The card has space for name, address and telephone number details, as well as details of preferred medication, general practitioners, keyworker and a nominated person to be contacted in a

crisis. It also contains national helplines and advice on 'Things to ask your doctor' and 'Things to ask your keyworker'. Packs of 100 are available at a cost of £5.00 from HEA customer services (telephone: 01235 465565). The *Healthy Living with Schizophrenia* guide is also available at £5.00.

Getting the Evidence - Guidelines for Ethical Mental Health Research Involving Issues of 'Race', Ethnicity and Culture is a new publication from MIND and the Transcultural Psychiatric Society. *Getting the Evidence* addresses concerns that research into race and mental health often lacks a strong ethical basis. It includes sections on the impact of research, defining ethics and the need for ethical guidelines, collaborating with communities, formulating hypotheses, data collection and analysis, reporting results and disseminating research findings. At a cost of £5.99 each, copies can be obtained by sending an A4-sized 40p stamped addressed envelope to Mind Publications, Granta House, 15-19 Broadway, Stratford E15 4BQ (telephone: 020 8221 9666).

How to Teach Critical Review Skills

4 - 5 November, 1999, Weetwood Hall, Leeds

This course will equip psychiatrists of all grades with the knowledge, understanding and skills to undertake critical appraisal of the published literature. It will also refresh knowledge and develop skills and attitudes necessary for teaching critical review for the MRCPsych Part II critical review paper. The course will be especially valuable for those wishing to acquire or refresh critical appraisal skills for life long learning, clinical psychiatric practice and for assessing evidence-based material.

Topics covered

- Does the design answer the research question?
- Sampling and setting
- Are the measures good enough?
- The use of statistics to assess the truth of main findings
- How to review a review

Teaching methods

- Small group work
- Seminars
- Lectures

CPD Validation Units 9

Cost: £180 (inclusive of B&B accommodation, three course dinner, 2 course carvery lunch, tea and coffee during the course).

*For an application form please contact: Mr Noel Bell, Royal College of Psychiatrists,
17 Belgrave Square, London, SW1X 8PG, Tel: 0171 235 2351 ext 157 email: nbell@rcpsych.ac.uk*