

a minute office in New York underpin the organisation. A decision has been made, however, by the General Assembly to establish a permanent secretariat by 2005 rather than a secretariat that rotates with the place of work of the Secretary General, so I am experimenting already with a new system of working. A part-time WPA secretary at Keele has helped me to keep my finger on the pulse and the College gift of a laptop when I demitted office was shrewd forward thinking!

The College has the notification and timeline of the bidding process for the permanent secretariat and the criteria against which the Executive Committee will make its recommendation to the General Assembly in 2005. The closing date for bids is 15 August 2003.

We are a part of a worldwide community of psychiatrists with our heart and soul in providing improved care for patients. The WPA has produced a statement drawing the attention of governments to the adverse consequences for mental health of any war and in particular a war in Iraq.

The WPA statement on Iraq was preceded by a similar statement about the mental health consequences of the Palestinian–Israeli conflict.

We must, I believe, strengthen, not undermine, existing international organisations which we need – or will need to reinvent. It would be good if members of the College can come to the World Congress in Cairo on 10–15 September 2005 to celebrate '5000 years of Science and Care'.

NEWS, NOTES, FORTHCOMING INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

News and notes

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

European psychiatric organisations

During recent years a number of Europe-wide psychiatric organisations have developed, each with their separate and overlapping goals. These organisations and their programmes will be fully described over time in more detail in *International Psychiatry*. As 'globalisation' and the influence of the European Union continue to increase, there are increasing consequences in Europe for psychiatry and the broader field of mental health (*BMJ*, 2002, vol. 324, pp. 991–992):

- There is now greater movement of psychiatrists between countries, both to take up employment and to attend conferences and other meetings.
- The European Union is introducing public health policies that include actions in mental health.
- The European Union has made available funds for trans-national research.
- The WHO is adopting an increased commitment to the mental health programme in all regions.
- Psychiatry in Eastern and Central European countries has been undergoing profound reform.

In July 2001, leaders of the major European psychiatric organisations met formally for the first time in London. The success of that meeting stimulated further meetings in 2002 in Stockholm, Yokohama and Copenhagen (twice). The outcome has been a clear intention to define areas of mutual concern and cooperation through task groups in order to effect a strengthening of psychiatry in Europe.

Already a working party has been set up with the aim of achieving pan-European agreement on principles and methods of approval for continuing medical education (CME) for psychiatrists. A meeting is planned for 19 June 2003 in Vienna before the World Psychiatric Association's

thematic meeting. Leaders will discuss both CME and recruitment to the profession. A further meeting will take place during the Association of European Psychiatrists meeting in Geneva in April 2004.

The organisations involved in this new phase of European cooperation are the UEMS (European Union of Medical Specialists Section and Board of Psychiatry), the AEP (Association of European Psychiatrists), the WPA (World Psychiatric Association) European Region and the WHO Regional Office for Europe.

The WPA is looking for Permanent Secretariat facilities

The World Psychiatric Association (WPA) wishes to establish a Permanent Secretariat and is looking for a host organisation that can provide stable, economic and independent facilities with a minimum of 800 square feet and an appropriate ambience. If you feel that your organisation/institution would be interested in investigating this possibility further, with its enormous potential for mutual benefits, contact Brian Martindale, c/o Marion Palmer-Jones at the Royal College of Psychiatrists, 17 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PG, UK, for further information. Preliminary bids must be submitted by 15 August 2003.

RCPsych/VSO fellowship

Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) enables skilled and professional volunteers to share their expertise in many of the world's poorest countries. With 40 years' experience, VSO passionately believes that such individuals can make a real difference in tackling disadvantage.

VSO and the Royal College of Psychiatrists are undertaking a joint venture for UK specialist registrars already

The VSO fellowship scheme has been developed by the Board of International Affairs at the College and is coordinated by a small subgroup.

For an information pack, contact the VSO Enquiries team on 020 8780 7500, email enquiry@vso.org.uk, explaining that you are interested in applying for a RCPsych/VSO fellowship.

VSO
317 Putney Bridge Road, London SW15 2PN
Email: enquiry@vso.org.uk
Website: www.vso.org.uk

WHO reports – details from *Mental Health Europe Newsletter*, 2002, vol. 9.

The full text of the WPA statement is available on <http://www.wpanet.org/home.html>

enrolled on a higher specialist training programme in psychiatry to spend their second or third year in a developing country as a VSO volunteer. This will be recognised as part of their CCST programme. A similar fellowship scheme for paediatricians is in its third year.

Although day-to-day support will come from their employer, the College will assist them both professionally and personally in numerous ways including:

- an in-country mentor, closely linked and known by the College, who will make regular contact with the volunteer
- distance learning and support via a UK mentor
- a comprehensive training course before departure
- a full evaluation and assessment of the placement upon return to the UK.

These fellowships will be unique and rewarding experiences. Volunteers will live and build friendships at the heart of a different culture. Professionally they will face many challenges and their skills will be tested in a variety of ways in a very different working environment, enabling them to make a difference by strengthening local health services.

Psychiatrists do not need to provide their own funding, as a comprehensive package exists. This includes:

- return airfares
- a living allowance and accommodation
- a language and cultural orientation course on arrival
- guidance and advice on health matters plus comprehensive health cover while overseas
- medical and personal accident insurance.

Violence in the Middle East

The WPA issued a statement in August 2002, and approved by the WPA General Assembly, concerning the escalation of violence in the Middle East. This reflects the great concern about the serious threat to the mental health of persons in all affected areas, in terms not only of the serious post-traumatic stress disorders but also of many other acute and chronic emotion- and stress-related disorders in children and other vulnerable groups exposed to chronic trauma, violence, danger and humiliation. The statement expresses concern about the multi-generational consequences of the violence and the insecurity and the deep distrust engendered. The WPA is also concerned about access to mental health care and the safety of mental health professionals.

The WPA statement makes a number of requests:

- to participants in the conflict to bear in mind the mental health consequences
- to the local WPA societies to raise public awareness of the psychological consequences of the war and violence, to make reports on the mental health situation in affected areas and to make recommendations
- to all members and sections of the WPA to report on other situations in the world.

The WPA will organise an international forum and a network of international mental health and humanitarian organisations to review mental health reports from this

region and to find helpful situations in collaboration with local societies.

World Report on Violence and Health

On 3 October 2002, the WHO launched the *World Report on Violence and Health*. Violence is one of the most important public health issues of our time. This groundbreaking report demonstrates that violence is predictable and preventable. It provides a public health prescription for preventing violence before it occurs.

For information on the report, visit www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention. To order a copy of the report, contact bookorders@who.int.

WHO European report links poverty to widening gaps in health

On 16 September, the WHO Regional Office for Europe released *The European Health Report 2002* at the 52nd session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe. The report confirms the strong links between socio-economic development, health and equity in the WHO European region. It analyses a decade of evidence on health in the region, which comprises 51 WHO member states, with a combined population of about 870 million. While, overall, levels of health in the region are among the highest in the world, the report describes widening gaps between and within countries.

The *European Health Report 2002* describes trends in health and the most important health problems, lifestyle and environmental determinants of health, and health care systems. Among many other facts, the report states that mental health problems are increasing. Some European countries register up to 6% of the population as having serious mental disorders and mental ill health accounts for up to 30% of consultations with general practitioners in Europe.

The full report in English, including the annex of statistical tables comparing all countries in the European region, can be found on and ordered from the website of the Regional Office (<http://www.euro.who.int/document/e76907.pdf>). French, German and Russian versions are in press.

Project Atlas

Project Atlas is a WHO project to map mental health resources around the world. The findings are disturbing. Of the countries studied, 25% have no legislation on mental health, 41% have no mental health policy, 28% have no separate budget for mental health, and 36% allocate less than 1% of their health budget to mental health. Moreover, 37% have no community care facilities and 41% do not have treatment facilities for severe mental disorders in primary health care. More than 660 million people in the world have access to less than one psychiatrist per million population. Find out more on <http://mh-atlas.ic.gc.ca>.

Monthly WPA *Electronic Bulletin*

This has been launched with the aim of reaching all psychiatrists in WPA organisations. In it, you will find the latest *WPA News*, *World Psychiatry* (the official journal of the WPA) and the WPA section newsletters plus a list of the latest WPA publications, institutional and educational programmes, meetings, contributions from the sections and more. There will be thematic and institutional forums, changing every month, to encourage active participation.

You can also access the WPA website. It is recommended that all psychiatrists register in order to receive the monthly *Electronic Bulletin* – <http://www.wpanet.org/sectorial/bulletin/suscript.php>

What's your line?

Why not make contact with international colleagues in your area of interest? The WPA has 55 sections, each with a range of activities from meetings to publications. Names of sections and current contact email addresses are listed opposite. If there are communication queries, contact wpasecretariat@wpanet.org.

Teaching and learning about schizophrenia

'Teaching and Learning About Schizophrenia' is a WPA educational programme and is available on WPA online for use in teaching programmes. Professor Nancy Andreasen has been central to the current production, which is a useful tool for routine use. The document is divided into four modules: Clinical Presentation, Pathophysiological Mechanisms, Treatment, and Case Vignettes. The first three modules consist of text and accompanying Power-Point slides. Through the combination of text and slides, lectures can be developed of variable complexity, length and sophistication. They can be used for a one-hour lecture or a course lasting for several weeks or months. Thus these materials can be used to teach a variety of audiences: nurses, general practitioners, medical students, trainees in the speciality of psychiatry, or even lay audiences. The case vignettes illustrate the clinical presentation in a human way, and provide training in differential diagnosis and in the complexity and diversity of psychotic disorders. Because of their multiple national origins, the case vignettes also illustrate cross-cultural aspects of psychotic conditions. For those with high-speed connections: <http://www.wpanet.org/sectorial/edu4c1.html>, for those with a 56 kbit/s connection or lower: <http://www.wpanet.org/sectorial/edu4c2.html>

Please send feedback whenever you use this programme on forms that can be obtained from Professor Dr Roger Montenegro, email rogermontenegro@wpanet.org.

Teaching graduate psychiatry

The Core Training Curriculum for Psychiatry is a recently published WPA document that contains guidance for

didactic and clinical content for the postgraduate training of psychiatrists. With more than 125 organisational members in 105 countries it is intended to provide a contemporary framework for the knowledge and skills necessary for psychiatric training around the world. It can be accessed from <http://www.wpanet.org/sectorial/programs.html>.

Sections and contacts for the World Psychiatric Association

Section	Email address of section secretary
Addiction Psychiatry	tarek58@menanet.net
Affective Disorders	isad@soton.ac.uk
Anxiety and Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder	eric.hollander@mssm.edu
Art and Psychiatry	thomashoff@utanet.at
Biological Psychiatry	crc-mh@online.be
Child and Adolescent Psychiatry	jbsikor@itsa.ucsf.edu
Classification and Diagnostic Assessment	claudio@lexxa.com.br
Clinical Psychopathology	giostan@libero.it
Conflict Management and Resolution	rataems@doh.ofs.gov.za
Eating Disorders	kah29@cornell.edu
Ecology, Psychiatry and Mental Health	s.d.kipman@wanadoo.fr
Education in Psychiatry	amemus@dinamico.com.ar
Emergency Psychiatry	piermaria.furlan@unito.it
Epidemiology and Public Health	vkovess@mgen.fr
Family Research and Intervention	info@orienthalsan.nu
Forensic Psychiatry	barel@isdn.net.il
Genetics in Psychiatry	sekretariat.psychiatrie@uniklinik-saarland.de
History of Psychiatry	phoff@ukaachen.de
Humanities in Psychiatry	m.broome@iop.kcl.ac.uk
Immunology and Psychiatry	manfred.ackenhel@psy.med.uni-muenchen.de
Informatics and Telecommunications in Psychiatry	bol1001@pol-it.org
Interdisciplinary Collaboration	urielh@acsu.buffalo.edu
Mass Media and Mental Health	materazzi@intramed.net.ar
Measurement Instruments in Psychiatric Care	ajanca@cyllene.uwa.edu.au
Mental Health Economics	moscarelli@icmpe.org
Mental Retardation	22245rna@comb.es
Military and Disaster Psychiatry	alvarog@terra.es
Neuroimaging in Psychiatry	luann-godlove@uiowa.edu
Occupational Psychiatry	tshimo@tokyo-med.ac.jp
Old Age Psychiatry	vincent.camus@inst.hospvd.ch
Personality Disorders	birgit.bork.mathiesen@psy.ku.dk
Pharmacopsychiatry	angj@gentoftehosp.kbhamt.dk
Preventive Psychiatry	sadanand.rajkumar@mwahs.nsw.gov.au
Private Practice	hakiskal@ucad.edu
Psychiatric Law and Ethics	marijo@eunet.yu
Psychiatric Medicine and Primary Care	fahrer@ciudad.com.ar
Psychiatric Rehabilitation	taintz01@popmail.med.nyu.edu
Psychiatry and Human Sexuality	psiquiatria.fmp@mail.telepac.pt
Psychiatry and Sleep Wakefulness Disorders	jmonti@mednet.org.uy
Psychoanalysis in Psychiatry	mbotbol@wanadoo.fr
Psychological Consequences of Torture and Persecution	drthomaswenzel@web.de
Psychoneurobiology	Not available
Psychoneuroendocrinology	cnemero@emory.edu
Psycho-oncology	hollandj@mskcc.org
Psychopathology of Expression	psquit@hsc.insalud.es
Psychophysiology	wald@psych.waw.pl
Psychotherapy	mark_erickson@health.state.ak.us
Public Policy and Psychiatry	herrmahe@svhm.org.au
Quality Assurance in Psychiatry	lolasf@chi.ops-oms.org
Religion and Psychiatry	brian_ladds@nymc.edu
Research Methods in Psychiatry	marcantoine.crocq@forenap.asso.fr
Schizophrenia	rae@sun.ac.za
Suicidology	abotsis@compulink.gr
Transcultural Psychiatry	nfumita@attglobal.net
Urban Mental Health	sasanto@attglobal.net
Women's Mental Health	donna.stewart@uhn.on.ca