

to have improved dramatically as they learn to take control, to everyone's relief – including the interviewer. After all, the media, as well as ourselves, are after good 'copy'; a disaster reflects badly on everyone involved.

These skills are applicable in much wider fields, including our clinical work. All of us face the challenge of influencing the opinions and decisions of others inside and outside our services. Notably, this now includes service purchasers. So the workshops have already spawned court-room skill, job-interview and purchaser-provider offspring.

At the end of the workshop, if the participant goes away determined never to sit down with the

media again, so be it. No-one is forced to do so as part of their job. In reality, participants have approached the workshops with the same mixture of excitement and apprehension as they would the media themselves; they have left determined to carry the message out to the community with a new-found confidence. We have nothing to lose but our prejudice!

Michael Shooter, *Consultant in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Preswylfa Child and Family Centre, Clive Road, Canton, Cardiff CF6 5JL*; and Richard Williams, *Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, Bristol Royal Hospital for Sick Children, St Michael's Hill, Bristol BS2 8BJ*

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## Miscellany

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### Honours

John Gunn, Professor (Forensic Psychiatry), Institute of Psychiatry, was awarded a CBE in the New Year Honours List.

Professor Hugh Freeman has been elected to the Corresponding Membership of the American Psychiatric Association.

### Research contacts: European cross-cultural epidemiological study

In 1994 the Eating Disorders Unit of the University of Innsbruck is planning to start a European multicentre epidemiological study on cross-cultural aspects of eating disorders and the impact of the current political, economic, and social changes in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe upon general psychological health, minor psychiatric morbidity and the prevalence of culture-change syndromes. At present, centres from Hungary, the Czech Republic, Poland and Austria are co-operating. Any other participants from Eastern, Central and Western Europe are welcome to join. For further information, please contact the study co-ordinator: Dr Guenther Rathner, Leopold Franzens University of Innsbruck, Department of Pediatrics, Eating Disorders Unit, A-6020 Innsbruck, Austria (fax 43 512 504 3444).

### 'Consent to Medical Treatment' poster

A new poster which summarises patients' rights regarding medical treatment has been published by MIND. It is designed in the style of a flow chart, going through the stages of the decision-making process, and the reader is assisted with comments referring to the Mental Health Act 1983 and the Code of Practice, 2nd edition. The poster is available, priced £3.50 plus 10% postage and packing, from MIND Publications, 1st Floor, Granta House, 15–19 Broadway, Stratford, London E15 4BQ (telephone 081 519 2122).

### The Emily Appeal Fund

The Emily Appeal Fund was launched in 1989 and exists to provide financial support for survivors of child sexual abuse; to collate research data and to publicise the needs of all those who continue to suffer and are unable to get help from the National Health Service and other public services. For further information about the Fund and the regional conferences it will be organising in 1994, please contact: The Emily Appeal Fund, Ashwood, Ashwood Road, Woking, Surrey GU22 7JR (telephone 0483 764666).