Forthcoming international events

17–19 November 2006
Second International Conference, South Asia Association for Regional Coopera-
tion (SAARC) Psychiatric Federation
Kathmandu, Nepal
Contact: Prof. Mahendra K. Nepal or Prof. Roy Abraham Kallivayalil
Email: info@healthnet.org.np or
kim_royal@bandhanet.nl
23–25 November 2006
Regional Meeting of the Middle East Divi-
sion of the Royal College of Psychiatrists
Beirut, Lebanon
Contact: Dr Fadl T. Antun
Email: antunlf@cyberia.net.lb
29 November–1 December 2006
6th International Forum on Mood and
Anxiety Disorders
Vienna, Austria
Email: email@publivein России.com
Website: http://www.sam-internationalgroup.com/2006/email
30 November–3 December 2006
WPA Regional Meeting with the Parana-
ese Psychiatric Association
Lima, Peru
Contact: Dr Marta Rondon, Dr. Gabriela
Kunyska
Email: app@papera.org
18 January 2007
Encountering the Spirit of Community in
Narrative Therapy and in Cuba Programs for People
Organised by WPA Zone 3 with the Cuban
Society of Psychiatry and the International
Federation of Social Workers
Havana, Cuba
Contact: Dr Cristobal Martinez Garmatz
Email: info@narrativecuba.com
Website: http://www.narrativecuba.com
23–24 January 2007
WPA Regional Meeting and Hungarian
Psychiatric Association
Budapest, Hungary
Contact: Dr Tibor Verec
Email: tibor@waelner.hu
Website: http://www.mpt.hu
13–16 February 2007
Psychos and Art Seminar
WPA Section on Art and Psychiatry, with
Schattauer Verlag Publishers
Djerta, Tunisia
Contact: Dr Hans Otto Thomashoff
Email: thomashoff@utdallas.edu
15–19 March 2007
Psychiatry in Developing Countries
WPA seminar, South Asian Forum, ICPsy
South Asian Division; IAAP: WNP; WPMH
Lehner, Pakistan
Email: Abal.jawed@newtours.it
19–20 March 2007
Working with Families – Developing
Caring Partnerships
Stratford-upon-Avon, UK
Email: medicaconf@conferencesonline.
co.uk
Website: http://www.meinderfamilyprogramme.com
22–24 March 2007
WPA Regional Meeting and Kenya
Psychiatric Association
Nairobi, Kenya
Contact: Dr Frank C. Njenga
Email: fjenga@afraardrr.co.ke
29–31 March 2007
8th London International Eating Disorders
Conference
Website: http://www.muhwalthcareevents.co.uk
(8–21 April 2007
WPA Regional Meeting and the Korean
Neuropsychiatric Association
Seoul, Korea
Contact: Dr Young-Cho Chung
Email: kpa3353@komet.net
22–25 April 2007
Third International Congress on
Hormones, Brain and Neuro-
psychopharmacology
WPA Section on Interdisciplinary
Collaboration
Marrakesh, Morocco
Contact: Dr Urmil M. Haldabirch
Email: uem@acu.buffalo.edu
6–8 May 2007
New Treatment Methods in
Psychiatry: a Challenging World
5th World Congress for Dynamic
Psychiatry
St Petersburg, Russia
Email: congress2007@ipmpsyche.dz
8–10 May 2007
Converse Treatment in Psychiatry: A
Comprehensive Review
WPA thematic conference, Eunomia
Study Group in collaboration with the
Czech Psychiatric Society
Dresden, Germany
Contact: coltis@intcom-dresden.de
Website: http://www.wps2007.dresden.org
9–22 June 2007
Royal College of Psychiatrists annual
meeting
Edinburgh, UK
Email: conferences@rcpsych.ac.uk
Website: http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk
25–28 July 2007
Remembering, Repeating and
Working Through in Psychana
lysis and Culture Today
International Psychoanalytical
Association Congress
Berlin, Germany
Website: http://www.ipa.org.uk
10–12 August 2007
Bridging the Gaps, Integrating
Perspectives in Child and Adolescent
Mental Health
European Society for Child and
Adolescent Psychiatry
Florence, Italy
Email: escap2007@newtours.it
Website: http://www.escap-net.org
20–23 September 2007
WPA Regional Meeting
Shanghai Mental Health Center, China
Contact: Dr Zeping Xiao
Email: zpxing@shnu.edu.cn
21–25 October 2007
XII World Association for Social
Psychiatry Congress
WPA co-sponsored conference (Zone 9)
with World Association for Social Psychiatry
Prague, Czech Republic
Contact: Dr Shirshar Sharma
Email: waps@ms.vutnet.cz
23–28 October 2007
Annual Meeting of the International
Society Of Addiction Medicine
(ISAAP)
WPA co-sponsored conference (Zone 11)
with the International Society of Addiction
Medicine (ISAAP) in collaboration with the
World Association for Social Psychiatry
Cape Town, South Africa
Contact: Dr Niky El-Guebaly
Email: niaky.el-guebaly@cugaryhealthregion.ca
24–26 October 2007
XIV Congress of the Argentinean
Association of Psychiatrists
WPA co-sponsored conference (Zone 5)
organised by the Argentinean Association of
Psychiatrists (AAP)
Buenos Aires, Argentina
Contact: Dr Nazif I. Merchant
Email: aspa@heapnarg.ar
Website: http://www.aap.org.ar
28 November–2 December 2007
WPA International Congress
Working Together for Mental Health:
Partnerships for Policy and Practice
WPA international congress
Email: wpa2007melbourne@melbournem@ meetingplanners.com.au
Website: http://www.wps2007melbourne.com
16–20 March 2008
3rd World Congress on Women’s Mental
Health
Melbourne, Australia
Website: http://www.wmch2008.com.au
19–25 September 2008
14th World Congress of Psychiatry
Prague, Czech Republic
Website: http://www.wpa-prague2008.cz
1–4 April 2009
Treatments in Psychiatry: A New Update
WPA International Congress
Florence, Italy
Contact: Professor Mario Raj, President-
Elect, WPA
Email: marynan@tin.it

Editorial
Violence and mental health
Hamid Ghodse
Thematic papers – Dementia in low- and middle-income countries
Introduced by Noni Graham
Ageing and dementia in low- and middle-income countries –
the work of the 10/66 Dementia Research Group
Martin Prince and Daisy Acosta
Dementia care in Latin America – country profiles
from Venezuela and Argentina
Aquiles Salas and Raul L. Arzaga
Dementia care in India: a progress report
K. S. Shaji and Amit Dias
Country profiles
Mental health services in Iraq: past, present and future
Sabaad Salik and Abdul-Monaf Al-Jadery
Psychiatry in the Sultanate of Oman
Hamed Al-Sinawi and Samir Al-Adawi
Psychiatry in Qatar
Suhaifa Ghouloum and Mohammed A. Ibrahim
Special paper
Australia’s national mental health strategy in historical perspective:
beyond the frontier
Alan Rosen
Associations and collaborations
Alzheimer’s Disease International
Elizabeth Rimmer
News, notes, events
Correspondence
Forthcoming international events

Contents
Correspondence

Psychiatry in Africa

Sir:

The Royal College of Psychiatrists is about to pilot a project for psychiatry specialist registrars to spend 3 months working in Africa as part of their training. In April 2006, I attended the African Psychiatric Association Conference ‘Mental Health in Africa: Time for Action’, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on behalf of the College. While attending the conference, I was asked to look at the feasibility of registrars working in an African country such as Ethiopia.

The number of professional psychiatrists in African countries is very low, which creates a need for the training of more nurses and health workers in basic and practical methods for assessing patients and providing treatment. At the conference a repeated suggestion was to use traditional healers as part of an integrated mental health service, as this would represent a pragmatic, low-cost, psychosocial, community-based approach.

Ethiopia is five times the size of the UK and has a population of approximately 75 million. There are 14 psychiatrist in the country, who all work in the capital, where there is one psychiatric hospital, with 360 beds. The first psychiatry training programme was established in 2003 between the Universities of Addis Ababa and Toronto. The University of Toronto has provided contextually relevant mental health education 3 months a year to seven Ethiopian doctors, who were due to complete the full programme in July 2006.

In further discussions with several local psychiatrists, it was agreed that a specialist registrar in Ethiopia could be well utilised in a supervisory teaching capacity, focusing on complementing the existing didactic teaching by developing clinical skills, providing psychotherapy supervision and problem-based learning, presenting at journal clubs and developing presentation skills and expertise in the use of information technology. The post holder could visit regional centres and perfect training skills and expertise in the use of information technology. The post holder could visit regional centres and supervise staff there, and might also have the opportunity to supervise research and encourage audit. If such placements were of longer duration, say of 6–12 months, this would minimise registrars training local resources and they could be in a position to facilitate visits by other UK psychiatrists for shorter periods.

Such a programme would also offer significant benefits to the UK in terms of specialist registrars developing managerial skills, managing limited resources more innovatively and developing awareness of cultural issues, which would be relevant when returning to work, particularly in areas with large diasporic populations.

Dr Jonathan Campion
Specialist Registrar on St George’s Psychiatry Training Scheme, London, UK

International recruitment: a Pakistani perspective

Sir:

Chaturvedi, in his article ‘What is important for quality of life of psychiatrists?’ (International Psychiatry, vol. 3, no. 2, April 2006, p. 20), raised some important issues in relation to the international recruitment of psychiatrists from India. He highlighted the fact that there are unfavourable aspects of work in India for psychiatrists and that an opportunity to work in a high-income country can benefit doctors. Here, I wish to relate the situation in Pakistan.

First, the law and order situation in Pakistan has now deteriorated to such an extent that personal safety is not guaranteed: there are frequent bomb blasts, suicide bombings, lootings and kidnappings. Some psychiatrists have been threatened and have left the country on the advice of the security services.

With such a huge population and so few psychiatrists, psychiatrists should be in high demand. However, this is not the case. In Pakistan, alternative practitioners see a large proportion of those who are mentally ill. General practitioners do see the majority of the patients, but their referral to specialist services is inhibited by the patients’ reluctance to see a psychiatrist; hospital consultants also tend to look after the mental health of their patients, perhaps for similar reasons. The Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) gives psychiatry low priority. There is therefore no pressure to recruit more psychiatrists.

As far as the public sector medical schools are concerned, active recruitment, despite vacancies, is not in evidence. There are several reasons for this: fear of loss of authority by the existing chiefs; posts being advertised only for rural areas; and various hidden agendas and political machinations. Furthermore, the private sector will be unable to provide employment for the psychiatrists being trained locally and those who are returning from abroad. In any case, the option of private practice is not always appealing. One has to have institutional support to build a bank of patients. Some non-governmental organisations run clinics but the remuneration is meagre.

Low pay scales in an era of high inflation is another factor that is a source of great dissatisfaction to psychiatrists. Moreover, it is strange, within public sector appointments, that a psychiatrist working in one province cannot apply for a job in another province.

Finally, exposure to sub-specialties is almost non-existent. The migration of a few psychiatrists would not cause any problem but could help them to advance professionally, and give them a better quality of life.

Dr Amin Muhammad Gadit
Professor of Psychiatry, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada

Subscriptions

International Psychiatry is published four times a year. Non-members of the College should contact the Publications Subscriptions Department, Maney Publishing, Hudson Road, Leeds LS9 7DL, UK (tel: +44 (0) 13 249 7481; fax: +44 (0) 113 248 6983; email: subscriptions@maney.co.uk). For subscriptions in North America please contact: Maney Publishing North America, 875 Massachusetts Avenue, 7th Floor, Cambridge, MA 02139, USA (tel: 866 297 5154 (toll free); fax: 617 354 6875; email: maney@maneyusa.com).

Annual subscription rates for 2006 (four issues, post free) are £25.00 (US$45.00). Single issues are £8.00 (US$14.40), post free.

500 words should not be sent to the Editor, Hamid Ghodse, email hghodse@sgul.ac.uk

Contributions for future issues are welcome – please contact Hamid Ghodse
Email: hghodse@sgul.ac.uk