



columns

probably no worse or better than any other tool was at this stage of development. If there is a message from this it would be that before launching a tool it may be best to present it for proper peer review and back it with sound science.

Kwame McKenzie

Improving the Care of People with Learning Disabilities. Clinical Audit Project Examples

Edited by Kirsty MacLean Steel and Claire Palmer. Gaskell: London. 2001. 45 pp. £12.00 (pb). ISBN: 1-901242-40-4

This book is a summary of 22 clinical audit projects undertaken by a number of NHS trusts in England, Scotland and Wales. The Learning Disability Faculty of the Royal College of Psychiatrists supported the publication. The key aim of the book is to guide others beginning to design their own clinical audit projects on health services for people with learning disabilities. Each project is described within a structured abstract and divided under three headings of organisational processes, clinical process and assessment/management of challenging behaviour. At the end is a useful list of addresses as a resource, along with the opportunity to submit one's own audit projects for future editions.

I must admit this book did not inspire me to do clinical audit. However, it did tell me the current standard of clinical audit

work in the field of learning disability and so should be available in audit departments. The climb to raising the standard of audit projects in this area is long and steep. The best projects involved those auditing drug prescribing patterns, which may reflect a greater expertise in this arena or simply that this is a simpler subject to audit.

In principle the book is useful as it allows the exchange of ideas across a small speciality in which people may be working in isolation and there is a recognised variation in services. By encouraging the sharing of expertise and knowledge across the NHS it may stop too much reinvention of the wheel.

Jane McCarthy Consultant Psychiatrist, Learning Disability Service, Sussex Weald & Downs NHS Trust

miscellany

Dr Anthony Storr Bursary Fund

A Student Bursary in memory of Anthony Storr is being endowed at Green College, Oxford University. Dr Storr was one of the first Fellows, and the first Fellow Librarian at Green College, and his family

has decided that this would be a suitable way to commemorate his life and work. Contributions to the fund would be most gratefully received – large or small. Donations from UK tax payers can qualify for Gift Aid, meaning that the total value of the donation is enhanced. For further information or to make a donation please

contact the Green College Development Office, Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 6HG (tel: 01865 274 777; e-mail: development.office@green.ox.ac.uk). Gift Aid forms are also available from the Development Office, as are special instructions on how to make a tax-effective gift for those resident in the US.

forthcoming events

Groups for Life: the Institute of Group Analysis (IGA) has organised a series of six day-long workshops combining lectures and experiential groups on the contribution of group analysis to our understanding of the developmental tasks facing us at the various stages of life: infancy, childhood, adolescence, adult life, mid-life and old age. The workshops will be held over the period of 11 May 2002 to 8 November 2002. For further information please contact the IGA (tel: 020 7431 2693) or visit their website at <http://www.igalondon.org.uk>.

Mole conferences would like to announce the following conferences: **Using Family Courts to Protect Children: Writing Reports and Giving Evidence**, which takes place on 20 June 2002 and aims at improving collaboration between social workers, child and family court advisory services, paediatricians, psychologists and psychiatrists, and those working in community child health; this session will explore making or taking referrals to 'experts', collating information, structure and layout of reports, fees, going to court and being a witness; **Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT): Efficacy in Diversity** takes place on 21 June 2002 and looks at the efficacy of CBT within a

number of therapeutic situations, including the treatment of chronic fatigue syndrome (myalgic encephalomyelitis), children, trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder, and primary care counselling. Both conferences will be held in central London. For further information please contact Mole Conferences, 26 Church Road, Portslade, Brighton BN41 1LA (tel: 01273 242 634; fax: 01273 235 095; e-mail: info@mole-conferences.com; website and online booking: <http://www.mole-conferences.com>).

Risk Assessment and Management Following Self-Harm is the title of a course taking place on 15–16 July 2002 at the Manchester Royal Infirmary. Organised by Professor E. Guthrie, the course is run in conjunction with the School of Psychiatry and Behavioural Sciences, University of Manchester, and the Manchester Mental Health Partnership. This is a 2-day intensive training course, suitable for psychiatric trainees, mental health professionals and emergency department staff. The aims of the course are to provide participants with a comprehensive review of the evidence base in this field; opportunities to develop skills in the assessment and management of self-harm; and

knowledge of medico-legal issues related to this area. Application forms and further details are available from: Mrs Una Dean, Secretary to Professor E. Guthrie, University Department of Psychiatry, Rawnsley Building, Manchester Royal Infirmary, Manchester M13 9WL (tel: 0161 276 5383; fax: 0161 273 2135; e-mail: Una.Dean@man.ac.uk).

The V Congress of the European Association for the History of Psychiatry (EAHP) will take place on 12–14 September 2002 in Madrid, Spain. Plenary sessions: Germán E. Berrios (UK) – mapping mental symptoms: a conceptual history; Dora Weiner (USA) – psychiatry comes to the Americas: a global perspective; Georges Lantéri-Laura (France) – psychiatric semiology: history and structure; Jean Garrabé (France) – the works of Huarte de San Juan and the European humanist culture; Jean Canavaggio (France) – the desired death in the Cervantes' works; Hugh Freeman (UK) – psychiatry and the British State: 1948–1998; Paul Hoff (Germany) – what is biological psychiatry? Conceptual history and actual relevance; José Luis Peset (Spain) – Philippe Pinel's Hippocratic revolution; and Antonio