

Amendments to the JCHPT Handbook

The publication of the 1994 edition of the JCHPT Handbook is to be delayed until the implications of the Calman Report are clear. Higher training continues to evolve and the following changes have been accepted by the JCHPT.

- (1) Experience in *emergency psychiatry* is of increasing importance with the growing emphasis on community and domiciliary care. Emergency on-call duties should be at a senior level, should be undertaken regularly and should serve both hospital and community. The requirements vary with specialty and *minimal* frequencies are stated in general and old age psychiatry (one in ten days for two years) and in child and adolescent psychiatry (one in five days for one year).
- (2) *Flexible training*. It is important that those training part-time receive a balanced programme and are given the same training opportunities as their full-time colleagues. In order to ensure this, individual training programmes must be approved by the JCHPT at the start of an individual's training. Submissions should include an outline programme for the whole period of higher training with details of specific placements given for the first two years and approval of the remaining programme being sought at regular intervals as the trainee's career plans evolve.
- (3) *Maternity leave* does not, in general, count towards higher training, but in exceptional circumstances (when, for example, this time was used to write a thesis or complete data analysis) a senior registrar may be able to have her case scrutinised on an individual basis by the JCHPT.
- (4) *Locum senior registrar/lecturer posts*. Three months spent as a locum senior registrar may count towards higher training, without approval being sought from the JCHPT. A longer period may be approved, on an *ad hominem* basis, when a trainee is subsequently appointed to the substantive post where there has been undue delay in making the appointment and when the trainee has been included in the senior registrar academic programme. 'Locum' or 'temporary' lecturer posts receive the same consideration.
- (5) The *appointment of Scheme Organisers* is a formal matter. Postgraduate Deans should, after appropriate consultation with the postgraduate committee, the head of the university department and the College regional adviser, convey their recommendation to the Chairman of the JCHPT.
- (6) *Recognition of higher training undertaken in research appointments*. All research posts must receive *ad hominem* education approval from the JCHPT if they are to be regarded as contributing to higher training in psychiatry. Applications for educational approval should be made through the scheme organiser.
 - (a) *Honorary senior registrar contracts*. It should be understood that, so far as recognition of higher training is concerned, the title 'honorary' implies a senior registrar post with manpower approval. Applications for recognition of honorary senior registrar posts, other than established university lectureships already recognised by the JCHPT, should include a copy of the trainee's honorary clinical contract.
 - (b) *Clinical requirements*. The requirements for higher training spent entirely in research posts are detailed on page 60 of the Handbook (1990 edition). The requirements for the clinical training component of these posts need clarification and are as follows.

Clinical sessions should offer training appropriate to higher training, i.e. allowing supervision of junior trainees, involvement in management of multidisciplinary teams, negotiating and planning change with other agencies. Simply attending clinics for supervised clinical experience, which is appropriate to registrar training, is not sufficient. The clinical experience must be meaningful and must include sharing in ongoing clinical responsibilities of the team. This will include involvement in emergency duties associated with these clinical responsibilities at an appropriate level and reasonable frequency (certainly not less than 1:10) which should continue throughout higher training.
- (7) *Post-membership training*. In some circumstances up to two years spent in post-membership research posts may be recognised towards higher training (see pages 60 and 61 of the Handbook), effective on appointment to a substantive senior registrar or university lecturer/honorary senior registrar post. A brief

period in a locum senior registrar post may also count towards higher training (see 4 above). No other type of post-membership experience is deemed to count towards higher training.

DR R. HERRINGTON, *Honorary Secretary, Joint Committee on Higher Psychiatric Training, Royal College of Psychiatrists*

Miscellany

The Sainsbury Mental Health Initiative

A new mental health initiative organised and funded by the Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health, with support from the Department of Health, was launched in February 1994. Over the next three years the Sainsbury Mental Health Initiative will make £3 million available as grants, to develop community based mental health services throughout England. Any agency trying to provide a service to adults with severe mental illness is encouraged to submit its proposals for funding. The Initiative's steering group will be chaired by Sir Roy Griffiths. The Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health is the new name for Research and Development for Psychiatry (RDP) - a charity which has been working to improve the quality of life for people with severe mental health problems since 1985. Further information: The Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health, 134-138 Borough High Street, London SE1 1LB.

British Medical Anthropology Review

The Review will replace and continue the British Medical Anthropology Society Newsletter, founded in 1976. It will include original papers and book reviews and will continue the informational and networking activities of the British Medical Anthropology Society. It is intended to publish the Review twice a year. Further information: Dr Murray Last, Department of Anthropology, University College, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT.

The mental health debate

OPENMIND, the mental health magazine published by MIND (National Association for Mental Health), is keen to hear from psychiatrists who would like to join the mental health debate in its pages. The magazine is read by a wide range of mental health professionals, although psychiatrists are currently under-represented, and is also read by people who have used mental health services and by their relatives and carers. It aims to provide information, campaign for better ser-

vices and, through first-hand accounts, to provide an insight into service users' experiences of mental distress. Annual subscriptions (six issues a year): £14 for individuals or £18 for organisations. For further details about subscribing or for a copy of the Guidelines for Writers, contact Helen Imam, OPENMIND, (reference Psychiatric Bulletin), MIND, Granta House, 15-19 Broadway, London E15 4BQ telephone 081 519 2122.

New publications

Evaluating the NHS Reforms is published by the King's Fund Institute and brings together the results of seven in-depth research projects which examined key aspects of the NHS reforms from 1990 to 1993. It is available from BEPC, PO Box 1496, Poole, Dorset BH12 3YD; price £9.95 (paperback), £25.00 (hardback), both post free. Telephone orders: 0202 715555; fax orders 0202 715556.

How to Look After Yourself is the first in a new mental health promotion series which aims to give the basic information necessary to safeguard mental health and provides addresses of where to go should problems arise. Other subjects to be covered in the series include panic attacks, suicide and insomnia. Copies, priced 45p, are available from MIND Publications, 15-19 Broadway, London E15 4BQ - please add 10% for post and packing.

Call for papers

The Journal of Mental Health Administration, the official publication of the Association of Mental Health Administrators, is a peer reviewed publication seeking manuscripts on mental health and substance abuse outcomes research. The deadline for manuscript submissions is 1 June 1994 and further information is available from Dr Bruce Lubotsky Levin, Editor, Journal of Mental Health Administration, Florida Mental Health Institute, University of South Florida, 13301 Bruce B. Downs Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33612-3899, USA (telephone 813 974 6400; fax 813 974 4406).