

At present we are planning to re-open and expand the rest of the 19 extramural services which existed before the invasion.

Without the enthusiasm and hard work of my colleagues and the staff it would have been impossible to bring the psychiatric service to its present shape in such a short period.

I thank my colleagues inside and outside the country, the international organisations and their affiliates who have lent me their support during

that critical period, and especially His Excellency the Minister of Public Health, Dr Abdul Wahab Al-Fowzan, for his unlimited support, patience and encouragement during the invasion, during the war and after liberation. My thanks also go to my colleagues Dr Magda El-Badramany, Dr Abdel Rahman Fawzy, Dr Essam El-Ansary and Dr A. Fido, consultant psychiatrists, for their efforts and support in the re-establishment of the services.

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Conference briefing

Residential scientific conference for registrars and senior house officers in psychiatry

O. JUNAID, Chairman, Collegiate Trainees' Committee

Fifty junior trainees attended the conference which was held at Warwick University between 9 and 11 July 1992. For many trainees this was the first example of the Royal College of Psychiatrists working for trainees. The highlight was an address by Dr Fiona Caldicott, the Dean. She discussed the effects of recent White Papers and the consequent changes in the National Health Service. Opening up a debate on a variety of issues of direct relevance to trainees and training, her address turned into an interactive session. Trainees expressed their worries and concerns, particularly about the effect of European legislation on the movement of doctors and the effect this would have on training in this country.

The rest of the conference followed a pattern which has been successful for the senior registrar conferences. There were day-long sessions on Friday on effective presentation skills, witness skills and succeeding in interviews. The following day there were half-day workshops on research methodology, management and writing scientific papers.

Research methodology was a particularly popular workshop. Professor Patricia Casey, of University College Dublin, conducted the workshop. Trainees recognised the value of undertaking pre-membership research but they also expressed concern at the lack of facilities for supporting trainees (particularly in peripheral posts) involved in research projects.

The meeting provided an opportunity for trainees from a variety of rotational training schemes from all over the United Kingdom to meet and share views and ideas. Trainees expressed a desire to form closer links between rotational training schemes. The Conference offered them the opportunity of comparing and contrasting training experiences and to begin to form links and establish relationships which might eventually lead to collaborative ventures.

Feedback at the plenary session was generally positive. Most wished to return next year, even to the same venue, as two days was too short to attend all of the workshops.