

Paul Michael Courtney; Patricia May Cronin; Margaret Karen Dauncey; Marian Jacqueline De Ruiter; Michael Stuart Dennis; Patrick Joseph Devitt; Maeve Bernadette Doyle; Clare Stephanie Dunkley; John Dunn; Elizabeth Jane Dyer; Barbara Easby; Andrew Maurice Ekstein Easton; Wayne John Edwards; Anwar Abdel Hakiem Ahmed El Komy; James William Fellows-Smith; Harsha Gamini Fernando; Renuka Lilanthi Fernando; Catherine Mary Fitzpatrick; Richard Paul William Fry; Elaine Margaret Gadd; Julia Mary Bernadette Geaney; Sheila Margaret Gilfillan; Sarah Elizabeth Glen; Julian Abel Constantine Gojer; Caroline Gorst-Unsworth; Margaret Ann Graham; Simon John Groves; Dalkanduraarachige Ignatius Jayantha S. Gunaratne; Sunjai Gupta.

Latha Hackett; Bisa Haeger; Carol Lesley Harvey; Helen Joyce Hayes; Ian Stuart Hayes; Robert John Higgo; Gail Iona Hodgson; Josanne Holloway; Hong Kwai Wah; Timothy John Howard; Neil John Hunt; Gillian Margaret Hyams; Caroline Gilchrist Innes; David Vaughan James; Gwen Jones; Anthony Wolfe Katz; Margaret Scott Douglas Kerr; Stephen John Kingsbury; John David Langton; Fionnuala Leddy; Ian James Leonard; Christopher Gerald Gordon Link; Elizabeth Susan Lister; Ruth Christine Loane; Susan Ann Logie; Christopher Paul Lucas; David Manovitch; Christel Joyce Mavor; Anthony Paul McCarthy; Sara Elizabeth McCluskey; Estelle Jean McFarland; Gillian Anne McGauley; Graham Nicholas Meadows; Clive Julian Meux; Gabrielle Louise Milner; Mary Teresa Monaghan; Jacqueline Elizabeth Morrell;

Paul David Morris; Charles Henry Morris; Mary Josephine Morton; Walter John Muir; Marie Bernadette Murphy; Declan Gregory Myles Murphy; Mary Naidu; Alison Jane Naismith; Elizabeth Margaret Napier; Satinder Pal Singh Narang; Eibhlin Poilin Nithuama.

Michael Conlon O'Donovan; Michael Proinsias O'Fearghail; Caroline Mary Bernadette O'Gara; Finbarr O'Leary; Kevin Barry O'Neill; Elizabeth Parameshwar; Shirish Vaghjibhai Patel; Pradip Narendrabhai Patel; Chryshanthi Pathmadeva; Richard Guy Pether; Rosemary Margaret Piggott; Patrick Joseph Robert Power; Anjali Ramayya; Abdul Haji Moosa Haji Wali Muhammad Razzak; Ian Cameron Reid; Anthony Peter Roberts; David Thomas Roberts; Steven David Rowe; Pauline Mary Ruth; Joan Rutherford; Doraiswamy Sanjeev; Geoffrey Frank Searle; Alexander Bruce Seton-Browne; Jennifer Jayne Shaw; Abdul Jawad Sheikh; Nicholas John Shortall.

Simon Siu Wang Chin; Iain David Smith; Jeanette Elizabeth Smith; Mark Thomas Spurrell; Sivasubramaniam Srikumar; Jillian Anne Staines; Marjorie Stokes; John Abercromby Strachan; Philip Ashley Sugarman; Orlando Tang Wai-Nang; Mohan George Thomas; Susan Mary Thomas; Jacqueline Tuson; Gareth Edward Paul Vincenti; Phyllis Jane Walker; Anne Elizabeth Watts; Susan Helen West; Thomas White; Hugh Dominic Williams; Tegwyn Mel Williams; Christopher Mark Winston; Linda Elisabet Wolff; Paul Martin Wolfson; Kenneth Albert Wood; Frances Josephine Wren; Susan Elizabeth Wressell; Lakshmi Narayana Yatham; Linda Jane Yellowlees.

Distinction awards

A brief guide

Two subjects which can be relied upon to arouse strong affect in consultants are control of hospital beds and allocation of distinction awards. The processes attending the latter are regarded by some as arcane, mysterious and anything but sublime. This note is intended to provide a little background and to outline the machinery which determines who, each year will receive an award. In particular it will underline the role of the College in this operation.

Criteria for awards

Broadly speaking there must be evidence of something over and above the ordinary expectations of consultant work. There are two principal dimensions:

1. *Meritorious service* Clinical excellence is the hallmark here, e.g. the consultant who is regularly sought out for a further opinion; maintenance of a high standard despite

adverse facilities or poor local backing; development of an excellent service; successful building-up of a new department.

Involvement in teaching at under- or postgraduate level; participation in clinical meetings; the making of original observations or other research contributions; good work in the field of medical administration.

2. *Distinction* Consultants who are evident leaders in a clinical or scientific field or who are generally accepted as leaders of the profession in their Region or in the country as a whole.

Doctors with honorary consultant contracts are eligible and if they hold a minimum of six sessions will receive the full value of the award.

The Advisory Committee on Distinction Awards

This is the body which makes the final recommendations to the appropriate Secretary of State for each country of the United Kingdom. The present Chairman is Sir Gordon Robson, CBE and the College is represented.

The Committee meets annually usually in January and new holders will be informed by their employing authorities before the end of the financial year in April.

The address is:

Advisory Committee on Distinction Awards,
DHSS,
Eileen House,
80-94 Newington Causeway,
London SE1 6EF.

There is a Scottish sub-committee comprising three members of the main Advisory Committee.

Sources of information for the Committee

"Local support" is probably the most important weight in the pan when the final reckoning is made. In England and Wales this is expressed through the recommendations of the Regional Awards Committees (RAC) for 'C' awards and in the Higher Awards Committees (HAC), also constituted regionally. The membership of the RACs is a matter for regional branches of the Central Committee for Hospital Medical Services. The HACs on the other hand are selected by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Distinction Awards after taking regional advice to ensure representation of main specialties and with regard to geographical, teaching and regional considerations. The College is not represented formally on these bodies.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Advisory Committee visit each Region annually and confer with RACs and with the HACs. They also meet the Regional Award Advisers in psychiatry (appointed by the College).

Recommendations are also received from Universities, the Medical Research Council, RHA Chairmen, The Public Health Laboratory Service and specialist associations.

Individual consultants may write to the Advisory Committee in support of a colleague or, indeed, putting forward their own claim if they believe they have not received just recognition. The system whereby consultants filled in a curriculum vitae type form on initial appointment and updated it from time to time has been discontinued.

The College input

Our own College in concert with other Royal Colleges and

their Faculties send recommendations to the Advisory Committee. We also have Awards Advisers in each Region already mentioned (not to be confused with the College Regional Adviser who is principally concerned with educational and administrative matters).

I believe that the Awards Advisers should hold discussions each year with the corresponding Chairmen of the College Divisions, and with the psychiatrist members on the local 'C' Awards and Higher Awards Committees.

The College has three separate committees to consider recommendations for A, B and C Awards. The Committees include College Officers, Award Advisers from each Region and Chairmen or other representatives of College Regional Divisions and Specialist Sections.

The sources of advice in Scotland differ somewhat from those in England and Wales; likewise in Northern Ireland. But the College makes an important contribution to the advice from each of these countries.

Citations

Recommendations from any source to the Advisory Committee should always be accompanied by a citation. These are usually written on a standard form distributed by the Committee.

PROFESSOR KENNETH RAWNSLEY

Central Committee on Distinction Awards

College nominated advisers on Awards in the Regions

Northern: Dr K. Schapira; *Yorkshire:* Dr J. Roberts; *Trent:* Professor J. E. Cooper; *East Anglia:* Dr C. P. B. Brook; *North West Thames:* Dr K. Granville-Grossman; *North East Thames:* Dr S. Crown; *South West Thames:* Professor A. Crisp; *South East Thames:* Dr T. Bewley; *Wessex:* Professor J. L. Gibbons; *Oxford:* Dr E. B. O. Smith; *South Western:* Professor H. G. Morgan; *West Midlands:* Professor R. Bluglass; *Mersey:* Professor J. Copeland; *North Western:* Dr J. Johnson; *Wales:* Dr D. M. Shaw.

At the present time the Membership of the Regional 'Higher' Awards Committee and the Regional 'C' Awards Committee is being changed and formal appointments will be made in the near future.

A complete list of the psychiatrists on these Committees will be published in the *Bulletin* as soon as the information is available.