

Plans for funding this and for finding suitable premises for office accommodation, computer and other equipment are currently under discussion.

Representing the needs of research in psychiatry outside the College

The MRC and DHSS both have observers on the Research Committee. There has been frequent contact over the years with the Mental Health Foundation. In preparation for the appeal for the Research Unit short descriptions have been prepared of important areas in research that could be carried out with the collaboration of the College, and we are concerned to show outside bodies how the College can make a contribution to research.

Members of the Research Committee contributed to the book edited by Richter, *Research in Mental Illness*.¹⁴ The Research Committee is regularly asked by the College to comment on documents produced by DHSS and other organizations with relevance to research.

An important function of the Royal College of Psychiatrists has been to encourage and facilitate research. The main thrust of the Research Committee has been to help individual members with their research endeavours. It has also been the intention to emphasize research and research-mindedness within the College, and to represent the needs of psychiatric research to other organizations. Some research has been undertaken directly following the initiatives of the Research Committee.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author would like to express his gratitude to the current Research Committee and secretarial staff for help in producing this report.

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