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NEWS AND NOTES

Contributions to the 'News and notes' column should be sent to ip@rcpsych.ac.uk

The death of an eminent editor

Griffith James Edwards, an eminent international expert in addictions and Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, sadly died on 13 September 2012 following a stroke. Griffith's interest in substance misuse in general and in alcohol misuse in particular started from the 1960s, and led to the establishment of the Addiction Research Unit at the Institute of Psychiatry and the Maudsley Hospital. In 1976 Griffith, with Milton Gross, published a paper with the first provisional description of alcohol dependence as a clinical syndrome. This was a landmark paper – the first time that the now familiar concept of substance dependence had been articulated. It demonstrated several facets of Griffith Edwards: his intellect, his powers of analysis and conceptual thought and his ability to articulate complex ideas. He was also very supportive of the College and chaired two committees and working groups, which led to the publication for the College of two very informative and well received books: *Alcohol and Alcoholism: The Report of a Special Committee of the Royal College of Psychiatrists* (Tavistock, 1979) and *Drug Scenes: A Report on Drugs and Drug Dependence* (Gaskell, 1987).

Griffith was Editor-in-Chief of the *British Journal of Addiction* from 1978 until 2005, taking it from just four issues per year to six and then to monthly. He established Regional Offices in Australia and America so that it is now a highly esteemed, international journal, renamed *Addiction*. Griffith was passionate about the journal and remained its Commissioning Editor until his death.

His career attracted many, many national and international honours. He was an Honorary Fellow of the College, and was made Commander of the British Empire (CBE) in 1987 for his services to social sciences and medicine.

The true measure of his contribution to addiction sciences is his legacy. For Griffith, with his interest in everyone and everything, his superb verbal fluency, his ability to ask the penetrating question to get to the heart of an issue, stimulated everyone around him. His death is a great loss to academic medicine and to psychiatry.

Hamid Ghodse, Editor

Medical Training Initiative (MTI)

The Royal College of Psychiatrists will be joining the Medical Training Initiative (MTI) and establishing its own scheme, thereby fulfilling its important role as the leading organisation in promoting quality training in psychiatry in the UK and abroad. The MTI is a national scheme designed

to allow a small number of doctors to enter the UK from overseas so that they can benefit from training and development in the National Health Service before returning to their home countries.

Pan American Division

The Pan American Division of the Royal College of Psychiatrists hosted a grand reception at the 62nd Annual Conference of the Canadian Psychiatric Association in Montreal on 28 September 2012. The event was supported by the Canadian Psychiatric Association (which has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the College) and was attended by more than 40 members of the Division. The event was fully funded by the College. Attendance has grown over the years and the reception is considered a valuable part of the Conference.

Dr Dhanapal Natarajan, Vice Chair, Pan American Division of the Royal College of Psychiatrists

Faculty of the Psychiatry of Old Age: annual bursary

The Faculty of the Psychiatry of Old Age has established an annual bursary to enable a psychiatrist from a low- or middle-income country to attend the Faculty Annual Residential Meeting (usually held in March) in order to give an oral or poster presentation, or deliver a workshop. The bursary is intended to cover the cost of economy class travel, accommodation, free registration and attendance at the Conference Dinner, up to a maximum of £1500. Informal mentors will be identified for the bursary holder. The closing date is 30 November. Email kkottasz@rcpsych.ac.uk.

Society for Emotional Well-being Worldwide

The Society for Emotional Well-being Worldwide (SEWW; <http://www.seww.org>) has evolved into a social media platform for professionals working in mental health. It facilitates networking, information exchange and collaboration through a web-based platform.

British Arab Psychiatrists Association

Several members have participated in voluntary work over the past few months. This included visiting Syrian refugee camps both in Jordan and Turkey as the unmet mental health needs of these people are great. The BAPA is keen to develop a new initiative with the College Volunteer Scheme in the Arab countries. For further information contact Dr Nadim Almoshmosh, Chair of the Association (email Nadim.Almoshmosh@nhft.nhs.uk).