



many different settings of children's and family services. It emphasises the need for socially inclusive practice, for professional integration for the benefit of families, and for more family-friendly policies. It is excellent in its conceptualisation and in many chapters. Unlike other psychotherapy books, it raises family therapy issues by introducing the concept of family support as an integral part of therapy. By focusing on family support the authors emphasise that the family needs to be thought about and family support practised widely throughout public services. A detailed methodology for assessing and working with families is complemented by a good outline of culturally sensitive practice. 'Socially inclusive' ways of working with various groups of disenfranchised families and children such as refugees, young offenders, looked-after children and others are described. Attachment theory and its clinical applications (e.g. the role of social networks) are included in an imaginative and creative way. Ethical dilemmas concerning gender and power are given due consideration and quantitative and qualitative methods for evaluating family therapy are described.

This book has some irritating but minor inaccuracies and although the focus is on children, the ethical considerations are oddly based on work with older adults. The actual content is perfectly reasonable but there are plenty of ethical dilemmas with children that are not mentioned and are highly relevant to family therapists. The chapter on attachment theory is unduly complex and it is not always clear whether it is about the quality of adult relationships or the attachment behavioural system as defined by Bowlby.

The authors write about youth justice and drug addiction but the work and the reader would have benefited from a description of multi-systemic therapy, which has plenty of supporting evidence. Overall, I felt that the evidence base of family work was not always fully reflected. Community-based work was also described but in my view the reader would have benefited from the integration of the well-developed concepts of Boyd-Franklin (Boyd-Franklin & Bry, 2000).

The authors do not hide their critical view of the effects of globalisation in relation to families and children. Notwithstanding some criticisms, this was a refreshing read which I thoroughly recommend to all those who work with families or are interested in social and community approaches in mental health.

BOYD-FRANKLIN, N. & BRY, H. B. (2000) *Reaching out in Family Therapy*. New York: Guilford.

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Psychiatry Recall (2nd edn)

Barbara Fadem & Steven Simring
Philadelphia PA: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2004, £20.50, pp. 210.
ISBN: 078174511X

This new edition guides the reader through psychiatric on-call clerking and ward rounds and as such is aimed at the junior doctor in psychiatry or clinical medical student on a psychiatry placement. It is presented as a themed series of questions and answers and the novel structure promises greater retention of the information. However, it is so heavily focused upon psychiatry in the USA that it would be of limited use to the UK trainee.

The content is arranged in a logical order from acute assessment through to management and prognosis, and the text is set out very clearly. There is concise instruction on focused interviewing for particular symptom clusters and in this and other sections it is very readable. However, the limited scope is brought into sharp focus by the discussion of differential diagnoses. Because the book is aimed at the American market, diagnoses are based upon DSM-IV with almost no recognition of ICD-10. Conditions such as schizophreniform disorder which are specific to DSM-IV are covered without any reference to other classification systems, potentially leading to much confusion for the new trainee.

Further difficulties lie in the epidemiological information, some of which should not be generalised to other countries. For example, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder is listed as being prevalent in 5% of children, with no acknowledgement that American rates are higher than those reported elsewhere. The sections on ethnicity are not well written for an international readership. Much consideration is given to differences in Native American Indians but none to immigrant groups from the Indian Subcontinent which would be of much greater use to the UK reader.

The strong American orientation would matter less if the book was not intended as a practical guide to working in psychiatry. Much more culturally sensitive information is required for a practical guide. There are too many differences from UK practice, ranging from emergency department procedures to drug names and licensing conditions.

I would not regard this as a good purchase for UK or Irish trainees. There are better handy pocket books on the market. It would, however, be useful reading for anyone considering an elective or placement in the USA.

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Clinical Governance in Mental Health and Learning Disability Services – A Practical Guide

Adrian James, Adrian Worrall & Tim Kendall (eds)
London: Gaskell, 2005, £35.00,
pp. 376
ISBN 1904671128

To quote the Foreword to this book 'many of the qualities of clinical governance are difficult to assess' and 'attitudes to clinical governance are very positive, but it remains a concept which needs much skill and commitment to implement'. The challenge for the editors was to assemble a volume that engages, informs and is practical and usable. The book is divided into four parts. The first discusses the concepts of quality in the National Health Service (NHS) and clinical governance which was introduced in 1997.

The second part describes the operational structures required to move the enterprise forward and highlights a number of underlying tensions. Why is it so difficult to get clinical quality onto the agenda of so many NHS trust boards? How will the original concept of clinical governance as a tool to ensure continuous improvement of services survive the shift from the Commission for Health Improvement (CHI) to the Healthcare Commission with its emphasis on the inspection and monitoring of key performance indicators, few of which are clinical outcomes? To sustain the engagement of clinicians and clinical teams John Sandford's prediction that 'over time, the relationship between good clinical governance, patient outcome and public health may become clearer' is probably insufficient.

The next part discusses eight 'key elements' from the involvement of service users through risk management, appraisal and clinical audit to inter-agency working. Each chapter stands independently, often with some excellent yet profoundly simple advice on 'making things work' (for example, risk management and clinical audit). There are many hidden gems, for example Mary Lindsey's table on good and bad organisational practice in relation to policies and procedures.

The fourth part attempts to translate clinical governance into the clinical context. Many authors emphasise the clinical team as central to clinical governance. After all at its most basic clinical governance must be about those involved with services being able to describe what they do, how they know it works and how they can make improvements. This is far from easy, particularly without well-defined systems for the management of clinical information.



columns

Overall this book is a good comprehensive guide to contemporary management in the NHS and it will be invaluable in teaching and supervising trainees and for recently appointed clinical directors. Although there is some overlap in the content, this allows consideration of

different approaches. However, a loose-leaf format might have facilitated updating. Consider how quickly the CHI has come and gone!

The use of this guide will facilitate the cultural shift necessary to allow the consistent and dependable delivery of

high quality services, which is at the heart of clinical governance.

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miscellany

The Sarah Isabella McClean Will Trust

The Sarah Isabella McClean Will Trust exists to alleviate the suffering or assist in the recovery of medical practitioners in need suffering from mental illness who require hospital treatment by providing or

paying for items, services or facilities not readily available to them from other sources.

The trustees meet annually and at other times as necessary to review the charity's finances and requests for assistance from potential beneficiaries.

Contact details for the trustees are:

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forthcoming events

Applications are invited for Semester One of the **MRCPsych course** run by University College London (UCL). **Part I** takes place on Monday afternoons commencing 4 September 2006 and **Part II** takes place on Tuesday afternoons commencing 5 September 2006. The course has been updated in keeping with the Royal College of Psychiatrists' syllabus and includes mock exams, theme-specific revision sessions and patient perspectives. For further information and an application form please contact Lydia M. Clinton, Course Administrator (tel: 020 7679 9475; e-mail: mrcpsych@ucl.ac.uk).

The UCL Department of Mental Health Services invites applications for a 2-year, part-time **MSc in Psychiatric Research** starting in October 2006. The MSc is intended for senior house officers and specialist registrars in psychiatry and provides practical training in the relevant research skills. All teachers on the course are very active as researchers, and students report that the course is enjoyable and highly relevant to developing the skills needed to be an independent researcher. Our aim is to equip graduates to carry out research at doctoral level and apply for research posts in university departments. The first year consists of workshops and seminars on research skills, held on Monday afternoons. Topics

include literature reviews and meta-analysis, design and selection of research instruments, epidemiology, evaluation of interventions, qualitative research methods, biological research and statistics. In the second year students undertake a research project under supervision and submit a dissertation. Early application is advisable as places are limited. For an application form and prospectus please contact Lydia M. Clinton, Course Administrator (tel: 020 7679 9475; e-mail: mrcpsych@ucl.ac.uk). To discuss the course please contact the course tutor, Dr Sonia Johnson (s.johnson@ucl.ac.uk).

The Schizophrenia Research Foundation (SCARF), the Indian Psychiatric Society and the World Psychiatric Association would like to announce the **International Conference on Schizophrenia 2006** to be held in Chennai, India on 13–15 October 2006. The theme of the conference is 'Blending schizophrenia care with research: global perspectives'. This conference will showcase the best of schizophrenia research around the world and will cover a wide range of topics which have an impact on care, rehabilitation and policies and programmes for those with mental illness and disability. For further information please visit <http://www.icons-scarf.org>

The **6th International Forum On Mood and Anxiety Disorders** will take place from Wednesday 29 November to Friday 1 December 2006 in Vienna, Austria. Topics will include treatment-resistant depression, bipolar depression, recent advances in depression, chronic insomnia and mood and anxiety disorders in old age. For further information visit <http://www.aim-internationalgroup.com/2006/ifmad>

The **2nd International Congress of the World Federation of Societies of Biological Psychiatry** will take place in Santiago de Chile from 17 to 21 April 2007. In the past 2 years there has been ground-breaking progress in neuroscience that is changing concepts of and attitudes towards psychiatric illness. Advances in biology and molecular genetics, the availability of modern technologies, such as brain neuroimaging, and the development of a new generation of treatments based upon concepts of neuroplasticity are opening new and exciting horizons. During the congress there will be opportunity to discuss these themes as well as the integration of the rapid development of scientific knowledge with its impact on diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of patients with mental illness. For further information visit <http://www.wfsbp-santiago2007.org>