can play their part. The imperatives are succinctly summarised: to address the social, economic and environmental factors that impact on the population, to put mental health at the heart of all health policies, and health at the heart of all policies. Health and well-being impact assessments are rightly cited as workable tools to promote the approach. The almost overwhelming barriers to progress, that are not unique to but perhaps particularly entrenched in the USA, are well described. These barriers are stigma, lack of political will, competing priorities, cultural and political focus on 'individual responsibility' and the unconducive political process.

Nevertheless, in *The Social Determinants of Mental Health* 'behavioural health professionals' are called upon to be system and community leaders, to work across boundaries and with diverse stakeholders at all levels. When clinicians speak of an unwell and unfair society it should be a wake-up call to us all.

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doi: 10.1192/bjp.bp.115.170902

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Volume 22, Issue 4

July 2016

http://apt.rcpsych.org

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