

Contributions to the 'News and notes' column should be sent to:  
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## Elections to the International Narcotics Control Board

Congratulations to Professor Hamid Ghodse, who, on 2 May 2011, was elected President of the Bureau of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB).

The Board also elected Raymond Yans as First Vice-President, Rajat Ray as Second Vice-President of the Board and Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Estimates, and Sri Suryawati as Rapporteur.

## Twenty-one years of old age psychiatry

It has been 21 years since old age psychiatry was recognised by the Department of Health as a specialty in its own right. Old age services were started in some parts of the UK as early as 1958. It received status as a Section of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in 1978 and as a Faculty in 1988.

In order to combat the growing public health problem of substance misuse in older people, the Faculty, along with the Faculty of Addictions, has produced a document entitled *Our Invisible Addicts*. The report examines the nature and extent of the problem, and makes key recommendations for service delivery, staff training and public policy. It is available at <http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/files/pdfversion/CR165.pdf>

## Volunteer project in Sudan

In May and June 2011 seven volunteers from the Royal College of Psychiatrists travelled to Sudan for one or two weeks at a time to offer mental health training to family practitioners as part of a programme being run by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Federal Ministry of Health in Sudan and the Royal College of Psychiatrists. Training was based on the WHO mhGAP materials and a report from the event will be published on the College's website in

due course (<http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/members/internationalaffairsunit.aspx>).

## New Special Interest Group

In June 2011 the Volunteer and International Psychiatry Special Interest Group was formed. This new Special Interest Group hopes to promote volunteer work internationally and expand the population of people interested in this work. The Special Interest Group will also promote appropriate training materials for volunteers overseas and will have a fundraising role in order to support this goal. Members of the College can join this new Special Interest Group via the members area of the College website (<http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/member.aspx>) or by contacting the College's Membership Office on 0207 235 2351 ext. 6280 or 6281. Non-College members wishing to join should email Dr Peter Hughes at [dppmh@hotmail.com](mailto:dppmh@hotmail.com)

## UN General Assembly on NCDs

The UN is holding a summit on non-communicable diseases (NCDs – cancers, cardiovascular diseases, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes) in New York in September 2011. The aim of the summit is to agree on a global strategy to address NCDs. The omission of mental health conditions from the NCDs being considered has prompted a great deal of lobbying by non-governmental organisations and health associations.

## New Chair of the BMA

Congratulations to Baroness Professor Sheila Hollins, who has been elected as the new President of the British Medical Association. Baroness Hollins will succeed Sir Michael Marmot in 2012.

## CORRESPONDENCE

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## Training in child and adolescent psychiatry in Europe

**Sir:** We write as the current and past chairs of the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (CAP) working group of the European Federation of Psychiatric Trainees (EFPT) to highlight the work of our organisation. The EFPT is an independent federation of psychiatric trainee associations and a European forum for psychiatric trainees

in all branches of psychiatry in Europe. It aims to facilitate the exchange of ideas, improve training and develop national trainee organisations for psychiatrists, and it brings together trainees in more than 32 countries.

Delegates meet at an international forum annually, and work on projects relating to psychiatric training throughout the year. The EFPT acknowledges that CAP and adult psychiatry are two separate, though closely linked, specialties. We therefore recommend that a CAP trainee as well as a general psychiatry trainee attend each forum where