

Grants were also regularly provided to help with such things as accommodation, pocket money, medical costs and travel expenses. No less important to the refugee women were the carefully selected gifts of clothing that Holly was able to distribute among her 'little lambs', as she affectionately called her academic colleagues. The garments proved to be a veritable godsend to women who desperately needed them but who were suffering real financial hardship. This initiative would never have come about without the generosity of the Canada Association, which regularly sent parcels of clothes to Britain (BFUW annual report, 1942/43, p. 17).

It is hard to imagine the trauma experienced by those who were fleeing their homes, families and established academic and professional careers to settle in a new country – one which offered sanctuary but within a very different cultural milieu and with a different language. The strength of character of the refugee women, their resourcefulness and determination to make a new life for themselves is to be admired and remembered. Similarly, the success of the ESRC was due in no small measure to the humanitarianism of Holly and the 19 committee members who devoted themselves to the welfare and rescue of their European counterparts, providing them with a truly supportive network. It certainly fulfilled the objective set out in the IFUW's charter, which was 'to promote understanding and goodwill between university women of all nations, regardless of race, religion or political creed' (Nash, 1985).

By March 1950, the work of the refugee subcommittee had drawn to a close. Most of the graduates in Britain had acquired citizenship, and the term 'refugee' no longer

applied. This was not the end of the story though, for the BFUW continued to work closely with the IFUW Relief Committee and its convenor, Dr Hegg-Hoffet, and with the British Council for Aid to Refugees, founded in 1950, providing advice, introductions and friendly support. The plight of graduate women in the displaced persons' camps in Europe was of particular concern and led to collaboration between Holly and Dr Hegg-Hoffet in supporting many who came to settle in England, by giving them 'the very special encouragement and comfort which friendship with women of their own kind could bring'. The Hegg-Hoffet Fund for Displaced Women Graduates, established in 1936 as the IFUW Emergency Fund, continues to support academic women refugees from countries such as Sudan, Colombia, Pakistan, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia and Afghanistan.

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## NEWS AND NOTES

Contributions to the 'News and notes' column should be sent to: Amit Malik MRCPsych, Consultant Psychiatrist, Hampshire Partnership NHS Trust, UK, email ip@rcpsych.ac.uk

## Royal College of Psychiatrists' International Congress, 21–24 June 2010, Edinburgh EICC

This year's theme, 'Advancing Science', is inspired by Robert Burns (1759–96), who wrote in 'Address to Edinburgh':

There learning, with his eagle eyes,  
Seeks Science in her coy abode.

Over 200 years on, and learning still seeks out science in the beautiful city of Edinburgh. The President, Professor Bhugra, opens the Congress with a plenary talk. He has stated that the Royal College of Psychiatrists' goal is 'to be at the forefront in setting and achieving the highest standards through education, training and research. We lead the way in developing excellence and promoting best practice in mental health services'. The International Congress programme was designed with these inspirational aims in mind, to be of the highest quality. The Congress offers the opportunity to update learning, knowledge and skills and to seek out international experts from across the breadth of psychiatry.

This year's programme has moved away from the Institute Days of previous years and towards topic-based streams and

the inclusion of training courses. All training courses and refreshments are included in the Congress fee, as is media training, access to the Psychiatrists' Support Service and attendance at the Welcome Reception.

A broad range of topics are covered, including streams on: psychosis, mood disorders, psychopharmacology, clinical skills, communication skills, and neurodevelopment.

Training courses at the Congress include: treatment-resistant psychosis (run by the Maudsley Hospital's National Psychosis Unit, London); core clinical skills in neuropsychiatry (run by Dr Alan Carson, Edinburgh); appraisal and revalidation; and a physical health update training course for psychiatrists (the last two are brought via the College Education and Training Centre).

We have retained the ever-popular morning and lunch-time plenary sessions. It is impossible to mention all of our excellent plenary speakers here, so to list but a few: Mr John Bowis, MEP for London, talking about the future of psychiatry in Europe; Professor Max Fink, from the USA, giving a talk entitled 'The enigma of ECT: its Darwinian survival'; Professor Ramachandran, from India, and Professor Munk-Jorgensen, from Denmark, speaking on the physical health needs of patients with a mental illness; and Professor Bailey, from England, talking about families ('The elephant in and out of

the room'). Professor Goldberg will update us on DSM-V and ICD-11. The Blake Marsh lecture is to be given by Professor Baron-Cohen on 'The fetal testosterone theory of autism'. The POP Club lecturer this year is Professor Bird, from the Wellcome Trust Centre for Cell Biology in Edinburgh.

## Free online access to *Evidence-Based Mental Health*

*Evidence-Based Mental Health* is a digest of the most important clinical research of relevance to mental health professionals. Reading *EBMH* is the equivalent of reading around 25000 articles from over 50 journals each year. The College has now arranged for members to be able to access this important resource online free of charge via the members' area of the College website. The journal, co-published by the College with the British Medical Association and the British Psychological Society, surveys a wide range of international medical journals, applying strict criteria for the quality, validity and clinical relevance of research. Practising clinicians present the key details of the best studies in a succinct, informative abstract with an expert commentary on its clinical application.

Members will also be able to subscribe to the print edition for the vastly reduced price of just £10. This offer will be available shortly. If you would like to be sent details at no obligation please register your interest at <http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/publications/journals/ebmhinfol1.aspx>

## College a certified member of the Information Standard

The Royal College of Psychiatrists has been certified as a quality provider of health and social care information by the Information Standard – a new certification scheme for health and social care information. The College has demonstrated that it has the necessary processes and systems to ensure its information meets the rigorous quality criteria of the Information Standard. It has consequently been awarded the Information Standard quality mark, which it can display on its information materials as a mark of quality and reassurance for the public.

The College has been producing mental health information for almost 20 years. Its award-winning leaflets provide evidence-based information on common mental health problems and treatments, and are used by millions of people in the UK and worldwide. The College is delighted to be recognised as a quality provider of information. It means that people can be confident that the information produced by the College is always reliable and up to date.

Many of the College's leaflets have been translated into 14 different languages, from Arabic to Welsh. The College is lucky to have members and staff from all over the world who have been keen to help in this complicated task. These translations mean that user-friendly and evidence-based information can be easily accessed by people in more than 200 countries around the world. The College has been working closely with the Department of Psychiatry at the Aga Khan University Karachi in translating materials into Urdu, and

Castle Peak Hospital in Hong Kong for Chinese translations. The College is also grateful to St Andrew's Healthcare, which has donated funds to enable the College to translate many of these materials into languages where members have not been forthcoming in taking this important work forward. If you are interested in working with the Public Education Editorial Board in this capacity, please email [dhart@rcpsych.ac.uk](mailto:dhart@rcpsych.ac.uk).

## Department of Health launches the International Health Advisory Board

In November 2009 Professor Hamid Ghodse was appointed the inaugural Chair of the International Health Advisory Board. The new Board will support the Chief Medical Officer in his capacity as Chief Medical Advisor to the UK government on areas of international health, led by the Department of Health. Its work will include acting as a source of independent, expert advice, establishing a network of expertise and raising the profile of the work on international health undertaken with the Department of Health.

Professor Ghodse said:

Many of today's health issues need to be considered in an international context and it is essential that the UK plays a full role in the relevant international forums, both learning from the experience of others and making an effective contribution based on 60 years' experience of a National Health Service and acknowledged expertise in research and policy analysis. I feel honoured to have been given the opportunity to lead the new International Health Advisory Board.

Professor Ghodse CBE is a world leader in international drug policy and addictions, Director of the International Centre for Drug Policy based at St George's, University of London, immediate past President of the United Nations International Narcotics Control Board, past Director of International Affairs of the Royal College of Psychiatrists and current Editor of *International Psychiatry*. He has also recently been elected to International Fellowship of the American Psychiatric Association and will receive his medallion at the Distinguished Fellows Convocation in New Orleans in May 2010.

Congratulations to Professor Richard Williams, TD, Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, Aneurin Bevan Health Board, who was awarded an OBE for services to medicine. Professor Williams has been the Professor of Mental Health Strategy in the University of Glamorgan and a consultant child and adolescent psychiatrist in the Gwent Healthcare NHS Trust since 1998. Much of his research relates to workforce development and user and carer participation in service design. He has published widely on matters relating to healthcare strategy and evidence-based and value-based service design, and on strategic approaches to developing child and adolescent mental health services. He has a special interest in the physical and psychological impacts of trauma, conflict and post-conflict recovery.