



Another year gone – goes to show how time flies when one is having fun. It has been a remarkable, truly exciting year for psychiatry and psychiatrists for all. The College has had a productive year on many fronts. Both nationally and internationally, we have seen signs of flourishing of the profession. We started clinical examinations in Hong Kong this year and the Dean will report on that. The College membership continues to grow.

Having published the updated Strategic Plan the Awards established in 2009 and at an exciting ceremony in London in October, trainees, teams and lifetime achievement awards were handed over in the presence of the National Director for Mental Health; Professor Louis Appleby and the then Minister of State for Care Services, Phil Hope. This year's awards are being judged as we speak with a new award for CAMHS provider. The award for lifetime achievement award goes to Professor Sir Michael Rutter this year.

President's Medals were established this year. This new initiative honours individuals who have made an excellent and overwhelming contribution to psychiatry. Eight outstanding individuals will receive these medals tomorrow; they are:

As you can see, they come from wide and varied fields but their contributions have been truly stunning. I am grateful to them for accepting this honour which is also a privilege for the College.

Economic Downturn report:

Thinking proactively in September, we had a joint meeting with the London School of Economics and NHS Confederation for employers to investigate what specific issues the profession needs to explore in order to deal with potential cuts in the times of economic downturn. Representatives from the Royal College of Nursing, British Psychological Society, British Association of Social Workers and College of Occupational Therapists were a key part of the day. One of the major recommendations was for the College to lead on looking at service redesign. A task and finish group under the chairmanship of John Bowis; an Honorary fellow of the College, was set up - more about that report shortly.

The Election Manifesto:

The College Council participated actively in developing the College's 4 point manifesto. As you will see, these were to do with no harmful cuts, early interventions, increased research funding and public mental health. Although a few members responded by saying that the College had no business being political, I disagree strongly. As representatives of the profession, if we do not raise these

issues, no one else is likely to. We sent copies to large numbers of candidates, sitting MPs and other interested parties. We had considerable positive feedback and as a result, have been invited to meet many MPs. This also reflects on what individual members should be doing locally. Many MPs want to meet their constituents and professionals to learn about mental illness and related issues.

The Role of the Psychiatrist:

As part of the Professionalism agenda the college Council revisited the Role of the Psychiatrist. This is an evolving document and copies are available from the Publications Department. Please feel free to read and comment on it so that we can continually monitor the role of the psychiatrist in changing circumstances. This will lead to Psychiatry's Contract with Society next year.

Service Redesign Report:

A copy of this report is also in your delegate pack and the recommendations have come about following detailed discussions with a large number of stakeholders. From service redesign to evidence based clinical practice to quality and efficient provision, my fervent hope is that this document will be read and used widely. My role as Training and Education Lead of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges I co-chair Medical Programme Board and sit on MEE. I have been on the Review Panel of the Foundation Training Programme, chaired by John Collins and the report will be ready within the next month or so. The Academy has agreed for our College to host a web-based forum on physical and mental health with active participation from RCGP, RCOG, RCPCH, RCPE and RCSE and Faculty of Public Health. I have asked Professor Linda Gask to lead on this and she has very kindly agreed to do this.

None of this would have been possible without help and support of the Officers and the College staff ably led by Vanessa Cameron. My thanks and I look forward to another exciting year ahead.

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