

Dear Member,

Welcome to this latest edition of the Spirituality and Psychiatry Newsletter, No. 23, July 2007. In this issue we have papers given at two meetings of the SIG.

The first papers are from the programme held on March 9th at the College on 'Suffering – what is the point of it all?' Our thanks go to the speakers, Brni. Sumati Chaitanya and Dr. Larry Culliford for making their texts available and mine, too, is included here.

Secondly, we have the papers from the first joint meeting between the Spirituality SIG and the Philosophy SIG, which held a programme on 'Body and Spirit' on May 4th, with texts from Professors Philip van der Eijk, Eric Matthews and Pali Hungin, and Dr. Paramabandhu Groves and we are grateful to them for their searching contributions. Our special thanks too, to the organisers from each SIG, Professor Chris Cook and Dr. Julian Hughes, without whose hard work this inaugural event could not have taken place.

At the College Annual Meeting in Edinburgh, June 2007, the SIG contributed a programme on 'Psychotic episode or spiritual emergency? The transformative potential of psychosis in recovery'. Dr. Nicki Crowley spoke on 'Psychotic Episode or Spiritual Emergency? a Transpersonal perspective', Ms. Sarah Sourials on 'Expert by experience: a brief psychotic episode caused by a Kundalini spiritual awakening' and Dr. Tim Read on 'Transpersonal psychiatry'. The talks were enthusiastically received by a full house and the texts will be reproduced in the December Newsletter. In addition, a packed workshop on 'Keeping the Body and Mind together: Meditation made simple' was once again led by Dr. Sarah Egger and Dr. Larry Culliford.

Our next programme for SIG members will be on November 2nd at the College, 'Spirituality and Psychopathology', held in association with the Dutch Foundation for Psychiatry and Religion, and details can be found in this Newsletter. There will be fewer places than usual available since the Dutch delegation will be in attendance, so if you are interested in coming, please ensure that you book early on the application form with the next News and Notes, which will be coming to you shortly.

May I draw your attention to our Webpage, on which notice of the SIG Essay Prize is given? The Executive has clarified the aim of the Essay Prize in order to provide candidates with more detailed guidance for submissions.

As always, I would like to encourage you to let me have any articles you have written that you would like to see published on our Website, as Word or rtf files to sduncan@rcpsych.ac.uk and headed 'for the attention of Dr. Andrew Powell'.

With best wishes,
Andrew Powell (editor)