

Dear Member,

We are fortunate to have an excellent set of contributions for Newsletter No. 7, which I hope you will enjoy at your leisure. Apart from the talks given at our meetings, it is good to be able to include other articles of interest. Please do write in if you have something you would like to offer, or views you feel like sharing, to sduncan@rcpsych.ac.uk.

For your diaries, note our open joint meeting with the psychiatry section of the RSM on 14th May on 'The **Place of Spirituality in Psychiatry**' (see Newsletter No. 6 or contact Ruth Cloves, psychiatry secretary at the RSM, tel. 0207 290 2985). Details of the next one-day programme at the College on 5th July, on '**Integrating Mind and Body - Psycho-spiritual Therapeutics**' are to be found in this Newsletter, and we can now give advance notice of our autumn one-day meeting, which will be on November 1st, entitled '**Pathways to Peace – East meets West**'.

We record with great sorrow the sudden and untimely passing Professor David Larson, President of the International Centre for the Integration of Health and Spirituality (<http://www.icihs.org>). We have been indebted to Dave for his encouragement and support of our Spirituality Group activities. Indeed, Dave contributed two invaluable papers to our Website (Newsletters No. 5. and 6. on this Website) on research findings in the field of physical and mental health and spirituality/religion.

Dave was a pioneering presence in the field over two decades, having been a senior researcher at NIH and NIMH and adjunct professor at Duke University and Northwestern University Medical School, Chicago. With the generous support of his publishers, we shall be including one of Dave's last papers, 'The Patient's Spiritual/Religious Dimension: A Forgotten Factor in Mental Health', published in November last year in *Directions in Psychiatry* on our Website. Our heartfelt condolences go to Dave's wife, Susan, his family and many friends.

Work continues apace on our submissions to the College for the first revision of the new curriculum for Basic Specialist Training and the MRCPsych. Examination, as well as the Draft CCST Competencies in Psychiatry. Both these comprehensive documents are shaping the climate and content of training in psychiatry in the UK; particularly in the light of the strong evidence base correlating spirituality and mental health, we are concerned to provide effective input to these important educational developments.

With best wishes,

Andrew Powell, Chair