

Dear Member,

Welcome to this latest edition of the Spirituality and Psychiatry Newsletter, No. 24, December 2007. In this issue we have papers given at two meetings of the SIG. The first are from the SIG programme held at the College Annual Meeting in Edinburgh. Our thanks go to the speakers, Sarah Sourial, Dr. Nicki Crowley and Dr. Tim Read, for making their texts available for the Newsletter.

Secondly, we have the papers from a meeting of the Spirituality SIG at the Royal College, which held a programme on 'Spirituality and Psychopathology' on November 2nd in association with the Dutch Foundation for Psychiatry and Religion. Our grateful thanks too, to the three speakers, Professor Andrew Sims, Dr. Simon Dein and Dr. Peter Verhagen, who have kindly made the texts of their talks available to us.

Our next programme for SIG members will be on February 29th at the Society of Chemical Industry, 15 Belgrave Square, on 'Researching Spirituality: Paradigms and Empirical Findings'. Cutting-edge research will be presented, about which further details can be found in this Newsletter and in the current issue of News and Notes for SIG members.

We have been only too aware of the shortage of space at recent meetings held at the College and now we have been advised that the Warren Suite is no longer available to us for meetings. We are researching alternative venues that will have the advantage of more space, although costs will inevitably rise. However, we are keeping the registration fee for the next meeting down to £50. Please take advantage of this new facility and book early – in the usual way, through News and Notes, which is circulated to the SIG membership. Good attendance at meetings will ensure minimum future registration costs.

The Executive welcomes a new member, Dr. Simon Dein, to its number. Dr. Coughlin is standing down – our warm thanks to her for the generous help she has given to the committee since its inception in 1999.

We have been notified by Professor Alexander Moreira-Almeida of the publication of a special issue (in English) of the Brazilian Journal of Clinical Psychiatry on 'Spirituality and Health', with 18 papers, including contributions by Harold Koenig, Stanley Krippner, Bruce Greyson and Ian Stevenson. The link is <http://www.hcnet.usp.br/ipq/revista/vol34/s1/en/index.html>

Notice of the SIG Essay Prize is given on our Webpage. The Executive has clarified the aim of the Essay Prize in order to provide candidates with more detailed guidance for submissions. May I remind those interested in submitting an essay to do so before the closing date of December 31st.

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)