

Dear Member,

Welcome to this latest edition of the Spirituality and Psychiatry Newsletter, No. 15, July 2004.

You may have noticed that the College Website as a whole is being updated. There are now with drop down menus and access to our home page is now also obtainable from the shorter address of www.rcpsych.ac.uk/spirit

The Special Interest Group hosted a one-day conference on '**Beyond Death: Does Consciousness Survive?**' at Kings College Hospital on 16 April 2004. Over 300 delegates attended including more than a hundred psychiatrists. The texts of the talks can be found in the Newsletter, along with a report of the event by Dr. Julian Candy. Our warm thanks go to the speakers for making them available. Tapes / CDs of the talks can also be obtained from 'Conference Cassettes', email confcass@lineone.net or Tel: 01453 766411.

As well as the occasion being stimulating and enjoyable (feedback was very positively rated), we have made a substantial profit to go towards our SIG funds. Special thanks must go to Dr. Peter Fenwick and Dr. Nicki Crowley for their hard work as organisers. We hope this will be the first in a series of conferences to be hosted by the SIG that will be of interest to both the profession and the wider public.

Also in this Newsletter, you will find news of a new training initiative on 'Values in Healthcare', which is to be launched in September, the culmination of four years planning and research by the Janki Foundation. Dr. Sarah Egger, a member of the SIG Executive, has played a key role in this groundbreaking project. The Values programme will be promoted in Medical Schools, in nurse training, and in local Trusts and we hope you will agree that the implications for the improved quality of healthcare could be far-reaching indeed.

The Journal of Mental Health, Religion and Culture have generously offered members of the SIG a greatly discounted subscription rate of only £30 per annum. Further information about the journal is included in this Newsletter.

Apart from the SIG's active involvement in the College Annual Meeting in Harrogate, on which we shall be reporting in the Autumn Newsletter, our next one-day programme for members of the SIG will be on October 22nd, on the theme of suicide. Programme details are enclosed. This most difficult of clinical concerns deserves close attention from a spiritual perspective and we hope that you will be moved to take part and contribute your thoughts and clinical experience. To apply, either return the printed application form in your copy of News and Notes, or contact Sue Duncan direct at the College.

With best wishes,

Andrew Powell (editor)