

RCPsych Special Interest Groups
Annual reports to Council
2010



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ADOLESCENT FORENSIC PSYCHIATRY SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

2010 ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL

This year has been one of significant change for our SIG. I took over as chair from Peter Misch, who had given many years of valuable service to the cause. I am well supported by Richard Church as finance officer.

Both Richard and myself stood for election on a platform of **prioritising the needs of existing and prospective trainees in this sub-speciality field**. There is a dichotomy around which training route to follow for those who want to pursue a career in this area- essentially, whether to pursue the equivalent of dual training as-was or whether to engage in a degree of add-on training sufficient to allow one to deliver a service in this field.

Our first task was to completely update the AFPSIG webspace and I think we have partially achieved our aim- we still have work to do, however, especially around **developing a directory for trainees** of potential training opportunities within the adolescent forensic psychiatry community across the United Kingdom.

Richard and myself are very grateful to Dheeraj Chaudary who has recently volunteered to produce our **newsletter** and we aim to have this as both an electronic and paper-based mail-out to the membership of the SIG during 2010 . No newsletter has been produced for some years and we hope it will make the large membership feel more included in our work.

The SIG hosted a well attended **workshop at the 2010 Forensic Faculty** meeting in Dublin. Around 20 members attended to hear three senior trainees from around the country outline their career paths into adolescent forensic psychiatry. The workshop concluded with a round-table discussion which centred around what skills people need to acquire and how they go about acquiring these skills at a time when dual-training seems to be but one option that not everybody can, or needs to, pursue.

On 12 March 2011, **AFPSIG will host a one day event** at RCPSYCH to build on the training agenda. We have planned a programme of lectures and workshops around topics relevant to adolescent forensic trainees.

The SIG continues to run with a small budget surplus. Dr Church has filed a Finance Officers report at College.

PHILIP COLLINS, CHAIR

01 June, 2010

Annual Report from the Forensic Psychotherapy SIG

June 2010

Introduction:

The Forensic Psychotherapy SIG was formed in September 2007 and this is the third annual report. Dr Carine Minne remains as Chairperson, Dr David Reiss, Secretary, Dr Guy Hillman, Treasurer (previously Dr Brian Darnley) and Dr Ravi Lingam represents the interests of regional members. Dr Gabriel Kirtchuk, in his capacity as Lead Clinician for the National Reference Strategy Group for the development and training of forensic psychotherapy, also sits on this SIG committee. The committee meets termly.

Activities during 2009 – 2010

This SIG was represented at the following national and international conferences and meetings/courses:

- Forensic Psychotherapy Summer School, lead organizer, Dr Gabriel Kirtchuk (for SpRs in Forensic Psychotherapy, Forensic Psychiatry and Psychotherapy), Oxford, September 2009 – theme – Boundary Violations.
- Forensic Psychotherapy SIG Film Event, Royal College, December 2009 – a film evening, followed by discussion of the themes of pathological forms of bereavement, with the film director Carine Adler and Psychotherapist Estela Welldon.
- 2nd OPD international conference, Heidelberg, October 2009 – SIG representation from Dr Matthias von der Tann who gave an overview of the developing forensic OPD module and Drs Reiss and Kirtchuk's development of the Interpersonal Dynamics work in forensic in-patient settings.
- Forensic Psychiatry Faculty annual conference, Dublin, February 2010 where colleagues working in forensic psychotherapy held a very well attended and well received morning session, focused on using MBT with ASPD patients and considering attachment difficulties (Drs Yakeley and Williams and Mc Gauley).
- International Association for Forensic Psychotherapy, Oxford, March 2010 – several SIG members presented papers at this annual international conference, this year's theme being 'Narratives'.
- European Psychoanalytic Federation annual conference, London, March 2010 – Drs Sohn and Minne presented the long term continuity of psychotherapy work with forensic psychiatry patients in different levels of security.
- International Psychoanalytic Conference, Belfast, May 2010 – theme 'Aggression: from fantasy to action'. Dr Minne presented a plenary paper around psychotherapeutic work with forensic psychiatry patients to illustrate the theme and offer theoretical perspectives.
- Dr Richard Lucas memorial day conference: London, May 2010. Lead organizer, Dr Ronald Doctor, in association with the College, the APP and the BPAS. This was attended by several SIG members in honour of Dr Richard Lucas and Drs

Sohn and Minne gave papers. Dr Lucas' wonderful book, *The Psychotic Wavelength* (foreword by Dr Minne) was launched.

- Dr Ravi Lingam organized a series of day-long workshops in forensic psychotherapy, to mental health professionals working in a variety of settings, in Newcastle where presenters included Mr John Gordon, Dr Gabriel Kirtchuk, Mr Stan Ruszczyński – theme – 'working with dangerousness and perversions'.
- Winchester Conference (Southampton Counselling and Therapy centre), May 2010 – theme – 'Keeping Baby P in Mind'. Dr Minne contributed a paper.
- Dr Darnley and now Dr Hillman organized the bi-annual national SpR/ST4-6 meetings for those trainees in forensic psychotherapy, including organizational consultant experience with particular focus on forensic psychiatry settings including those in the community.
- The first SIG in forensic psychotherapy newsletter (Dr Darnley) was produced in the autumn 2009.

Future Activities Planned:

RCPsych Annual General Meeting, Edinburgh, June 2010 – Drs Reiss and Kirtchuk present a workshop on Interpersonal Dynamics (ID) in the Everyday Practice of a Forensic Unit, chaired by Dr Matthias von der Tann, Operational Psychodynamic Diagnostic (OPD) UK coordinator, and a symposium involving 3 papers on 'ID: a significant contribution to improving risk assessment and management', chaired by Dr Ian Treasaden, Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist.

An SIG cultural event – July 2010 – Tosca, ENO – an opera evening involving later discussions around the themes of whether Scarpia is a psychopath or if Tosca is histrionic or borderline and whether the main themes are around morbid jealousy or loss of self-esteem?

A Neuro-scientific event for the SIG in autumn 2010, presenter, Professor Gerd Roth (Bremen University Brain researcher)– theme – which aspects of the brain are involved in aggression, pathological and non-pathological? This will be held jointly with a clinical presentation.

A further film event is also planned for the autumn given the success of the first.

Further News:

A new MSc and PG Dip in Psychotherapeutic Approaches in Mental Health starts in October 2010, based at Ealing, WLMHT, organizers, Dr David Reiss and Dr Gabriel Kirtchuk, focusing on developing skills in treating complex cases and PD patients in generic and forensic settings.

Dr Carine Minne, Chair, Forensic Psychotherapy SIG, June 2010

2010



LESBIAN & GAY SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP
ROYAL COLLEGE OF PSYCHIATRISTS

Annual Report 2009-2010
ACTIVITIES OVER THE LAST YEAR

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held on 3 June 2009, at the Royal College of Psychiatrists' Annual General Meeting at the BT Conference Centre Liverpool. Michael King was elected as Chair, and Sandra Evans was elected as Finance Officer, both unopposed. Attendance at the AGM was poor and possible reasons for this were discussed. It was felt that the SIG member's views of the SIG and its activities would be helpful in determining the future direction of the SIG.

Academic Contributions

The SIG contributed to three sessions at the Royal College of Psychiatrists' Annual General Meeting at the BT Conference Centre Liverpool, on 3 June 2009:

Therapies that claim to change sex orientation – historical and current perspectives. This was chaired by Michael King.

11.30 – 12.45: Cultural Competence: This was chaired by Sandra Evans.

16.15-17.30: Workshop on cultural competence.

Sandra Evans was a co-facilitator.

All three events were well received.

College Position Statement on Sexual Orientation

The SIG had been planning to have a joint meeting the BPS, BACP and UKCP to draft and issue a joint statement of reparative therapy. However, following the issuing of the College Position Statement re Sexual Orientation, in February of this year, and the other organisations having issued similar position statements, it was decided that there was no longer the need for such a meeting. Members of the SIG contributed to the Position Statement. http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/pdf/PS01_2010x.pdf

Survey of Membership

A survey of members, drafted by the SIG, is currently being undertaken, with questionnaires having been circulated in May. It was the view of the SIG Executive Committee that little was known about the membership of the group and how the executive could engage the

members more actively. Areas covered by the survey include: members' opinions of the aims of the group,
members' participation in academic activities organised by the SIG,
members' attendance at SIG AGM meetings,
and member's personal sexual orientation and any difficulties in the workplace relating to this.

The results of this survey will be reported in next year's Annual Report.

DoH Standards on high risk groups of suicide

Members of the group commented on these standards, as there no mention of gay, lesbian and bisexual service users.

Training package on the needs of GLB Service Users

This remains available to organisations wanting to use this as part of their diversity training. Training can be delivered by some members of the SIG. The training package is being modified to be a CPD online module.

Media Stories

The SIG issued a press statement in April 2009 expressing concern about organisations Claiming that they could provide therapy to help gay, lesbian and bisexual people to change their sexual orientation.

Website

The layout of the website has been recently updated. The SIG Executive Committee is of the opinion the website also serves a public information function. Consequently additional links to websites that would be of interest to the general public, have been added.

Finances

Current balance: £979.06. The only income source is academic meetings and the training package.

Executive Committee

Michael King was elected Chair of the SIG at the AGM held in Liverpool on 3 June 2009. Other members of the executive committee are Sandra Evans (finance officer), Luke Mearns, Helen Killaspy, Shawn Mitchell, Gian Galeazza and Steve Hopker.

Shawn Mitchell
06 June 2010

ANNUAL REPORT

MANAGEMENT SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

TO THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MAY 2010

This year has again been very productive and rewarding and has helped consolidate ideas and development for the future of this committee.

The executive committee has grown in numbers helping us to drive our ambitions and continue promoting the ethos of management. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Dr Deucher and Dr Kalakala and Dr Adamou.

We, as a group, have a clear vision that the relevance of management in our day to day work is paramount. The skill of management and leading remains essential at all stages of training and personal development and we have encouraged psychiatrist and trainees to be more active in their local and regional divisions.

The main achievement this year has been the release of two Newsletters which has been widely circulated marketing and highlighting various interesting articles related to management and its sciences.

The feedback we have received from participants has been very encouraging. Dr D Chaudhry, our editor, remains committed to continue the same in the future.

Dr Kalakala has taken on the role as a web page editor and has incorporated useful links and articles relevant for future development. He promises to make this a useful resource and we expect being updated on a very regular basis. It is hoped that future materials would be relevant to all individuals and not necessarily members only.

More recently the MSIG has been working with the Royal College with a committee headed by Dr Frank Holloway in providing a report and resource information booklet for doctors interested in management in non-managerial posts.

This year the MSIG has again remained keen in developing workshops and seminars. However, due to anticipated changes or mergers with groups and parties interested in management within the College, this event has been postponed.

In the end, on behalf of the whole executive committee I would like to thank Officers of the College and every member and individual who has supported and encouraged us throughout this time.

Dr Venkat Chetan Reddy Majjiga
Chair of the Management of Psychiatry (SIG)

**2009 -2010 Report of the
Mental Health Informatics Special Interest Group (MHISIG)
to the Council of the Royal College of Psychiatrists**

The MHISIG has been focusing on three areas during the period 2009-2010. Firstly the group is organising a session on Time Management at the AGM with three speakers from the executive committee with the aim of outlining IT skills that will be helpful for members in their work. Secondly the Connect newsletter is being relaunched under the leadership of new editor Dr Himanshu Tiyagi and it is hoped that this will be helpful in providing part of the necessary infrastructure for engaging with the membership. Thirdly the group is in the process of organising a conference with the help of Dr Martin Elphick with a further focus on information infrastructures within the College.

The following is the committee structure:

Chair –	Dr Justin Marley
Treasurer –	Dr Omer Moghraby
Secretary -	Dr Prashant Kukkadapu
Publications –	Dr Himanshu Tiyagi, Dr Fionnbar Lenihan & Dr Matthew Evans
Website –	Dr Himanshu Tiyagi
Imm.Past Chair -	Dr Zia Nadeem

The MHISIG AGM is to be held at the College summer annual meeting.

Finances (for the period 1/1/09 to 30/04/10):

Opening balance	01/01/09	£4082.70
Closing balance	30/04/10	£4082.70

Approval for the spending of £1000 on the conference on information infrastructure has been agreed although nothing has been spent yet.

Conference Report:

Discussions and preparation are ongoing regarding a forthcoming conference.

Speaker Session at the College AGM:

This has now become a regular feature as a joint activity between MHISIG and Informatics committee. The session will focus on Time Management.

Workshops Report:

Again no workshops have been planned for the AGM this year. Previous years have resulted in positive feedback and historically there has been great interest in these workshops at previous conferences. There will be ongoing discussion as there may be a place for such workshops at future conferences with demands shifting with the advent of new technologies and working practices.

Publications Report:

An electronic version of the newsletter is being considered, instead of the printed newsletters.

Educational activities:

See Speaker Session. Once issues around infrastructure have been successfully addressed we will be in a better position to approach educational activities.

Discussion List/Forum:

A joint discussion list (Yahoogroup) was set up between the Informatics Subcommittee of the College and MHISIG and is called 'Mental Health Informatics'. This continues to be used for discussions. We have also had a series of online meetings, effective given the geographical separation of the executive membership. The possibility of offline meetings through the year will also be discussed at the forthcoming AGM.

Future Directions:

It is intended that the newsletter will facilitate engagement with the membership and that the pending conference will further facilitate information flow between the group and membership as well as in relevant and necessary areas. .

Dr Justin Marley
Chair
MHISIG Committee

**Royal College of Psychiatrists
Philosophy Special Interest Group
Annual Report to Council: June 2010**

The Philosophy Special Interest Group (SIG) remains active on several fronts. Our most recent annual committee meeting took place in the College on April 16th 2010 and we have a business meeting planned at the Royal College International Meeting in Edinburgh in June.

Our finances remain in good order and have benefitted from the hard work of Dr David Foreman, who took up the post of treasurer to the SIG in July 2009. We are keen to utilize any funding we do have to further our academic and educational goals in bringing philosophy to bear practical fruit for psychiatry. Current plans under review include the sponsoring a College Prize, funding junior philosophers and psychiatrists to attend academic meetings in the UK, generating CPD resources, and supporting research where philosophy interacts in a meaningful way with clinical and empirical research in psychiatry. Regional groups may fluctuate in their activities depending on the enthusiasm of individuals. There are, however, two groups that have continued to thrive and with whom the SIG retains close contact. First, the Scottish Group has succeeded in mounting an annual conference for the whole of Scotland with great success. There are also more frequent local meetings. The group has been deftly led by Dr David Findlay, but more recently Dr John Callander has taken over the reins. Secondly, the Maudsley Philosophy Group also remains very active. It is now a charitable trust with an income; and has been able to attract an array of acclaimed speakers including Raymond Tallis, Roger Scruton, Tim Crane, John Gray, and Mary Warnock at their monthly meetings. The group additionally has a research focus and some of its members are currently co-editing 'The Maudsley Reader in Phenomenological Psychiatry', the manuscript of which is to be submitted to CUP in August 2010. Additionally, groups in Birmingham, Nottingham, and Coventry and Warwickshire remain active and hold regular meetings. With colleagues in psychiatry in Newcastle and philosophy in Durham, a NE hub for philosophy of psychiatry is coalescing and we are particularly pleased to note that Matthew Ratcliffe, a long-time ally of philosophy of psychiatry, has been made Professor of Philosophy at Durham and subsequently Head of Department. Although not a UK group, we have continued our links with an emerging similar group in Bulgaria. Dr Drozdostoj Stoyanov has introduced us to the Balkan Association of History and Philosophy of Medicine, which we have been able to encourage, and Dr Stoyanov has enthusiastically set up links with the SIG. We are fortunate to have Dr Stoyanov as part of the SIG committee.

The Philosophy SIG continues to arrange and support a variety of symposia, meetings and conferences. At the 2009 College AGM there was a symposium around the topic of 'Psychiatry as Cognitive Neuroscience' that attracted 90+ delegates and we, as a SIG, continue to support activities by the WPA and EPA. The SIG has two sessions at the next Royal College International Meeting, one devoted to personality disorders and one to psychosis. We are supporting the forthcoming INPP conference in Manchester and several of our members are invited speakers.

Additionally, there have been successful one-day events that the SIG has been involved in: an upcoming workshop on mental illness and religion in June 2010, held at the University of Birmingham, and a philosophy and history of psychiatry conference held at St Cross College, at the University of Oxford in March 2010. The SIG also co-organized the RD Laing conference, held in October 2009 and planning a joint meeting with the British Psychological Society. Importantly, together with the Maudsley Philosophy Group, members of the SIG committee hosted a session for the IoP Summer School, held in July in 2009. This is an important initiative by the Academic Faculty of the College that the SIG supports wholeheartedly and is aimed at interesting medical students in psychiatry and giving them some understanding of the academic and research activity that goes on within the speciality. We hope that members of the SIG in the West Midlands will be able to support a similar initiative by the School of psychiatry there. Members of the SIG committee have continued to contribute to developments in the curriculum and as mentioned above, we are currently working on developing CPD on-line materials, as well as CASC questions for the exam. Additionally, several of the members of the committee are involved in practical teaching innovations with both undergraduates and postgraduates. We are also planning to carry out some research into how much philosophy and ethics are being taught in both undergraduate and MRCPsych curricula: data collection is currently underway. We continue to publish a newsletter of the SIG's activities, edited by Dr Julian Hughes and Dr Abdi Sanati, and have been able to send this to SIG members bi-annually, and have an active and updated website, maintained by Dr Michael Yousif, and linked to several national and international associations. The SIG continues to maintain its links with the international journal *Philosophy, Psychiatry, & Psychology*. Similarly, a number of members of the SIG have contributed to the enormously successful Oxford University Press series *International Perspectives in Philosophy and Psychiatry*. A recent publication involving members of the SIG is 'Psychiatry as cognitive neuroscience: philosophical perspectives', edited by Broome and Bortolotti, was nominated in the Observer as one of the 'books of the year' in 2009. In terms of future plans, Professor Fulford and Dr Broome are currently working on an 'Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Psychiatry'. In April 2010 Dr Matthew Broome continued the role of chair, and Dr David Foreman as treasurer. Dr Dave stepped down as secretary and we are delighted that Dr John Callender has taken the position in his stead. Dr Andy Hamilton and Prof Matthews have stood down from the committee and we are pleased to welcome Dr Afzal Javed (Coventry and Warwickshire) and Dr Ben Smith (University of Durham) to the committee. Prof Eric Matthews is Emeritus Professor of Philosophy at Aberdeen and the SIG recognise his deep and lasting influence on psychiatry and medicine and to that end, together with colleagues in Aberdeen, we are currently organizing a conference in honour of Eric's great contribution.

Dr Matthew Broome MRCPsych PhD

Chair

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Private and Independent Practice Special Interest Group Annual Report Central Executive Committee 2010

Whereas revalidation and appraisal were the dominant themes of 2009, 2010 will focus attention on communications within this group. The group has a putative membership of fifteen hundred. To date very few of the group members have taken part in the group's activities. The group therefore has relied on a very few members to provide a large amount of activity which is required to fulfil the groups objectives. 2010 therefore will be the year when further attempts will be made to draw the group together and maximise the contribution that can be made by the membership to college activities and the college's objectives. 2010 therefore will be a crucial year for the group and the measure of success will be if more of the group members are taking part in more college affairs.

A discussion forum has been set up to encourage members to become more active in the group's activities and this has started with modest success on its first outing. More forum sessions are planned for 2010.

- The issues being tackled in the forum are:
- Appraisal and revalidation
- Standards of care in the independence sector
- Evidence based treatments in the independent sector
- Influencing college committees
- Development of the independent sector point of view in the regional committees.

At the Edinburgh meeting the committee structure will be completed with elections held. Increasing numbers of college members will appear to be getting in touch with the group through the new communication method to try and have their questions answered about how to be involved with the independent sector and how they should relate to the college and professional colleagues while working from the independent sector. 2010 will see the services through PIPSIG to these members improved.

For 2011 we would hope to have four meetings in the year with groups within the special interest groups covering general adult psychiatry, forensic, services for the elderly with the appropriate representation in each of the faculties. Private and independent practice, portfolio careers and the establishment of independent psychiatric services providers are continuing to expand. PIPSIG will continue to play an important role in supporting standards, disseminating good practice and continuing to ensure the college is mindful of all its members.

**Dr Philip Milln
PIPSIG Chair**

Psychopharmacology Special Interest Group (PSIG) Annual Report for 2009/10

1. *PSIG Annual Award*. The joint winners of the PSIG Robert W. Kerwin Prize for Psychopharmacology, for the best papers in the area of clinical psychopharmacology published in a College journal for the period August 2008-June 2009, were Dr Mario Juruena and Dr Susannah Murphy:

Juruena ME, Pariante CM, Papadopoulos AS, Poon L, Lightman S, Cleare AJ. Prednisolone suppression test in depression: prospective study of the role of HPA axis dysfunction in treatment resistance. *Br J Psych* 194 (4): 342-349.

Murphy SE, Norbury R, O'Sullivan U, Cowen PJ, Harmer CJ. Effects of a single dose of citalopram on amygdala response to emotional faces. *Br J Psych* 194 (6): 535-540.

2. *PSIG Executive Officers (EOs)*. The PSIG Chair remains Dr David Baldwin and the PSIG joint Finance Officer and Honorary Secretary remains Dr Kathy Aitchison. During the period covered by this report the Executive Committee has been expanded to include Dr Maxine Patel and Dr Sarah Curran. Dr Fernandez and Dr Papanastasiou will share the trainee position in the Executive Committee.
3. *Meetings organised by PSIG*. There are three meetings to report since June 2009. The PSIG hosted a session at the Royal College of Psychiatrists Annual Meeting (Liverpool, June 2009), called '*Prediction of the efficacy and tolerability of pharmacological interventions: insights from pharmacogenetic research*', which included presentations from Dr Olga Yevtushenko (Queens University Belfast, and Winner of the Robert W. Kerwin Psychopharmacology Prize for 2009), Dr Marcus Munafo (University of Bristol) on smoking cessation, and Dr Kathy Aitchison (Institute of Psychiatry) on pharmacogenetics of antidepressant treatment: the session was attended by over 50 delegates.

The Ninth Latest Advances in Psychiatry Symposium was held at the Royal College of Physicians in London on 24th March 2010. The meeting was focused on affective disorders and feedback was generally very good. Attendance (110 delegates) was slightly reduced to that of the previous year (130 delegates) but still an achievement given the current economic climate. Professor Jules Angst (University of Zurich) gave a magnificent and uniformly well received Plenary Lecture called '*The spectrum of mood disorders: classification, course and mortality*'; and there were three further lectures, from Professor Anne Lingford-Hughes (Imperial College, London) on comorbidity of affective disorders with substance misuse, Dr Jogin Thakore (Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin) on metabolic consequences of affective disorders and their treatment, and Professor Anne Farmer (Institute of Psychiatry), on managing affective disorders in health professionals.

David Baldwin represented PSIG at a meeting held at the Institute of Psychiatry on 26th May, organised by the Perinatal Psychiatry Section. The aim of the meeting was to produce updated guidance on the treatment of women of child-bearing age, with detailed consideration of the benefits and risk of treatment with psychotropic drugs during pregnancy and the puerperium. An anticipated output is an editorial in a general medical journal, with a web-link to detailed information that could be updated regularly.

PSIG has organised a session at this year's Royal College of Psychiatrists Annual Meeting (Edinburgh, 21st June 2010), called '*How antidepressants might work and the correlates of when they don't: emotions, amygdala, mood and cortisol*', at which the two speakers will be the 2010 Joint Winners of the Robert W Kerwin PSIG Prize.

It was intended to hold a Joint Meeting with the Women in Psychiatry Special Interest Group at the University of Oxford in April 2010, but the meeting was cancelled once it became clear that delegate numbers were insufficient for it to be financially prudent. The meeting will now occur in November 2010, to be held at the Institute of Psychiatry: lower venue costs should ensure financial viability.

4. *PSIG Executive Committee meetings*: Two meetings were held during the period of this report: in July 2009 during the British Association of Psychopharmacology (BAP) Summer Meeting (attended by 24 members) and in March 2010 at the Latest Advances in Psychiatry Meeting (the minutes of both meeting are available on request).
5. *Consultation with the British Association for Psychopharmacology*. The meeting between Dr Baldwin (PSIG), Dr Hamish McAllister-Williams (BAP) and Vanessa Cameron (College Chief Executive) held at the College in April 2009, has started a process whereby the two organisations work together to update a number of College Reports, and possibly to produce further joint papers and other initiatives. The first meeting of a joint PSIG-BAP working group was held at the College on 11th May, charged with updating existing College guidance on use of benzodiazepines in clinical practice. As agreed previously, travel expenses for those attending the meeting will be met by the PSIG.

Further working groups will be convened, responsible for updating College Reports on use of antipsychotic drugs in high dosage, and on use of licensed drugs for unlicensed applications in psychiatric practice.

6. *Administrative support to the PSIG Officers*. It has proved quite a challenge, to complete the necessary logistic arrangements for administrative assistance to the PSIG. Kelly Halton continued to offer administrative support to the PSIG for some months. Most recently, a definitive appointment has been made, for the provision of administrative support to the PSIG Officers one day per week, from June 2010.
7. *Responding to consultations*: PSIG has collated feedback from members of the Executive Committee and the wider membership in order to respond to a number of documents sent for consultation by the College.
8. *PSIG membership and online resources*. The PSIG Executive Committee Membership has been updated, and the revised list submitted to the College. New members have been recruited to the Executive Committee and to the wider membership. The PSIG website editor, Dr Andrew Easton continues to update the PSIG page on the College website, including updating the Executive Committee membership, and the available links, and liaising with the College to make available a new url (<http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/psig>).
9. *Financial position of PSIG*. PSIG remains in a good financial position, with a healthy current balance (the financial statement accompanies this report). Dr Aitchison has prepared the PSIG Business Plan for the College which is awaiting final approval by the College. PSIG has contributed to the College finances (e.g. to support the Fair Deal Campaign). As PSIG has the greatest balance in its account out of all the SIGs (comparable to that of some Sections/Faculties), and the contributions of all FDSIGs (Faculties, Divisions, Sections, and Special Interest Groups) within the College is proportional to their balance, PSIG contributes more to the College than other SIGs.

Dr David Baldwin (Chair), Dr Katherine J Aitchison (Honorary Secretary and Financial Officer), on behalf of the PSIG Executive Committee and membership, June 2010.

Spirituality & Psychiatry Special Interest Group

Annual Report 2010

In my first annual report as Chair of the Spirituality & Psychiatry Special Interest Group (SPSIG) I am pleased to be able to record another year of growth and healthy activity. Our membership stands at over 2400 and we have had a fruitful year in support of our aims to provide a forum within which psychiatrists may explore the relevance of spirituality to clinical practice and to promote discussion about spirituality in psychiatry more widely.

At the College Annual Meeting in Liverpool in June 2009 the SPSIG contributed a session on "Where Paths Meet- Psychiatrists in a Multi- faith Society", chaired by Dr Sarah Egger. I spoke on "The Faith of the Psychiatrist", and Dr Simon Dein spoke on "The Faith of Patients". Dr Sarah Egger and Dr Paramabandhu Groves contributed a workshop on "Keeping Body and Mind Together: Meditation Made Simple". This was the sixth year in which Dr Egger has contributed a workshop of this kind.

The SPSIG held two day conferences during the year, both at 15 Belgrave Square. In November 2009 a meeting on "Spirituality and Religion – Friends or Foes?" was combined with a launch of the book *Spirituality and Psychiatry* (Eds Cook, Powell & Sims, RCPsych Press, 2009) and an opportunity to celebrate the tenth birthday of the SPSIG. In April 2010 a meeting was held under the title "Spiritual and Religious Healing: Implications for Mental Healthcare". It was sadly necessary to increase the cost of our day conferences this year to £70 in order to avoid a situation in which we fail to cover our expenses. These expenses have increased significantly since the College withdrew availability of the Warren Suite for such events.

During the course of the year, the Executive Committee has continued to review the place of spirituality within the curriculum, has reviewed the content of its popular *Help is at Hand* leaflet on *Spirituality and Mental Health*, and has continued work on developing an online CPD module on assessing spiritual needs. A chapter in the recently published World Psychiatric Association book *Religion and Psychiatry* (Eds Verhagen et al, Wiley, 2010) gives an account of the part that the SPSIG has played in formulating a draft international statement on spirituality and religion in psychiatry.

We were pleased that it was possible to award the SPSIG Essay Prize this year (winner shortly to be announced). Two issues of our newsletter were published, and the website has been maintained and edited by Dr Andrew Powell. The website has been completely redesigned, with the help of the College Website Office, and members are encouraged to visit it and take a look at the new format. A

special article on *Religion, Spirituality and Mental Health* was published on behalf of the SPSIG Executive by Simon Dein, Christopher Cook, Andrew Powell and Sarah Egger in the February issue of *The Psychiatrist* and this has already generated a vigorous e-correspondence on the website of that journal.

A number of changes have taken place within the Executive. After only a year as Treasurer, Dr Geetha Suryanarayan announced that she would have to stand down at the next College Annual Meeting, owing to her impending move to India. Nominations have been invited for a new Treasurer. Dr Peter Fenwick stood down from the Executive, having been a member of it for the whole ten years of the SPSIG's history. Dr Nicki Crowley announced her intention to stand down in the autumn, having been a member for almost as long. Both have given long and enthusiastic support to the SPSIG, and their input to the Executive will be much missed. Dr Jameel Hussain has reached the end of his term as trainee representative and we extend our thanks to him also. The Executive are currently considering expressions of interest from SPSIG members interested in taking up the vacancies that have been created. Dr Simon Dein continues as secretary and Dr Oyepeju Raji as programme coordinator.

The composition of the Executive, the membership of the SPSIG, and the programmes that we have presented at our conferences all continue to attest to a broad understanding of what spirituality is all about. This includes the spiritualities of all of the world's major faith traditions, as well as the spiritualities of those who would identify as humanist, agnostic or atheist. We look forward to another year of exploring the questions that this diversity of spiritual traditions presents for the understanding and practice of psychiatry.

Professor Chris Cook

May 2010

TRANSCULTURAL SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ANNUAL REPORT 2009

The Transcultural Special Interest Group (TSIG) continues to remain active, although there has been a number of challenges for the group which has resulted in the level of activity being reduced this year. There were a number of reasons for this. Over the years the group has been fortunate to have grown with the involvement of experienced members however a number of key individuals retired from practice and others moved to be actively involved in other arenas within transcultural psychiatry.

The question about the need for a TSIG has been revisited by each new chair, and the conclusion has always been that there is a need for a group like this within the college. Among many of our objectives are:

- Training and education
- Policy consultation and development
- Encouraging research and critical analysis of the role of culture in well being, public health and patient care.

The new executive includes many young psychiatrists who are very enthusiastic, and are gathering experience in working with large institutions like the college. Despite this foundation work for the new executive, we continue to contribute to the college work and the group enjoys a large membership base.

We do this by being part of national and international networks on culture and mental health, and by working closely with service users, carers and practitioners.

The group contributes to college's consultations on policy, to a training manual being developed for the college, to online CPD activities, to work by NMH DU on migration and mental health, to the work of the World Association of Cultural Psychiatry and World Psychiatry Association -Transcultural Section (WPA – TPS).

Most of our events in the past have been in London. Feedback from our members showed the need to do events across the country. The Manchester conference received positive comments and good number of attendance.

International Congress of the Royal College of Psychiatrists – June 2010

TSIG submitted six suggestions for the College's annual meeting relating to various aspects of culture and psychiatric practice and research. The organising committee accepted only one submission and we will have a session entitled "Enhancing pathways to care for BME groups, findings from a national service development project in four NHS Trusts". Most executive members of the group will attend the Congress.

Spirituality and Health Care Conference. Manchester November 2009

We were partner organiser of this conference in collaboration with NHS North and 5 Boroughs Partnership Trust. The conference addressed the place of faith communities in mental health recovery and the use of theatre in healing and cultural identity. It ran successfully with an attendance of 150.

London Health Commission, refugees and asylum seekers mental health

We have been invited to provide input into this newly established group of NHS London. One of our executive members has been nominated to become a member of this group.

Future events

We are planning a conference for October 12 on "Revisiting Cultural competence, capability and consultation". We are also liaising with other SIGs to organise a joint conference on Science, faith, culture and mental health.

The 3rd world congress of Cultural Psychiatry, Barbican Centre London, 9-11 March 2012

We are a member organiser of this conference which will feature a bio-psycho-social, and a spiritual-cultural synthesis of cultural psychiatry, with a special focus on young people and life course approaches to cultural psychiatry. This fits with the public health role for the college.

Bulletin of TSIG

A change in editors, and deliberations about a new style, meant we were not able to produce this year's issue of the Bulletin. We now have 2 new co-editors and will re-establish the publication which has received widespread support and an international readership.

Training Manual

Following a college away day led by Parimala Moodley, a training manual was to be prepared. Prof Bhui has drafted a proposal which is now with Dave Jago. The authors are ready to write this, so we hope to have a finished draft by the end of the year.

Finance

The finance of TSIG remains in a healthy status, although we have not had the benefit of an active Finance Officer for the last year or so. However our new finance officer has been active recently and is in communication with the college Treasurer, and we will have our finance report before the end of June.

**Rizkar Amin
Chair
May 2010**

WOMEN IN PSYCHIATRY SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (WIPSIG) ANNUAL REPORT 2010

The WIPSIG Executive Committee has been very active over the past year responding to consultations, organising conferences, writing articles and examining issues around training. We continue to input widely, both within the College and externally.

Following the end of the Gender Equality and Women's Mental Health Programme Board (DH) early in 2009, a new Mental Health Equalities Board was formed a few months ago which Dr Mason now attends on behalf of the College, with other representatives from the College also attending. Dr Mason and Dr Protti continue to be involved in the 'Sexuality, Reproductive Health and Abuse' steering group at the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE), particularly in the provision of an e-learning resource.

WIPSIG provided input to the second report in the Risk Series, which focused on self-harm and suicide across sections of society. Dr Mason subsequently delivered a presentation on this subject to the Risk Steering Group. The report is currently nearing completion. Dr Mason sat on the National Taskforce on the Health Aspects of Violence against Women & Girls on behalf of the President. The final report has now been produced. WIPSIG have secured two presentations at the Annual Conference in Edinburgh this year: "*Women as perpetrators of violence: psychosis, personality disorder and Munchausen by Proxy*", chaired by Dr Mason and a workshop "*CESR – not just a salad*", led by Dr Watkin and Dr Arnold.

The joint conference between WIPSIG and the Psychopharmacology SIG "*Gender Differences in Prescribing*", which was due to be held in April 2010 was unfortunately cancelled due to low numbers registering. It was unfortunate that our Newsletter advertising this conference was not sent out on time, and so it is planned to rearrange the conference for later in the year.

The finances of WIPSIG remain in good order, monitored by our treasurer Lucy Watkin. The 2010 WIPSIG Prize was won by Dr Elizabeth Cashman from the Yorkshire Deanery with her piece entitled '*Survey of Psychiatric Core Trainees' Time in Core Placement within Leeds Partnership Foundation Trust*'.

St Andrew's Healthcare continues to sponsor our Newsletter, on which we receive good feedback from our extensive membership.

During the past year there have been further changes to the Executive Committee with Dr Natasha Biljani resigning in November 2009, having been Editor of the WIPSIG Newsletter for many years. We were pleased to welcome Dr Beth Haider, who joined the Executive Committee in April 2010.

In the forthcoming year, the committee's work will focus on building our networks (e.g. Medical Women's Federation), women in management and women as carers. All committee members have active roles as outlined on our website. We will continue to explore with our large membership, their areas of interest and concerns and address these as we are able.

Dr Fiona Mason
Chair - WIPSIG