

Spirituality and Psychiatry Special Interest Group: Annual Report 2005

In the past year the Spirituality and Psychiatry Special Interest Group has maintained and expanded its activities, while its membership has increased from 773 to 944 on May 26 2005. In addition to running its own regular meetings, it contributed to the Annual Meeting of the College, and through its Executive has taken part in many other College activities.

The SIG convened and led workshops at the College's 2004 Annual Meeting in Harrogate, and was also involved with the visit to the Conference and open lecture of Dr David Hope, Archbishop of York, to the College. An excellent meeting was held in October 2004 at the College on *A Fatal wound? Who and what does suicide destroy?* In January 2005 the topic of a lively College meeting was *What inspires the psychiatrist? Personal attitudes, beliefs and values.* A joint meeting with the Hypnosis and Psychosomatic Section of the Royal Society of Medicine held on May 9 2005 with the subject *Spirituality and Altered States of Consciousness* was very well attended. A session is planned for the Special Interest Group at the College's Annual Meeting in Edinburgh in June 2005 entitled *What is the relevance of Spirituality to Psychiatry today?* The speakers will be Professor John Swinton and Professor Peter Gilbert.

The SIG Executive Committee has been involved during the year in many different aspects of the work of the College, in particular with educational and training issues, and with the provision of information for the public. An active website is maintained, which in addition to regular newsletters and information about meetings contains an expanding archive of papers, both those delivered at meetings and others of relevance. A lot of interest has been expressed in the work of the SIG from outside the College, and useful contacts with allied disciplines such as psychology have been established. The College prize for an essay on *Spirituality and Psychiatry* has been advertised, and will, it is hoped, be awarded this year.

Professor Andrew Sims has continued as Chairman of the Special Interest Group during this year, Dr Julian Candy has continued as Honorary Secretary and Dr Gillian Broster as Honorary Treasurer. Dr Larry Culliford is Membership Secretary, Dr Andrew Powell, Editor, and Dr Cherrie Coughlan, Programme Co-ordinator.

Andrew Sims, May 2005