

Annual Report from TSIG to The Royal College of Psychiatrists' Finance & Executive Committee. 13th May 2005

Overview

The Transcultural Psychiatry Special Interest group through its officers and membership has contributed actively to the College over the year 2004/2005. It will continue to ensure that standards of care improve through a better understanding of cultural issues.

The Transcultural Psychiatry Special Interest Group remains active within the Transcultural Section of the World Psychiatric Association.

Members of the group are involved in, and part architects of, the current national Black and Minority Ethnic mental health programme. This is the largest single area of work for the National Institute for Mental Health in England. Members are also active in supporting psychiatric practice locally, nationally and internationally.

As a group, we are trying to improve our communications with our special interest group membership as well as the wider College membership. Communication has been a limiting factor in exploiting the support of our membership in the past. We welcome recent developments in the College that will allow electronic mailing to our members.

The future of the group is underpinned by an exciting agenda for the next three years of activities. Particularly in connecting the local, national and international priorities in cultural psychiatry. These require a synthesis of research, clinical practice and policy issues, integrating these to benefit patients and to improve standards.

Annual residential meeting of the Royal College of Psychiatrists 2004

The Transcultural Special Interest Group contributed two workshops to the annual meeting of the Royal College of Psychiatrists 2004 in Harrogate.

The first concerned 'Cultural capability of the workforce'. It was lead by Professors Bhugra & Bhui. It was well attended by College members. Both senior and junior members took part and asked pertinent and incisive questions about the future of cultural capability and mental healthcare.

The second workshop was conducted in conjunction with the spirituality and critical psychiatry group. It explored differences between the groups and the future roles of the Transcultural Special Interest Group within the College. An overwhelming majority of attendees felt that the Transcultural Special Interest Group had a major role to play within the College in improving mental healthcare nationally.

Joint conference with Faculty of Psychotherapy 2004

The Transcultural Special Interest Group held an extremely successful joint session with the Faculty of Psychotherapy in the autumn of 2004. This provided a rich interdisciplinary and inter-speciality discourse on the role of psychotherapy and the ability to use psychotherapy in routine practice. The joint session was accompanied by a debate that questioned the relevance of psychotherapies for post traumatic stress disorder.

International

The Transcultural Psychiatry Special Interest Group remains active within the Transcultural Section of the World Psychiatric Association. Members attended meetings in Providence in 2004 as well as the WPA meeting in Cairo 2005.

We are also, following correspondence with the Chief Executive of the College, now an affiliated national group with the World Association of Cultural Psychiatry, which is hosting its first meeting in Beijing next year.

Future conferences/ workshops

The Transcultural Special Interest Group will hold a conference in October 2005 at the College. This conference will examine conflict, trauma and mental disorder. Speakers are currently being assembled. There will be limited places for this conference which we expect to be over-subscribed.

The Transcultural Psychiatry Special Interest Group will contribute to a workshop at the annual college meeting in Edinburgh 2005, with the critical psychiatry group; we will also be contributing to a session on inequalities with other SIGs.

AGM

The Transcultural Special Interest Group held their Annual General Meeting in September 2004. This led to a change in officers to:

Chair Professor Bhui,
Vice Chair Dr Moodley
Honorary treasurer Dr McKenzie
Newsletter Editors Dr Summerfield & Dr Khoosal
Website Manager Dr Chakraborty
Treasurer Dr Kadambari.

The first of the executive meeting of the new officers in January 2005 concluded that the Transcultural Special interest group would extend its role internationally as well as strengthen our contribution to workforce development and education locally.

Refugee and asylum seekers

The Executive and Finance Committee of the College have asked the Transcultural Psychiatry Special Interest Group, with the Dean, Dr Bhugra, to consider what the College's role may be in the development of an appropriate response to the challenges posed by the need for mental health services for refugee and asylum seekers.

Professor Kamaldeep Bhui
Chair TSIG

Dr Kwame McKenzie
Hon Secretary TSIG