

## **Dean's report for AGM 2024**

It is three years since you elected me as your Dean. My overarching vision has been to make our College's education and training explicitly and directly linked to patient outcomes.

### **RCPsych Learn**

Translating this idea to action, I am proud to announce the creation of RCPsych Learn which brings together many of the College's learning activities under one roof. We have been working hard behind the scenes to map our learning materials from CPD modules, conference and journals. This will create bespoke learning products that meet the professional development needs of our members and upskill the mental health workforce in areas of clinical need. As the tagline of RCPsych Learn- says – *"Learning in the service of patient care"*.

### **Public Mental Health and International Diploma in Old Age Psychiatry**

Earlier this year RCPsych Learn presented the first of our new certification courses, Public Mental Health Leadership Certification Course. A collaboration between eLearning, events, training and workforce and NCCMH Public Mental Health Implementation Centre, the course is designed to create local champions of a population-based approach to mental healthcare. We've had a fantastic response so far and our first two cohorts have sold out. We hope to open up another cohort later this year. I am really proud of this course and I hope that many of you will get to do it.

The International Diploma in Old Age Psychiatry, the College's first ever knowledge enhancement programme of its kind, has also sold out.

### **Highest Recruitment Ever**

Recruitment into Core and Higher Specialty Training in psychiatry continues to improve. We have added 679 Core Training Posts in England, 30 in Scotland and 15 in Wales. I continue to work with colleagues across the four nations to ensure psychiatry training is robust, available and well supported by experienced supervisors.

It's not all roses though - there are still challenges in some specialties and regions. Increasing educational and educator capacity in the face of increasing pressure on clinical services is a significant challenge. Our new guidance on Recognition of Trainers enables retire and return senior psychiatrists and SAS doctors adopt educational roles and should help us increase this educator capacity.

I would like to thank Dr Arty Das, who steps down from her role as Specialist Advisor for Foundation Training today. She has directed the introduction of the Psychiatry Foundation Fellowships; 141 foundation trainees have undertaken the fellowship since 2020 and her contributions to the development of the new Foundation Curriculum are particularly noteworthy.

## **MRCPsych exams**

I am sure you all agree that our exam is critical in maintaining public and professional confidence in psychiatric training. It is also a significant milestone for many in their psychiatric training journey. I am glad to report that more candidates than ever are taking the MRCPsych exam across the world and to accommodate them, we will be starting a new CASC exam centre in Qatar commencing 2025.

Following on my commitment to bring curricula and assessment closer together, we have published a resource list for papers A and B, mapped to the exam syllabus and curricular outcomes. This should help our examinees. I want to take this opportunity to thank all College examiners and indeed all Clinical, Educational and Psychiatric supervisors for the investment you make in the future of our profession. This is much appreciated. I wish to thank the out-going Chief Examiner Dr Ian Hall for all he has done to lead these changes not least the incredible task of delivering the MRCPsych exam all through the pandemic. I welcome Dr Vivek Agarwal, our new Chief Examiner who, I know will build on the solid foundations laid by Dr Hall.

## **Portfolio Route (formerly CESR)**

The Portfolio route to specialist registration has been simplified for those with appropriate experience and recruited more evaluators so that we can make decisions on applications quicker. We're also developing further guidance for applicants and trusts. My thanks to all our evaluators – you play a critical role in assuring the integrity and quality of our workforce.

## **SAS Doctors**

SAS doctors are the backbone of our workforce. I have issued new guidance, which now means that appropriately qualified SAS doctors are now eligible to become Clinical, Educational and Psychiatric Supervisors and MRCPsych examiners. Our Leadership and Fellowship Scheme welcomed its first SAS applicants too this year. I hope that you all will encourage and support our SAS colleagues in taking on these educational and leadership roles.

## **My Amazing Team**

In delivering my key objectives I have been wholeheartedly supported by my Associate Deans - Dr Neeraj Berry (Equivalence), Dr Declan Hyland – Choose Psychiatry (recruitment into psychiatry), Dr Abdul Raof (Advanced Learning), Dr Indira Vinjamuri (Curriculum and Assessment), Dr Israel Adebekun (Trainee Support), Professor Charlotte Wilson-Jones (Undergraduate Psychiatry) and Professor Rohit Shankar (Academic Psychiatry Training)

And Specialist Advisors - Dr Fabida Aria (Medical Training Initiative), Dr Helen Bruce (Credentiaing), Dr Paul Emmerson (Portfolio Online), Dr Suyog Dhakras –

Quality Assurance (in training), Dr Prathibha Rao – Foundation Training (starting from AGM 2024 replacing Dr Arty Das) and Dr Debasis Das (CPD Submissions).

And the Psychiatric Trainees' Committee- the immensely talented Dr Laura Thorn, the SAS Committee and its incredibly impactful Chair Dr Lily Read, the DMEs' network, Heads of School and Professor Nandini Chakraborty (National Lead, Core and Specialty Recruitment).

I am very grateful to them and to the incredible College staff team who have consistently helped me translate my ideas into action. A big thank you to all of you, nationally and internationally, for delivering clinical and educational outcomes in trying post-Covid times.

Thank you also to all of you who have supported my running efforts -it has been a hard slog running up to 70 miles a week but I can assure I am not running away from anything – indeed, I have fully enjoyed my role as Dean! I thank you all once again for giving me the chance to serve you as your Dean.