President’s Valedictory Address

Professor Wendy Burn

Twitter @wendyburn
The past year

- Funding of mental health services
- Workforce
- RCPsych Gatsby Wellcome Neuroscience Project
- Diversity
- Sustainability
- COVID
Core Purpose of the College

- Set standards and promote excellence in psychiatry and mental healthcare
- Lead, represent and support psychiatrists
- Work with patients, carers and other organisations interested in delivering high quality mental health services
- Represent the expertise of the psychiatric profession to governments and other agencies
Funding Announcement 2018

- The NHS in England to get an extra £20bn a year by 2023 as a 70th birthday present
- The budget to rise by an average of 3.4% annually
NHS Long Term Plan (LTP) for England

- Published January 2019
- Commitment to grow investment in mental health services faster than the NHS budget overall for each of the next five years
NHS LTP Mental Health in England

- Mental Health funding to increase by at least £2.3bn a year by 2023/24
- Detailed delivery plans
- President sits on Oversight Group
- Will need close watching in post-COVID world
Workforce: Biggest challenge to implementing LTP

- Recruitment of Psychiatrists has been a problem
- From March 2010 to March 2020 the number of NHS psychiatrists at all grades increased by 4.7%, other specialties increased by 26.3%
- Growth over the past year is 0.6%
Interim NHS people plan
June 2019

▪ Children and Young People’s mental health 6,500 more staff
▪ Mental Health Services 25,000 more staff
▪ Final People Plan will be published soon
How can we grow the workforce?

- Choose Psychiatry recruitment campaign
- Medical Schools: increase numbers and proportion choosing psychiatry
- Retention
- Other roles
Recruitment is improving CT1 numbers in August (England, Scotland and Wales)

- 2015 374
- 2016 413
- 2017 337
- 2018 420
- 2019 446 (92% fill rate)
- 2020 embargoed

CT1 Welcome event in Edinburgh

July 2020
Expansion of Medical Schools

- Number of medical school places increased by 1,500 from 2018
- We have calculated that numbers need to double by 2029
- LTP suggests competition in allocating places to encourage production of medical graduates who meet the needs of the NHS

July 2020
Engagement with Medical Schools

- Guidance Document on College website
- How to provide best experience for medical students
Support of Medical School PsychSocs

- At the 2020 National PsychSoc conference with Sugar the therapy dog
Retention – we need to look after staff

- Flexibility
- Career development
- “Hygiene factors”: access to food, rest, car parking, being paid the right amount, being able to book holidays and commit to events outside work, computers that switch on quickly
HEE New Roles Task and Finish group

- Allied Health Professionals
- Mental Health Nurses
- Nursing Associates
- Peer support workers
- Pharmacy and pharmacy technicians
- Psychological professions
- Social workers
- Physician Associates
Physician Associate (PA) initiatives

- Network of 300 PAs, student PAs and consultant supervisors across UK
- Seminars for potential employers, 58 institutions
- Training and Education Conference for PAs and Student PAs coming soon
RCPsych Gatsby/Wellcome Neuroscience Project

- Original 2-year plan, extended to 5 years (2016-21)
- Aim: introduce a modern neuroscience perspective into psychiatrists’ clinical work in the UK
- Paper A syllabus updated
Raising awareness of modern neuroscience

- Annual Neuroscience Conference
- Talks
- Brain Camps
- Moving to virtual events
- To be continued…
Diversity

▪ Our core value of ‘respect’
▪ Speaker diversity policy for all events and conferences
▪ Increased proportion from BAME backgrounds awarded Fellowship
Diversity

- College named ‘Charity of the Year’ in the European Diversity Awards
Sustainability

- Internally: no single use plastic, vegetarian sandwiches, revolving door
Sustainable investment policy

- Stopped investing in fossil fuels
- Signed up to the Principles of Responsible Investment – a voluntary set of principles supported by the UN
Opt out of paper journals

- Can opt out of paper copies, opt back in at any time
- Go to Members dashboard on the website
- Simba will be disappointed, he loves the BJPsych
Working with external organisations

- Centre for Sustainable Health Care
- UK Health Alliance, joined their campaign on air pollution
Social Media

- Increasingly important as a way of influencing and connecting
- Have learnt a huge amount from Twitter and engaged with people I would never have met without it
- College Twitter account has 91.7K followers
Going viral: September 2019

- Only College President to go viral
- Nearly half a million likes
COVID changed everything

- Events/conferences/meetings
- Buildings
- Our advice
- Examinations
- Finances
Events/conferences/meetings

- Last live event was on Friday 13 March
- All meetings and conferences will now be virtual until end of 2020
Buildings

- All College offices closed in March
Our Advice

- Team worked 12 hours a day (and sometimes at night)

Responding to COVID-19

This section contains information on the emerging situation with coronavirus and College activities.

All RCPsych events have been cancelled until the end of 2020. College committees are meeting remotely. We appreciate organising CED submissions is unlikely to be a priority and have introduced several measures.

We've also taken the very difficult decision to cancel our International Congress.

Exams Paper B exams on 31 March, CASC exams in Singapore in May and Paper A exams on 16 June have all been cancelled.
Examinations

- Paper A and Paper B cancelled
- Next diet and CASC will be delivered online

July 2020
Finances

- Potential £2 Million loss of income, already reduced to £1.4 Million
- Good reserves
- We own the London offices
- The College will continue
- Although my plans have had to change...
Should be heading to a spa

Brimstone Spa exclusively for residents...
Thank you for the opportunity

- It has been the honour of my life to serve as your President
- I have only been able to do it with your support
- I have tried my hardest to improve the lives of those with mental illness
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