

**Transcultural Special Interest Group**

**Annual Report to Council 2017**

**Activities**During 2017 the Transcultural SIG has held the following meetings/events:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Venue/Location** | **Subject/purpose of meeting/nos of attendees** |
| 26/01/17 | RCPsych | Welcoming the new exec team and setting out the agenda for the year ahead |
| 25/09/17 | RCPsych | Planning the Annual event |
| June 2017 | Manchester Medical School | Different cultures from Psychiatric perspective |

**Background**We have X members and have been running for X years.

The Transcultural SIG was set up to be committed to the work of the College; provide guidance to the College members and the public on transcultural psychiatry related matters. TSIG supports policy and practise to improve the care of socially excluded and marginalised groups where culture is influential in the expression and management of mental distress.

The main purpose of the TSIG is to promote the exchange of scientific knowledge, research initiatives and clinical experiences in the field of cultural psychiatry.

**Executive Committee**  
The Transcultural SIG Executive Committee comprises:

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| **Name** | **Role** |
| Dr Shahid Latif | Chair |
| Dr Sarwat Nawrose | Financial Officer |
| Dr Imran Malik | Executive Member (Northampton) |
| Dr Hasanen Al Taier | Executive Member (Oxford) |
| Dr Najat Khalifa | Executive Member (Nottingham) |
| Dr Max Malik | Executive Member(Birmingham) |
| Dr Yasir Abbasi | Executive Member (Liverpool) |
| Dr Alex Mitchell | Executive Member (Leicester) |
| Dr Manjunath Minajagi | Executive Member (Leicester) |
| Dr Fabida Noushad | Executive Member (Leicester) |
| Dr Ina Los | Executive Member (Devon) |
| Dr Bhanu Chadalavada | Executive Member (Northampton) |
| Dr Gloria Dura Vila | Executive Member (Surrey) |
| Mrs Kim Sadique | Executive Member (Leicester) |
| Mr Daniel Flecknoe | Executive Member (Nottingham) |
| Prof. Raghu Raghavan | Executive Member (Leicester) |
| Miss Olivia George | Executive Member (Manchester) |
| Miss Phoebe Linton | Executive Member(Manchester) |
| Dr Angeliki Tziaka | Executive Member (Oxford) |

**Commentary**

We had a number of activities during 2017 by various executive members.

Dr Max Malik wrote a paper on Body Dysmorphia Disorder and Aesthetic Medicine, which was published in the ENT Masterclass Journal Volume 9 Number 1 2017. He covered the cultural influences on psychiatric presentation in this. He presented the paper to the British College of Aesthetic Medicine and had a poster submitted and presented at the Annual BCAM Conference. He also gave a presentation at the International Society for Prevention of Complications in Aesthetic Medicine on Body Dysmorphic Disorder, which covered cultural differences and the implications for Aesthetic Medicine and surgical treatments and a further presentation at the 6th International Face Nose and eyes conference on Hair Restoration Surgery, which included cultural differences and implications.

Dr Najat Khalifa wrote a chapter on Islamic bioethics in mental health for a book titled 'Encyclopaedia of Islamic Bioethics ' Oxford University Press-New York. He also wrote a review by invitation for the American Journal of Psychiatry (published in the Feb 2017 edition) on a book by Neil Agarwal entitled 'Taliban's Virtual Emirate'. Dr. Khalifa is Lead organiser for the Trent Study Day conference on ‘perspectives on radicalisation’ held at Rampton Hospital.

In 2017, Kim Sadique published a paper in the Medical Practice & Mental Health: named ‘Curses, Witchcraft & Evil Eye. Lost in Translation?’ She also published a book on The Relevance of Religion, Faith & Culture to Forensic Psychiatric Assessment & Treatment on the 15th of March 2017.

Dr Hasanen Al-Taier is an active memberthe RCPsych Iraq Sub Committee which meets quarterly at the College . The main function of the Iraq Sub Committee (ISC) is to update the International Advisory Committee on mental health issues related to Iraq, advise the Committee on the needs and developments of mental health providers and act as a liaison between the College and mental health services in Iraq. A communications group has also been set up for consultant and trainee psychiatrists, family therapists and psychotherapists.

In June 2017, Olivia George who is a final year medical student and has a keen interest in transcultural mental health, set up a collaboration between TSIG and the University of Manchester Medical School to deliver an event for medical students titled "Lost in Translation: an exploration of different cultures from a psychiatric perspective". It was an afternoon of informal workshops exploring diversity and transcultural medicine with a psychiatric focus. The event took place in Manchester Medical School's communication skills labs, with contribution from the head of communication skills, Dr Sarah Collins. Following a welcome of tea and biscuits, small groups of students rotated around different workshops. Dr Shahid Latif and Dr Imran Malik led a highly enjoyable and interactive communication skills session in which students could participate in role play to learn about effective and ineffective communication across cultures. Dr Kim Sadique gave a fascinating talk on the links between mental health, curses, witchcraft and the evil eye, Dr Sarah Collins helped with simulated patient, explored the role of empathy across cultures, and considered the way in which all of the senses are involved in the stimulation and expression of empathy. Jayne Silva of Student Action for Refugees led a session on communicating effectively with refugees and gaining a greater appreciation of the difficulties posed by language barriers. Breaks between workshops included a poetry reading, and an interactive game challenging cultural knowledge and stereotypes. The afternoon was facilitated by four medical students, including Olivia George. The event was very well received and fostered an open discussion between the students and experts. Furthermore, it was a great way to learn about a facet of medicine which is barely touched upon at medical school. Indeed, written feedback from an attendee included the following:  "Extremely useful and applicable skills building that can be well transferred to practice!"

Dr Shahid Latif was invited to the World Association of Asian Psychiatry as Chair of the TSIG in Abu Dhabi in March 2017 and delivered a presentation on ‘Cultural Differences in the presentation of Personality Disorders’.

**Finance**

The finance of TSIG remains in a healthy status. We have officially elected an unopposed treasurer Dr Sarwat Nawrose since July 2016

**Your objectives for the past year (2017)**

The objective for 2017 was to form a cohesive team of execs in the TSIG which is now cemented

It was agreed to run regular transcultural educational events and workshops around the country.

**How you achieved your objectives and with what outcome**

Most of the execs have met twice at the College during 2017

Regional events under the banner of RCPsych TSIG have taken place in different regions as can be read in this report.

**Your objectives for 2018**

The main objective is to have our annual RCPsych TSIG conference. This has been booked for the 19th of February 2018 at the College with a full programme and national speakers.

We also intend to continue with regional TSIG activities as well as liaise with other cultural psychiatry SIG around the world.

**Dr Shahid Latif, Transcultural** **SIG Chair**

**12th Dec 2017**