



## **Minutes of the Evolutionary Psychiatry Special Interest Group (EPSIG) AGM, 13 January 2017, RCPsych, London**

### **Attendants:**

Mohammed Abbas  
Riadh Abed (Chair) (RA)  
Alexander Butt  
Keith Dudleston  
Sunjai Gupta  
Dieneke Hubbling  
Anton Krutskikh  
Michael Robinson  
Hannah Sheftel  
Paul St John-Smith (Newsletter Editor) (PSJS)

### **Apologies:**

Agnes Ayton (Treasurer)  
Andrew Blewett  
George Ikkos  
Annie Swanepoel

- 1. Academic Session:** A presentation was given by Hannah Sheftel titled 'Evolutionary Theory and Psychiatry: A Historical Perspective' chaired by Paul St John-Smith. The presentation covered the period from pre-Darwinian times through to around mid-twentieth century. Hannah gave brief biographical accounts together with a synopsis of the contribution and significance of the major figures in evolutionary theory who had shaped our thinking regarding evolution and its connection with psychology and psychiatry. The presentation which was well received was followed by discussion and contributions from those present.

## **2. Business Meeting:** (Chair, Riadh Abed)

**2.1** Financial Report: This was presented by RA in the absence of Agnes Ayton, Treasurer. The summary of EPSIG financial position is that we have a net surplus of £1982.00 carried over from 2016. This was generated from the October symposium.

**2.2** Review of 2016 Activities: This was given by RA. The popularity of our first Evolutionary Psychiatry Symposium was noted. This resulted in all places being sold out in record time and many colleagues being turned away. It was decided therefore that future symposia would be managed by CALC and a larger hall would be booked.

**2.3** Report by PSJS, Newsletter Editor: 2016 was our first year in existence as a SIG and during this period we issued 4 newsletters exceeding our target of 2 per year. Each newsletter included at least one book review, an interview with an eminent evolutionist (Paul Gilbert, Martin Brune, Alfonso Troisi and Randolph Nesse), a special article as well as news of evolutionary events and meetings etc. Expressions of interest in a position of deputy editor were invited and Dienneke Hubbling has offered to take up this role. It was suggested that the newsletter should have a content page in the future and include a correspondence section that would allow responses to be published. Also, it was suggested that EPSIG members could consider sending a link to the EPSIG newsletter through their CPD emailing list within their respective trusts. **Finally, there was a call for contributions from members with articles, book reviews and suggestions for people to interview.**

The first 2017 newsletter was published at the beginning of January and the second is planned for May.

PSJS also reported the setting up of the EPSIG web pages as part of the college website which now contains all published newsletters, presentations from the symposium, links to the full YouTube symposium lectures as well as a range of other evolutionary resources.

**2.4** Forward Planning for 2017 events:

**2.4.1** 19 May Half-Day Scientific Meeting: It was agreed that the May meeting would be designated as a scientific meeting with a small business session. This would be a half day meeting with 2 speakers and there would be no charge for attendance. We would be hoping to finalise arrangements and advertise the meeting before the end of February.

**2.4.2** 2<sup>nd</sup> Evolutionary Psychiatry Symposium: Originally the plan was to hold our 2<sup>nd</sup> symposium on 10 November at the college in a larger hall than last year. Unfortunately, we discovered too late that all college rooms had been booked up. As the cost of holding the meeting outside the college

greatly increases the cost of the event we have opted for 12 January 2018 at the college and have so far had confirmation from 3 external, eminent keynote speakers for that date. The symposium will be managed by CALC (unlike last time, it will not be self-managed) who will be responsible for promoting the symposium.

**2.4.3** Other activities: We discussed EPSIG participation in other conferences such as the College Annual Conference (EP proposal turned down for the third time in a row for the 2017 event), Adult Faculty annual conference 2017 (proposal for a session has been submitted) as well as participation in future WPA conferences. RA reported participation in 2 international EP symposia at the WPA conference at Cape Town in November 2016 which attracted significant audience.

**2.5** MRCPsych Syllabus: There was no update from Agnes Ayton regarding this matter and this item will be deferred to the May meeting.

**2.6 AOB:** None

