The Royal College of Psychiatrists’
Winter Business Meeting 2014

To be held at 15.00 hours on Thursday 9 January 2014, at the
Royal College of Psychiatrists, 21 Prescot Street, London E1 8BB.
The President, Professor Sue Bailey OBE, in the Chair.

Agenda:

1. To approve the minutes of the previous Winter Business Meeting held
   on Friday 22 February 2013 at the Royal College of Psychiatrists
2. Obituary
3. Election of Honorary Fellows (nominations herewith)
4. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve amendments to Supplemental
   Charter and Bye-Laws of the College (text of resolution, marked up copy
   of proposed amendments to Supplemental Charter and Bye-Laws and
   clean copy of Bye-Laws herewith)
Nominations for Honorary Fellowship

Professor Alistair Burns FRCPsych

Alistair Burns epitomises all that is eminent in medicine in general, and psychiatry, notably old age psychiatry, in particular.

He graduated as a doctor in 1980, had a short stint in medicine when he did his MRCP, and soon afterwards took up a career in psychiatry at the Maudsley Hospital in 1983. His academic roots were evident during his years as a senior registrar at the Institute of Psychiatry, where he also did a year as Senior Lecturer in Old Age Psychiatry in 1991. When Alistair arrived in Manchester in 1992 as a young Professor (the first in old age psychiatry) he had very little to work from. He led a department of one, with some basic clinical services and an underdeveloped research network in old age psychiatry. Undeterred, he led from the front in every sense of the word. He became renowned for his clinical skills in dementia locally and regionally, having set up the first memory clinic, which continues to run to this day. His interest in teaching medical students and training junior doctors has remained undiminished despite his growing national and international acclaim.

As a researcher, Alistair has built up an international reputation with over 300 papers published in peer-reviewed journals, nearly 50 in non-peer-reviewed journals and over 25 books. He pioneered the description of the phenomenology of psychiatric symptoms and behavioural disturbances in dementia and through his research network he has led on a wide range of topics of research in dementia involving quality of care for patients, support for carers and a multiple modality of treatments for sufferers of Alzheimer’s disease. His grant income, along with that of his collaborators, has reached several million pounds.

Alistair has been involved one way or another in many of the initiatives on dementia care and in our understanding of carer needs through his research and teaching. No surprise then that he was selected to become the first dementia tsar in England. Alistair has raised significantly the profile of old age psychiatry and made inroads into our understanding of dementia through his meticulous research, writings and teaching.

Dr Nasser Loza FRCPsych

Nasser Loza is one of the rare and exceptional psychiatrists who, having trained in the UK, returned to Egypt. He has been a major player in developing and delivering mental health law in Egypt.

He had been mental health advisor to the Egyptian government and brought about major changes, working very closely with patients, carers and their families.

In addition, he has delivered on ethical issues within the Ministry of Health. His impact on mental health law in Egypt has been outstanding.

Beyond this, he has chaired the Middle-Eastern International Division of the Royal College of Psychiatrists and has contributed in a major, while understated, manner to the functioning of the International Advisory Board of the College.

Nasser is an outstanding individual whose contribution to psychiatry in Egypt, the Middle East and the UK has been exceptional.

Dr R Thara

Dr Thara is a renowned researcher in schizophrenia and is also a Director of the Schizophrenia Research Foundation (SCARF) in India. SCARF is a collaborating centre of the World Health Organization for mental health research and training, a non-governmental organisation which provides treatment to patients from all over the country. It runs an in-patient unit and community-based rehabilitation services. Over the years it has established an international reputation for both research and innovative service delivery, in a part of India where such services are few and far between.

Having obtained her medical degree in 1975, Dr Thara obtained her PhD from Madras University in 1985. The topic of her thesis was disability in schizophrenia. She was interested in research from an early stage. Having worked as a research assistant she was then appointed Senior Research Project Officer for the Indian Council of Medical Research to run a multi-site study on schizophrenia. Subsequently, she was awarded a senior fellowship by the Ashoka Foundation and during this period, this was accepted by the World Bank as an innovative scheme for population projects in India.

Dr Thara was appointed Joint Director for the Schizophrenia Research Foundation in 1984, a post she held until 1995 when she took over as Director. She has been the principal investigator in several studies leading to a large number of peer-reviewed publications in international journals. She has won numerous awards for her contribution to education, training and research. She is an exceptionally talented researcher and clinician and has been heavily involved in influencing policy, both at local state level and at national level. Her contribution to the field of schizophrenia is immense and the scale of her achievements is astonishing.
Professor Peter Tyrer FRCPsych

Peter Tyrer is Professor of Community Psychiatry at Imperial College London and his contributions to the development and delivery of community services, initially in Nottingham and subsequently in London, have been truly exemplary as well as innovative. His research interests have included personality disorders and he has been leading a work group on personality disorder on behalf of the World Health Organization for the next edition of the ICD. He has also led on NICE recommendations. His contribution to British psychiatry has been truly exceptional, especially in his role as Editor of the British Journal of Psychiatry over the decade 2003–2013. Under his editorship he has increased the Journal’s impact factor so that it now is the highest-ranked non-American journal in psychiatry. In addition, he has kept his research interest in social psychiatry and community psychiatry at the highest level and has contributed significantly to the development of evidence-based psychiatry in the UK. He has published extensively on evaluation of community services and on innovative services such as nidotherapy.

Peter’s international contributions as adviser and as member of the international boards of several journals have added value to the image of British psychiatry. He has furthered the cause of patient-led services and has produced several seminal volumes on community psychiatry and therapeutic interventions. As Head of the Department of Psychiatry at Imperial College London he built up the department which now has an international reputation and appeal.

Professor Richard Williams FRCPsych

Very occasionally, a colleague makes a contribution over so long a period that he, or she, almost stops being noticed. It is taken for granted that they will be there, providing great service to patients, academia, the College or the public. Richard Williams fits this description except that his contribution has been, and continues to be, to all four groups. He has been a dedicated child and adolescent psychiatrist for 37 years, a strategic leader and manager of health service design and delivery at national and international levels for 21 years, a national leader of his specialty for 26 years and a government policy adviser for 11 years. He has served the College as an elected officer for 28 years.

The range of his activities is astonishing: apart from his work as a CAMHS psychiatrist, researcher and teacher he is, or has been, an Advanced Trauma Life Support Instructor; Adviser on Psychosocial and Mental Healthcare to the NATO Joint Medical Committee; Chair of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges in Wales; Scientific Adviser on Psychosocial and Mental Health to the Director of Emergency Preparedness in the Department of Health; Director of the NHS Health and Drugs Advisory Services for England and Wales; Vice-Chair of the Mental Health Act Commission; and held many roles within the College.

Of course it is not just for the breadth of his work that he is renowned. Nor because of the very high standards for which he has always strived. It is also because he has done all this with charm and grace, always making time for and supporting others in their work, doing his best to help colleagues and others realise their goals and aspirations.
Resolution for General Meeting of the Royal College of Psychiatrists to be held on 9 January 2014 (Winter Business Meeting)

1. It is resolved that:
   (1) the Supplemental Charter (the 'Supplemental Charter') of the Royal College of Psychiatrists (the 'College') be amended, revoked and added to, as set out in the marked-up revision of the Supplemental Charter which shows such amendments, revocations and additions to the Supplemental Charter (comprising the first section of the combined marked-up revision of the Supplemental Charter and Bye-Laws produced to the meeting and for the purposes of identification signed by the President); and
   (2) the draft Bye-Laws of the College produced to the meeting in the form of a clean copy (and for the purposes of identification signed by the President)('new Bye-Laws') be adopted as the Bye-Laws of the College in substitution for, and to the exclusion of, the existing Bye-Laws of the College

Subject in each case to such changes as the Privy Council may require and which are agreed by the Council of the College (the Council of the College being granted authority to agree such changes pursuant to resolution 2 below) and provided that:

   (a) such amendments, revocations or additions of the Supplemental Charter and the adoption of the new Bye-Laws shall in each case be submitted to the Privy Council and, if approved by Her Majesty in Council (in the case of the Supplemental Charter) and by Order of Council (in the case of the new Bye-Laws), shall take effect at the close of the Annual General Meeting of the College to be held on 24 June 2014 (or such later date during 2014 as the Council of the College may determine and publish on the College’s website);

   (b) if the Council has resolved or resolves (whether before or after the date of the meeting) to change the name of the Honours and Awards Committee (which is to be constituted as a committee of the Council under paragraph 1 of section XX of the new Bye-Laws under this name) to the ‘Nominations Committee’, the reference to ‘Honours and Awards Committee’ in paragraph (c) of Section XX of the new Bye-Laws shall be changed to ‘Nominations Committee’ (and any necessary consequential changes shall be made) in the version of the new Bye-Laws to be submitted to the Privy Council; and

   (c) the Council of the College shall have authority to take any action, including but not limited to approving transitional arrangements and whether before, on or after the effective date referred to in sub-paragraph (a) above, which it considers necessary or desirable to ensure the effective implementation of such amendments, revocations or additions of the Supplemental Charter and the adoption of the new Bye-Laws.

2. It is further resolved that the Council is hereby authorised to agree any changes in the wording of the text which are subsequently required by the Privy Council in the interests of clarity or consistency, and which do not affect the spirit or intention of the proposed changes and, in the case of any changes (including deletions) which have not been approved informally by the Privy Council in advance of this meeting to delete or, as the case may be, re-instate such wording in the new Bye-Laws, if such changes cannot be agreed with the Privy Council (with such revisions as the Privy Council may require) so that the new Bye-Laws are adopted as the Bye-Laws of the College.