



columns

especially in London. She served on the Human Fertility and Embryology Authority, and is a member of the Committee on Standards in Public Life. She is currently writing a new book, entitled *The Moral State We're In*, about contemporary ethics in Britain. Altogether, a life bound up with ethical values and judgements.

Rabbi Dame Julia Neuberger has previously been Chair of Camden and Islington CHS NHS Trust (1993–97), Visiting Fellow (Harkness Fellowship) Harvard Medical School (1991–92), Visiting Fellow King's Fund Institute (1989–91) and Rabbi, South London Liberal Synagogue (1977–89). She has been a Civil Service Commissioner, Member of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, Chair of the Patients' Association, and holds Trusteeships of the British Council, Imperial War Museum and formerly Runnymede Trust among others. She is also a Vice-President of the United Nations Association, has a number of honorary doctorates and is Patron of the North London Hospice, of the Prisoners of Conscience Appeal Fund and the Memorial Arts Charity. Rabbi Dame Julia Neuberger is married with two children and lives in London.

### Dr Mike Shooter, CBE, FRCPsych

Dr Mike Shooter came late to medicine, via a history/law degree, journalism, teaching and a host of other jobs.

For the last 20 years, he has practised as a child and adolescent psychiatrist, working with deprived families in the old mining valleys of South Wales.

He is the immediate past President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, having previously been its Registrar and Director of Public Education.

### Mr Etsuro Totsuka

Mr Totsuka is a freelance Japanese lawyer who has devoted his life to righting

wrongs that he believes have been perpetrated by the Japanese government, and introducing concepts of basic human rights into Japan. He has worked largely without external funding, relying on personal and family finance.

There have been three main phases to his work. Between 1973 and 1982 he represented some 900 people who had serious side-effects from cloquinol. He pursued their claims against drug companies and the State of Japan. He won the case and immediately came to prominence as a victims' lawyer.

In 1982 he came to London. He had been made aware of some brutal atrocities, including a number of homicides, in Japanese mental hospitals, and realised that such patients had no protection under Japanese law. He studied British and other mental health legislation and, using both individual case material and United Nations resolutions, he led a campaign, which resulted in the Japanese parliament passing the 1997 Mental Health Act. This has brought relief and protection to thousands of Japanese psychiatric patients.

In recent years he has been pursuing the Japanese government through the courts on behalf of hundreds of so-called Korean comfort women who were raped and abused by Japanese soldiers during the Second World War.

Currently, Mr Totsuka is the main Geneva Representative of the Japan Fellowship of Reconciliation, which is developing pioneering overseas educational programmes at the United Nations (Geneva) for students of Ryukoku University. He is also the General Secretary of the Research Institute of International Human Rights Law Policies (RIIHRLP).

We can think of no one else who has single-handedly done so much for human rights and it is of particular relevance to this College that he has championed the rights of mentally ill patients against his own government, and won.

He is an excessively modest man, and his claim for international recognition has

been somewhat overlooked. By the award of the Honorary Fellowship, the College can begin to make amends within the field of mental health.

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## Election of President

### Notice to Fellows and Members

Fellows and Members are reminded of their rights under the Bye-Laws and Regulations, as follows:

#### Bye-Law XI

The President shall be elected annually . . .

#### Regulation XI

- (1) As soon as may be practicable after the first day of June in any year the Council shall hold a nomination meeting and shall at such meeting nominate not less than one candidate and not more than three candidates . . .
- (2) Between the first day of June in any year and the date which is four clear weeks after the nomination meeting of the Council, written nominations accompanied in each case by the nominee's written consent to stand for election, may be lodged with the Registrar, provided that each such nomination is supported in writing by not less than twelve Members of the College who are not members of the Council.
- (3) An election by ballot shall be held in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations.

The nominating meeting of the Council will be held on 24 January 2006 and the last date for receiving nominations under (2) above will be 23 February.

Professor Sheila Hollins is in her first year of office as President and is therefore eligible for re-election.