



columns

Special Interest Groups

The following new Groups were endorsed in principle this year:

Social Science and Psychiatry
Complementary and Alternative Medicine

Council has agreed that the History of Psychiatry Special Interest Group should be discontinued, as it is no longer active.

A review of SIGs is to be undertaken by Registrar and Treasurer for consideration by Council.

Andrew Fairbairn

Treasurer's Report

I am going to speak quite briefly as the formal Treasurer's report and summarised accounts are available at the meeting, and Paul Taylor has copies of the full accounts for anyone who wishes.

The overall picture for 2002 is that the College's income was about £8.5 million, an increase from the previous year. After investment losses are taken into account, the surplus was about £0.5 million, again an improvement.

First I'd like to say something about income. As you can see, Members' subscriptions are of great importance as they form the largest percentage of income. The total number of Members has increased steadily and was 10 432 in May 2002. In order to promote Membership and association with the College, we have continued a policy of minimising financial barriers to re-entry, are developing a category of International Associateship and have introduced free Membership for the over 75s. For the future, we need to encourage still more trainees as Inceptors and staff grades as Affiliates.

Another major source of income (largely restricted in use) is the College Research Unit (CRU), which had a very successful year, especially with the development of the National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health, funded by NICE. We have restructured financial arrangements with the CRU in a way we anticipate will encourage a range of income-generating activities.

Publications again made a surplus – more books were sold, advertising was buoyant and subscriptions for the journal *Advances in Psychiatric Treatment* (APT) increased substantially. We continue to reflect on the potential impact of electronic publishing and the Internet, especially on journals and teaching materials, and need to prepare for this new era.

From 2002 and continuing, we have had a considerable debate as to what degree the College should be dependent on commercial sponsorship. We think it is important that a wide range of partners be sought, especially to enable public education activities and other projects,

and that the arrangements and principles should be clear. A Development Management has been appointed, whose task is to establish a fund-raising and income generating strategy.

Cash flow has been positive, and because of likely poor returns on equities, we maintained a degree of liquidity in order to invest in property if appropriate.

Of course many activities involve both income and expenditure. Examinations, for instance, had an increased number of candidate numbers and a limited surplus was made this year enabling future developments. Conferences in 2002 did well, especially those organised by Faculties. The annual meeting in Cardiff was more modest in scale and achieved a small surplus, as opposed to the considerable loss of the preceding year.

What we were enabled to do with income included the completion of the Mind Odyssey, the continuation of the Changing Minds anti-stigma campaign and an external audit of Race Equality Issues. In terms of capital expenditure the major outlay of the year was on Information Technology.

Finally, as usual I would like to thank for their commitment and support Paul Taylor, Head of Financial Services and his staff, and of course Vanessa Cameron, Chief Executive.

Fiona Subotsky

Dean's Report

When I was elected Dean in 1998, I was asked to make a short presentation at the Annual Meeting outlining what I thought the College should be doing in the field of education during my 5-year term. I remember my excitement in trying to formulate long-term plans. I also remember Mike Shooter, then the Registrar, telling me immediately afterwards that the then President, the late and very much missed Dr Robert Kendell, had turned to him as I finished my talk and whispered 'he'll never do it'.

I like a challenge! That talk became the basis of the educational strategy, which I put together over the coming months and which has been much of my 'dean's task list' ever since. So what have we achieved? And what remains to be done?

I'll start with undergraduates and the medical school context. We have developed new careers literature, an enterprise led by the Collegiate Trainees Committee (CTC). We have ensured that the College is represented at medical Careers Fairs around the country. We also now have a regular slot on the Medlink programme for sixth-formers interested in a career in medicine. This, again, is now delivered by CTC members. At a more administrative level, we have combined the College's Research and University Committees. The

new committee has now met twice and will I am sure be a major force in preserving and expanding the academic career track for psychiatrists.

What about training? We now have a unified specialist training committee bringing together the basic and higher specialist advisory committees. Against many Doomsday predictions, we have succeeded in introducing mandatory placements in child and adolescent psychiatry and/or learning disability and, on the back of it, clear learning objectives for all basic training placements. We have a comprehensively revised curriculum for 'Basic Psychiatric Training and the MRCPsych exam' – which, like the Forth Bridge, now needs a further revision! We have also made the commitment to introduce mandatory psychotherapy experience and to monitor this at the level of individual trainees. We remain committed to improving and monitoring standards of MRCPsych courses, and there is now an MRCPsych course organisers sub-committee who have made an excellent start in sharing and improving good practice in course design and delivery. We have almost completed work on a skills-based curriculum for Certificates of Completion of Specialist Training (CCSTs) in psychiatry (ahead of many colleges) and are now carrying out a root and branch review of the structures of psychiatric training and of the range of CCSTs we offer. There are considerable challenges in terms of the new Postgraduate Medical Training and Education Board, the European Working Time Directive and Modernising Medical Education. We are also committed (not before time perhaps) to ensuring a truly developmental perspective throughout training across the psychiatric specialties.

Which brings me to examinations. It has been a great pleasure for me to work with Dr Stephen Tyrer and Professor Femi Oyebo in reviewing and implementing a thorough revision of the MRCPsych examination and I am delighted that the changes have, as of this Spring, been fully implemented. The main changes (introducing OSCEs, extended matching questions and criterion referencing) have, I think, made our examination much sounder educationally. They have also been well received by trainees and trainers. The Academy of Royal Colleges is now reviewing all College exams and we have a real opportunity to 'think the unthinkable'. My money is on a common 'Part 1' exam following Foundation SHO year. I think we may well also see a much more formal exit assessment, perhaps in the form of an OSCE.

The College's educational role certainly doesn't stop at the end of the formal training. I hugely enjoyed my 2-year stint as Director of CPD and am proud of having led the implementation of pre-



planning and peer-monitoring of CPD and ensured its close linkage to the still evolving NHS processes of appraisal and revalidation. As before, predictions of doom proved unfounded and I am delighted to see the CPD Committee go from strength to strength under Joe Bouch's very capable direction.

Time does not permit me to dwell in detail on my work in recruitment and retention. I am delighted though that we have been able to collaborate as closely as we have with the English Department of Health, and that there has been a similar collaborative initiative in Wales. I am confident that the comprehensive recruitment and retention strategy we are developing will lead to real improvements both in filling posts and in encouraging constructive working styles for consultants.

Being Dean of the College has been a tremendous pleasure, honour and privilege. I shall miss it more than I can say. I owe a huge debt of thanks to many of the College staff, who have shown a uniformly high level of skill and dedication that I have not seen in any other institution. In this context, I particularly need to thank:

Vanessa Cameron
Gareth Holsgrove
Anne Dean, his predecessor
Lena Hartley
Carole Pashley
Claire Drummond
Robert Jackson
Sam Bendall
Cate Cole
Marion Palmer Jones
Joanna Carroll

I also need to thank Chairs and members of all the Special Advisory Committees and of the other educational committees within the College. Within that, my most particular thanks are due to the sub-deans past and present who have been so supportive over the years

Prof. David Cottrell
Dr Kingsley Norton
Dr Sue Whyte
Dr Parimala Moodley
Dr Jeremy Bolton
Dr Kandiah Sivakumar
Prof. Dinesh Bhugra

And last but not least, Professor Mary Robertson, who as many of you know has been seriously ill for some months and I am sure you would want to join me in wishing a speedy recovery.

The Education Committee and Court of Electors have agreed that there should be an update of the Education Strategy. I am delighted to leave this major task in the excellent hands of the new Dean, Professor Dinesh Bhugra, and the new Head of Postgraduate Education Services, Dr Gareth Holsgrove, and can confidently

predict that implementing it will keep them enjoyably busy for the next 5 years!

Cornelius Katona

Librarian's Report

This past year has seen a further change in library staffing, with Alexandra Cohen joining us part-time as Library and Information Services Assistant.

The thrust of the Library and Information Service staff's work has been in three main areas. First, there is the electronic side of information services with an increasing move towards electronic journal subscription, an aim to have our book collection catalogue on-line, and with our continuing to contribute to the College website.

In some contrast has been our work concerning antiquarian books. The grant that I reported last year has been very successfully used in restoring to excellent condition a number of priceless texts.

The work on the College Archive continues, but of particular note in this area has been the development of a Records Management Policy by Margaret Harcourt-Williams. College activities are already significantly devolved at national level here in the UK and Ireland, but we anticipate further devolution within England, with all Divisions taking on more responsibility. If there is to be a corporate College voice, then this depends upon accurate information-gathering and record-keeping and this new policy will facilitate this.

My individual contribution has not been as much as I had hoped. Although there were some early recruits to the Virtual Library Committee, it was only in spring that we had full Faculty membership together with trainer and trainee representatives and so it is only now that I am seeking advice from my colleagues. As before, however, my intention is that this process will inform our providing a Library and Information Service that is sensitive to our Members' needs and we would hope to build upon that by advising colleagues as to their own local developments. I would hope to have something more substantial to report in this area next year.

David Tait

This concluded the business meeting, which was followed by the presentations. The Registrar presented to the President representatives from overseas psychiatric organisations, then College Prize winners and new Fellows. Following this, the Registrar called upon the Citators of each Honorary Fellow for 2003 to come forward and give their citation, as follows.

Mr John Bowis, OBE, MEP

(Introduced by Professor Rachel Jenkins)

'It is the province of knowledge to speak and it is the privilege of wisdom to listen'

The Poet at the Breakfast-Table
1872, ch 10 Oliver Wendell Holmes
(1809–1894)

I have had the privilege of knowing John Bowis for over a decade, first as a health minister for 3 years, then as transport minister for just under a year, then working with me for something over a year in the World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre, and finally as a Member of the European Parliament.

At school, he was very interested in drama, playing in the *Mikado* with gusto and handing out fearful punishments to all. He subsequently played Gloucester in *King Lear*, an experience that gave him insight into having disability, people with disability and tackling its surrounding stigma. This has remained a lifelong preoccupation in his work. It may be that this early dramatic interest not only led him to become a member of the Board of the National Theatre, but also into his political career.

Some of us have wondered why John was and is a member of the Tory Party, when he seems much more left wing than some. I can now reveal all. At Oxford in the 1960s, John decided to take an empirical approach to politics and he joined all the political parties to see what they were like. He found that the Liberals had lots of ideas but little likelihood of any opportunity to implement them. The Communists told you what to think. Labour was suffering from a very dominant left wing movement in those days, which displayed much 'control freakery', which he did not like. The Conservative Party did not have a particularly dominant right wing in those days, and in any case had little tendency to control freakery, and so John came to the view that he was more at home in the Conservative Party than the others.

He was and is an excellent constituency MP and positively enjoys listening and solving problems. Indeed I would have known him for longer if I had taken him up on an offer to come for a drink in the Commons to discuss my concerns about mental health services. This occasion arose before he was a health minister, when one of his team had come canvassing to my home (as he was coincidentally my MP) and I had treated the canvasser not only to a cup of tea, but also a brief or not so brief diatribe of current problems in the services. The poor Tory canvasser eventually made his escape, but a few days later I received a kind invitation from John to meet in the Commons to discuss my concerns at greater length, and I will