

I can only agree that patchy funding, and in some cases patchy interest of the specialists, is no longer acceptable. Using the donepezil phase three figures (Rogers *et al*, 1998), the number needed to treat for donepezil is four. In any other area of medicine, this would be accepted as a worthwhile treatment. It is not the efficacy that is really in question, it is the lack of funding. Psychiatry has many new drugs, and many more to come. Its spending on drugs is about 2% of revenue. We need to look at our own services, at the same time as looking for new funding, to try to increase the percentage spent to around 10%. Better treatments in all areas of psychiatry are coming – as a specialist group we have a moral duty to make them available. This is especially

true for dementia, where the priority seems much reduced in the eyes of policy makers and the media.

- Cummings, J., Ega, M., Gray, K., *et al* (1994) The Neuropsychiatric Inventory: comprehensive assessment of psychopathology in dementia. *Neurology*, **44**, 2308–2314.
 Eagger, S. A., Levy, R. & Sahakian, B. J. (1991) Tacrine in Alzheimer's Disease. *Lancet*, **337**, 989–992.
 Heinmarsh, I., Hartmut, L., Perry, D., *et al* (1998) Bayer Activities of Daily Living Scale. *Dementia and Geriatric Cognitive Disorders*, **9** (suppl. 2), 20–26.
 Reisberg, B. (1986) Dementia: a systematic approach to identifying reversible causes. *Geriatrics*, **41**, 30–46.
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Corrigendum

Morgan, G., Buckley, C. & Nowers, M. (1998) Face to face with the suicidal. *Advances in Psychiatric*

Treatment, **4**, 188–196. On page 193, (a) should read: "when the patient is not well-known".

Philosophy Special Interest Group Of The Royal College Of Psychiatrists

R. D. Laing (1927–1989) – Psychiatrist and Philosopher

*A one-day conference at the School of Oriental and African Studies
Brunei Gallery, 10 Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG
Saturday, 9 January 1999*

The aim of this high profile conference is to celebrate the work and ideas of Dr R. D. Laing, an extraordinary pioneer in the field of psychiatry. With a view to demonstrating his devotion and commitment to philosophy as well as psychiatry throughout his career we have invited a number of distinguished speakers who will be presenting their experiences and ideas of Laing and his work.

Professor D. Burston, Pittsburgh, USA

Professor W. Fulford, University of Warwick

Dr S. Raschid, London

Professor L. Ciompi, Bern, Switzerland

Dr J. Heaton, London

Professor L. Sass, New York, USA

Dr L. Mosher, San Diego, USA

The programme includes the following papers: *Laing – The Man in Context, Normality and the Numinous, Laing and Psychotherapy, Laing and the Therapeutic Community, The Religious/Spiritual Dimension, Laingian Reflections on Schizophrenia, The Legacy of Kinsley Hall.*

The conference is aimed at the members of the Philosophy Special Interest Group, local and regional psychiatrists, students and lay people interested in the life and work of Dr R. D. Laing.

Further details, programmes and booking forms are available from: Mrs Joanna Carroll, CPD Unit, Royal College of Psychiatrists, 17 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PG. Tel: 0171-235-2351 ext. 108. Fax: 0171-259-6507. E-mail: jcarroll@rcpsych.ac.uk