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The Society has offices in Belfast, Cardiff, Glasgow and London, as well as the main office in Leicester. All enquiries should be addressed to the Leicester office (see contents page for address).

The British Psychological Society was founded in 1901, and incorporated by Royal Charter in 1965. Its object is 'to promote the advancement and diffusion of a knowledge of psychology pure and applied and especially to promote the efficiency and usefulness of Members of the Society by setting up a high standard of professional education and knowledge'.

Extract from The Charter

News about Society matters and brief items for News of members are welcome. Please send to *The Psychologist* at the Society's office, or to psychologist@bps.org.uk. From next month we will no longer be running subsystem notices: subsystems are encouraged to take out advertising (e-mail sarah.stainton@bps.org.uk) or to contact the editor if there is an event or development with genuine cross-subsystem appeal.

Developing a living archive

THE History of Psychology Centre (HoPC) is taking on a new lease of life and is set to deliver major benefits to Society members and to psychology. Through key partnerships with respected world-leading institutions, a revamped HoPC is making its collections more accessible and will focus on promoting academic and research interests and public engagement.

A project to reorganise HoPC began in 2006, seeking to set up collaborations with partner organisations to achieve its aims:

- to preserve the history of the Society and the heritage of UK psychology for future generations
- to provide an academic research and resource centre in the history of psychology
- to promote the teaching of and research in the history of psychology
- to organise lecture series, workshops and conferences.

Formal collaborations have now been set up with the Wellcome Trust Library and the Science Museum; an existing Society formal collaboration with

Senate House Library has been brought within HoPC's remit; and existing HoPC links with the Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at UCL will be strengthened and developed (see seminar series: www.bps.org.uk/HoPCseminars).

HoPC's collection of individual psychologists' archives and the Society's own archive (minute books, etc.) will be transferred to the Wellcome Trust Library in Euston Road, London, where the material will be looked after to the highest archival standards. The archives will be available to researchers and interested members of the public alike. All the material remains the property of the Society. The agreement with the Library also provides for the development of the archive through acquisitions of psychological material generally and through the acceptance of the Society's own archive material as an ongoing arrangement.

A significant part of the new HoPC is a five-year sponsorship arrangement agreed with the Science Museum. This will provide for a part-time BPS Curator of Psychology at the Museum with responsibility for raising the profile of

psychology within the Museum's exhibitions and programming, and for developing potential opportunities for focused projects featuring the history of psychology. The Curator will provide a key point of liaison between the Museum and the Society, and will contribute significantly to the Museum's work by interpreting both psychology within a science context and science within a psychology context. The sponsorship deal also includes a temporary (four to six months) psychology exhibition and three public dialogue events at the Dana Centre

HoPC's book collection has been transferred to Senate House Library to be merged into the Society's existing official library there. With the Society's help the Library successfully applied to the Wellcome Trust's Research Resources in Medical History grant scheme for a grant to cover the costs of cataloguing the transferred books. There has also been a merging of the two rather incomplete collections of subsystems publications held by HoPC and Senate House Library. Members' help is needed to make as complete a single collection as possible (see www.bps.org.uk/HoPCsubspubs). All Society members will be able to register with the Library free of charge and have access to a wide range of resources, including remote access to primary resources online.

HoPC will continue to occupy an office at Tabernacle Street, where the Society's archivist is based. As well as a small collection of books and journals, the Society's audio and visual archives will be kept there, where they will be maintained and developed. There is already an active Oral History Project (see www.bps.org.uk/HoPCoralhistory, especially if you would like to interview or be interviewed).

The Research Board has been overseeing the project to re-establish HoPC. Board Chair, Martin Conway, commented: 'The Research Board very much welcomes this important development that will ensure the continuity of the Society's history and, indeed, the history of British psychology generally. Living archives such as this provide an invaluable resource to inform the understanding of our discipline and to be aware of the real people who contributed. The Research Board acknowledges the crucial role of Peter Dillon-Hooper and staff in the Leicester office in bringing this about, and we also thank the Board of Trustees for their support.'

**Reynell Developmental
Language Scales**

BOOKCLUB UPDATE

The Oxford University Press/British Psychological Society Bookclub website at www.oup.co.uk/promotions/medicine/websockbps has been updated, and features new books, such as:

- *Mirrors in the Brain: How Our Minds Share Actions, Emotions, and Experience* by Giacomo Rizzolatti and Corrado Sinigaglia
- *Social Intelligence: From Brain to Culture*, edited by Nathan Emery, Nicola Clayton and Chris Frith
- *Oxford Handbook of Psycholinguistics*, edited by Gareth Gaskell
- *Sensorimotor Foundations of Higher Cognition*, edited by Patrick Haggard, Yves Rossetti and Mitsuo Kawato

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Professor Kevin Wheldall has been elected a Fellow of the International Academy for Research in Learning Disabilities.

POLICY SUPPORT UNIT

www.bps.org.uk/consult

Update on 'Acute Inpatient Services Review' consultation

We reported in August that the Healthcare Commission (HCC) had failed to take account of the Society's response to this consultation. Following correspondence on this issue, a meeting took place in October between the HCC's Head of Mental Health Strategy, Anthony Deery, and Professor Peter Kinderman and Dr John Hanna of the Division of Clinical Psychology (the authors of the Society's response). The meeting was extremely positive, with agreement being reached that Society members would contribute to collaborative working with the HCC on several key issues, as follows:

- to contribute to the HCC's drafting of the report (in March 2008) of the Acute Services Review, and to help develop remedial action for any identified poorly-performing Trusts;
- to engage with the outcome assessment steering and clinical practice subgroups of the HCC's acute inpatient service review programme;
- to offer academic and clinical expertise to the development and analysis of the HCC's staff and service-user surveys;
- to contribute to the HCC's plan to audit the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) programme.

It was also agreed that it would be ideal if the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) were to look at clinical guidelines for the provision of psychological services – examining the range of psychological approaches in addition to, and complementary to, the welcome focus on psychological therapies (more narrowly defined than 'services') under the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) programme.

Responses submitted during October

Thirteen consultations were responded to during October, three from the Department for Children, Schools and Families (*Review of Implementation of Guidance on Handling Allegations of Abuse Against Those Who Work with Children and Young People; Staying Safe; and Time to Talk*); three from the Welsh Assembly Government (*Service Development and Commissioning Directives for Chronic Non-Malignant Pain; Safeguarding Children from Abuse Linked to a Belief in Spirit Possession; and Safeguarding Children Who May Have Been Trafficked*); and seven to other consulting bodies:

- *A New Ambition for Stroke: A consultation on a national strategy* (response to the Department of Health)
- *Access to Healthcare for People with Learning Disabilities* (response to an independent inquiry, commissioned by the Department of Health)
- *Allied Health Professionals Stroke Data Standards for Scotland* (response to the National Clinical Dataset Development Programme)
- *Confidence and Confidentiality: Openness in family courts – a new approach* (response to the Ministry of Justice)
- *Drugs: Our Community, Your Say* (response to the Home Office)
- *Mental Health and Older People: Consultation on evidence* (response to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence)
- *Review of Science in the Department of Health* (Government Office for Science)

□ *The preparation and submission of the Society's responses to consultations on public policy is coordinated by the Policy Support Unit (PSU). All members are eligible to contribute to responses and all interest is warmly welcomed. Please contact the PSU for further information (psu@bps.org.uk; 0116 252 9926/9577). Details of both active and completed consultations are available at: www.bps.org.uk/consult.*

ETHICS COLUMN No.12

PROVIDING ETHICAL ADVICE

If you are faced with an ethical question or asked to give advice about an ethical problem, what should you do? Of course you would first reach for the Code of Ethics and Conduct (www.bps.org.uk/code), and that will provide answers to most questions. But then what? Perhaps you feel this is not enough, as it does not cover specific cases, providing only general guidance.

Take as an example the role of a clinical psychologist whose job involves assessing patients to enable them to access special funding under a so-called 'low priority treatments policy'. This lists examples of procedures which patients will not, as a rule, get on the NHS and then defines exceptions..

The example I would like to discuss (fictional, but based on experience of real cases) is a 37-year-old man, who had gynecomastia – enlarged breasts from his teenage years. He works as an engineers assistant in a ship's boiler room and has been teased by his shipmates. He has recently started a new relationship and was very embarrassed about his breasts. He stated clearly that if he did not get the operation he would set about doing it himself – self-surgery. He had no formal psychiatric history, but described periods in his life when he was anxious and depressed. Should he get the operation?

According to the policy the patient can have the procedure under the 'exceptional clinical need' exemption:

- Where the patient will be affected in such a way as to leave them suffering with a severe or life threatening illness as a result of *not* receiving the requested low priority treatment.
- Where the patient has a pre existing or current mental illness of sufficient severity to warrant treatment, then a psychiatric assessment will be required to identify whether the patient is at significant risk of further mental illness if the treatment is not undertaken, or that the intervention will significantly contribute to the alleviation of the mental illness.
- Where the patient is suffering from significant persistent pain, requiring medication, which the requested treatment will alleviate more effectively than other forms of pain relief. The referring clinician will need to specify why the clinical circumstances surrounding the pain are exceptional, and justify the requested treatment.

So a number of questions arise here:

- a) Is this a practical issue of how you allocate resources or an ethical one of deciding who are the deserving and undeserving; that is, are the criteria ethical?
- b) Can a psychologist claim to be able to predict whether, in any particular case, having or not having the procedure will or will not seriously endanger the patient's physical and/or mental health, that is are the criteria workable?
- c) Should a psychologist be involved in rationing services in this way?
- d) Should the question really be deciding whether the person needs psychological therapy or not, rather than whether they need a surgical or medical procedure?

The Code of Conduct invites you to identify the relevant issues: What are the parameters of the situation? Is there research evidence that might be relevant? What legal guidance exists? What do peers advise? Under these circumstances, I would consider the following:

Supply and demand: Given there is a limited amount of NHS treatment available it is inevitable that demand will outstrip supply. To be ethical under these circumstances you would need to develop some way of allocating the resources in a fair and open manner. In this particular example, there is a panel and an appeal process. Due process would be an important safeguard.

Effectiveness: If we have evidence that an approach works, is available, and there are people needing it, to match patient to procedure would clearly make sense. This would be the effectiveness argument and the ethical issue is that you are not wasting public money (if working in the public sector) or potentially harming the patient. In this example there may be a limited evidence-base in terms of prediction in an individual case, but perhaps more in terms of surgical effectiveness.

Finance and risk: Often screening is not based on such considerations, but more on such things as risk and complexity and cost of not having them in treatment. In this example it is the estimate of the risk of self-harm which may be the deciding factor.

However, hidden underneath such screening systems there may be less obvious issues. Some patients are considered less 'deserving' than others. Interrogation of the screening criteria, the process itself and the underlying values it embodies, can help when approaching such a problem.

One excellent way of dealing with issues like this is to argue for the maximum degree of openness, consistent with maintaining patient confidentiality. If this is done there can be feedback built into the system so that appropriate challenge can be made if necessary.

Tony Wainwright

SUBSYSTEM NOTICES

DIVISION OF CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

Annual Conference – Last chance to register

Congress Centre, London, 13–14 December 2007

Keynote speakers: Professor David Alexander – 'Trauma: Progress, regress and challenges'
Professor Simon Baron-Cohen – 'Is autism an extreme of the male brain?'

Baroness Susan Greenfield CBE – 'The psychology of the 21st century mind: Is technology changing the way we feel think and behave?'

Professor G. Alan Marlatt – 'Mindfulness-based relapse prevention'

Conference programme now available.

For full information please visit www.dcpconference.co.uk; e-mail: dcpconf@bps.org.uk; tel: 0116 252

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY SECTION

Annual General Meeting

The deferred AGM 2007 for the Section will now be held at the Department of Psychology, University of Kent, Canterbury, at 12.30pm–1.30pm on Thursday 10 January 2008. Committee positions available are Honorary Treasurer, Conference Officer and Postgraduate member.

Nominations and enquiries should be directed to the Honorary Secretary, Dr Sally Wiggins at sally.wiggins@strath.ac.uk. Tel: 0141 548 4461.

MATHEMATICAL, STATISTICAL & COMPUTING SECTION

Meeting and Conference

The Section Meeting and Conference will be held at Keele University on Saturday 8 December.

For details contact Brendan Bunting (028 7137 5295).

DCP SOUTH THAMES BRANCH

Annual Conference 2008
Friday 25 January 2008, BPS

London office

Registration will open in November.

For more information please see our website www.bps.org.uk/souththames2008 or call Mandy Lindsay on 0116 252 9555.

NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH

Annual Conference 2008 – Call for papers

The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth, 9–11 May 2008

Abstract deadline via internet: 31 January 2008 www.nibps.org.uk

Note: All abstracts must be submitted electronically.

DIVISION OF EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

DECP Annual Professional Development Event

9–11 January

Registration is now open.

Further information is available at www.bps.org.uk/decp2008

SPECIAL GROUP IN COACHING PSYCHOLOGY

3rd Annual Coaching Psychology Conference

17–18 December 2007, City University, London

A 'not to be missed event', offering an exciting and topical conference examining the latest theory and practice in coaching psychology with keynote papers, full-day masterclasses, research and case study presentations, skills-based sessions and roundtable discussions.

The programme will be delivered by national and international leaders in the field. Keynote speakers will include: Dr Tony Grant, Dr Carol Kaufmann, Professor Ernesto Spinelli, Sir John Whitmore and Dr Alison Whybrow.

Further details about the conference, including conference programme and online registration, are available at www.city.ac.uk/sgcp.

WESSEX BRANCH

AGM and Evening Lecture 2008

The AGM will take place at 6.30 pm on 20 February 2008 in the Stripe Theatre at the University of Winchester, Sparkford Road, Winchester. This will be followed at

7pm by an address given by the BPS President Pam Maras, who will talk about her research. Refreshments will be available from 6pm.

For further information and bookings please contact Sheila Simons, the Branch Administrator. E-mail: wessex@bps.org.uk

PSYCHOLOGY OF WOMEN SECTION

Annual Conference 2008

Submissions for Psychology of Women Section Annual Conference 2008 will be open in January.

Further information is available at www.bps.org.uk/pows2008

DIVISION OF COUNSELLING PSYCHOLOGY

Joint Conference of the Divisions of Counselling Psychology of the Psychological Society of Ireland and the British Psychological Society

20–21 June 2008, Trinity College, Dublin

Call for submissions open.

For information please visit www.bps.org.uk/dcop2008 or e-mail dcopconf@bps.org.uk Tel: 0116 252 9555.

DIVISION OF SPORT & EXERCISE PSYCHOLOGY

Communication with members

The Division is aiming to improve its communication with members by making greater use of e-mail. However in order to do this, members must volunteer their e-mail address and consent to being contacted by e-mail. All members will receive a flyer asking you to consent to use of your e-mail by returning the tear-off slip.

CPD

CPD opportunities in sport and exercise psychology are available through the British Association of Sport and Exercise Sciences (BASES). See www.bases.org.uk/newsite/home.asp for more information.

Conference

The first DSEP Conference will be held in London on 11–12 December 2008 and we have confirmed Professor Dave Collins as a keynote speaker. Watch out for further information soon.

SELECTED NEWS FROM THE BOARDS

Membership and Professional Training Board (13 September 2007)

- *Non-standard applications for registration as a Chartered Educational Psychologist:* The Board approved the application forms, core competency information and pro-forma assessment documents. It was also agreed that the recruitment of the scrutiny panel and Board of Assessors should be managed within the Membership and Qualifications Teams.
- *Candidates for Society qualifications with English as a second language:* The Board agreed that materials submitted for assessment/examination, including taped sessions, must be submitted in the English language unless other relevant legislation applies.
- *Financial review of the Boards of Examiners/Assessors:* In order to meet the Trustees aspiration that the qualifications should seek to become entirely self-funding, the Board approved recommended fee increases in relation to each Board of Assessors.
- *Benchmarking of training routes at D Level:* The Board agreed to include in the revised Quality Assurance policies and practice booklet a statement to the effect that training programmes that fulfil the requirements for Chartered Status would be benchmarked at doctoral level as defined by the QAA in its Framework for Higher Education Qualification. The revised booklet is due to be produced for consideration by the Board at its November meeting.
- *Supervisor training and recognition:* Following the meeting of the STAR group on 26 September, a paper will be submitted to the Board of Trustees requesting approval to launch the scheme and its operating procedures.
- *New Ways of Working for Applied Psychologists in Health and Social Care – Summary Report:* The Board agreed that this is an important area for strategic development, and that the views of the NWWAP group merit further active consideration within a short timescale.
- *Committee on Training in Clinical Psychology – Revised accreditation criteria:* The Board approved revised criteria for the accreditation of postgraduate training programmes in clinical psychology.
- *Division of Educational and Child Psychology Training Committee – Revised learning outcomes:* The Board approved the inclusion of the revised learning outcomes in the criteria for the accreditation of three-year training programmes for educational psychology in England, Northern Ireland and Wales (June 2006).

HISTORY & PHILOSOPHY OF PSYCHOLOGY SECTION

Annual Conference and AGM

25–27 March, Lady Margaret Hall, University of Oxford

Keynote speaker: Professor Kenneth Gergen

We welcome papers on any aspect of history or philosophy of psychology for this

conference. Proposals for symposia are also welcome.

Please send abstracts of up to 250 words to Alan Collins at a.collins@lancaster.ac.uk by 14 December.

DEADLINE

Deadline for Society contributions is **4 January** for the February issue