

Statutory regulation

An update from **GEOFF LINDSAY**, Chair of the BPS Working Party on Statutory Regulation.

THE Society has sought for over 30 years to persuade the government to regulate psychology. This is Society policy, confirmed by votes of the membership. At the Annual General Meeting in Blackpool (15 March 2002) I was able to announce that the minister, John Hutton, had confirmed his agreement on action to bring this about. The route was to be the Health Professions Council (HPC), set up in April 2002. These important events were reported by Graham Davey in his June 'President's column'.

The purpose of this report is to bring the membership up to date, and to explain the likely developments over the short to medium term.

Why regulation?

Careful observers of these developments will notice the change in terminology from 'registration'. In fact, the government and their officials have always referred to 'regulation' when discussing these issues for all professions.

The primary purpose is the protection of the public. The medical, dental and legal professions all have the power

for good, but if misapplied they can cause significant harm. Ministers, both Labour and Conservative, have accepted for many years that the arguments for regulation that apply to these older professions also hold for applied psychology. This has also been supported by MPs and members of the House of Lords. Indeed, two members of the Lords were prepared to sponsor a bill.

The need for regulation has clearly been demonstrated by the work of our Investigatory Committee and Disciplinary Board, but their powers are limited to members, and

disciplinary committee decisions cannot prevent a person who has committed a serious offence continuing to practise. Only a statutory regulation system can do that.

Why the Health Professions Council? The Society's preferred route has been a regulatory body specific to psychology, as is the case with the General Medical Council for medical practitioners. However, the government has made it clear that this is not an option, for psychology or any other profession. This left two

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Bruce Crowe was elected an Honorary Fellow of the Australian Psychological Society at its AGM on 29 September for his extraordinary contribution to the advancement of the Society and distinguished contribution to the advancement of psychological practice.

Professor Mark Griffiths of Nottingham Trent University was elected to the International Executive Committee of the European Association for the Study of Gambling at their October conference in Barcelona.

Dr Peter Griffiths has resigned from the Departments of Psychology, University of Stirling, and the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow. Since October 2002 his appointments are as Consultant Clinical Psychologist to the child neuropsychology clinics at Stirling Royal Infirmary and the Armitstead Child Development Centre, Dundee.

Dr George Sik left SHL (formerly Saville & Holdsworth) at Christmas to join ERAS, whose head office is in Diss, Norfolk, though he will be working extensively from his home in Epsom.

Dr Bevan Wiltshire, recently retired Director of Professional Practice in the Australian Psychological Society, has been made a Fellow of the APS.

Doctoral research award

THE 2002 Award for Outstanding Doctoral Research Contributions to Psychology has gone to Dr Sarah-Jayne Blakemore of the Institute of Neurology, University College London.

The award is made by the Society's Research Board, to recognise outstanding published contributions to psychology based on doctoral research.

Dr Blakemore's research into the cognitive neuropsychology of intentionality in healthy adults and people with schizophrenia has been described by her award nominator, Professor Chris Frith (Principal Research Fellow at the Institute of Neurology, University College London), as showing 'a clear unity of topic and purpose despite using many different techniques and ranging from basic science to a clinical study'. Professor Frith adds: 'An important feature of Dr Blakemore's work is that it provides a solid foundation

for further investigations. In addition to her first-rate scientific work, Dr Blakemore is a keen advocate of the public understanding of science. There



was inevitably considerable media interest in her work; her presentations of this work to the media were clear and interesting while remaining true to the scientific content.'

Dr Blakemore studied for her BA (Hons) in experimental psychology at St John's College, University of Oxford, where she gained a first. She moved on to UCL in 1996, entering the Wellcome PhD Programme in Neuroscience,

and receiving her doctorate in October 2000. In 2001 Dr Blakemore was awarded the Wellcome International Prize Travelling Research Fellowship, a three-year doctoral research project looking at the psychophysical and neural correlates of understanding causation and intention using fMRI and EEG in healthy individuals, and in people with schizophrenia and children with autism. This research is being undertaken in cooperation with psychologists in France and the US.

Dr Blakemore has already published several papers in journals such as *Psychological Medicine*, *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*, *Neuropsychologia*, and *Nature Neuroscience*, and has contributed chapters to a number of recent books on neuroimaging and schizophrenia.

Dr Blakemore will receive her award in March at the Society's 2003 Annual Conference in Bournemouth.

possible routes: the HPC or a new body that would cover the 'talking therapies', to include psychotherapy, counselling and psychology. Council took the view that the latter was not acceptable.

The HPC route does not imply that psychology is seen necessarily as a health profession. The Health Act 1999 specified that relevant professions were those that dealt wholly or partly with individuals' mental and physical health. This allows psychology to be included. Furthermore, it allows the whole of applied psychology, not just those elements which are exclusively concerned with health.

Next steps

These developments have been reported regularly to Council, most recently at the meeting on 19 October. This followed the latest meeting between Professor David Legge and myself representing the Society with Department of Health officials, where we began to discuss action.

The HPC has just undertaken a consultation exercise on its proposed operation, to which the Society responded. Over the next 6–12 months it will be developing and bedding down its procedures for the 12 founder-member professions. It will then be in a position to consider new professions. It is likely that we will be the second in line for consideration as we meet all the requirements for membership, and have well-developed and established procedures. Indeed, we have been advised that our experience should be very useful to the HPC.

We shall meet with HPC officials in the new year to discuss both an action plan for psychology and how we might aid the HPC in its formative period. I must stress that there is no guarantee, but the best estimate is that the legislation will be moved later in 2004.

In order to prepare for these developments we shall be considering in detail the implications of regulation by the HPC for psychologists and the Society. Meetings will continue with DoH and HPC officials. Meetings with representatives from the subsystems most affected, Divisions, Special Groups, and Sections will be held in the new year, and there will be regular reports to Council, and to the members via *The Psychologist* and the Society website.

Who is affected?

Only psychologists who offer a psychological service to the public will need to register with the HPC. The HPC register will be very similar to the present Register of Chartered Psychologists. However, those who are not providing a psychological service to the public will not need to register with the HPC – including those members who are engaged solely in teaching and research.

Final comment

The Society is now in sight of the realisation of a long-term objective. There are a number of issues to address, in particular the relationship of the Society with the HPC. Two important issues remain of concern for the future: our comprehensive accreditation system and what investigatory and disciplinary procedures the Society needs to retain for its own purposes. We shall be actively involved with the HPC in discussions, not least because these are issues that affect the other professional bodies concerned and our experience will be important to the HPC.

Members will be kept informed by updates in *The Psychologist*, and the Society's website which now has a 'Statutory regulation' page (www.bps.org.uk/statreg). Members might also like to visit the HPC website (www.hpc-uk.org).

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2003

The AGM of the Society will be held at 6pm on Friday 14 March 2003 in the Purbeck Lounge at the Bournemouth International Centre.

Professor Ingrid Lunt, Honorary General Secretary

SUBSYSTEM NOTICES

DIVISION OF CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

Northern Ireland Assistant Psychologist Forum (NIAPF)

NIAPF is currently meeting every two months, on Thursdays at 2pm. The next two have been scheduled as follows:

9 January 2003 – 2nd Floor

Seminar Room, Royal Belfast

Hospital for Sick Children. Invited

speaker: Dr Geraldine Scott-Heyes:

'The role of the clinical psychologist in the Royal-Jubilee Maternity Service'

6 March 2003 – Newtownards

Hospital. Invited speaker: Dr Tracey

Reid 'Ego-state therapy'

For further details, or to join mailing

list contact: Sharon Hardiman,

Homefirst Community Addictions Team, Ballymena BT43 5DT.

Tel. 028 2565 8462; e-mail.

sharon.hardiman@ntlworld.com;

website: www.niapf.tripod.com

(under construction).

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY SECTION

Annual Award for Outstanding PhD Thesis

The Section has established an annual award for the PhD student whose thesis is regarded to be an exceptional innovative contribution to social psychology knowledge.

Work in any area of social psychology will be eligible.

Theses may be nominated for the award only by the external

examiner(s) responsible for awarding the PhD. However, supervisors may suggest to an external examiner that a particular thesis is worthy of consideration for the prize. Nominations should be made within two months of the viva taking place.

The winner will receive £500 and will be invited to present a paper at the Section's annual conference. The winner will also be asked to submit an article for publication in *Social Psychology Review* (to be subject to the normal referee process).

To nominate a thesis, the external examiner should submit a report making the case for its outstanding contribution. In particular, the external examiner should comment on its theoretical contribution, methodological rigour and long-term impact on the discipline. A pro forma will be supplied to external examiners wishing to make a nomination.

The candidate will also need to complete a form detailing the registration details and any publications derived from research carried out for the doctoral degree of which the candidate is the sole or senior author. The candidate is also asked to provide an extended abstract of the thesis (not more than 1000 words).

Nominations will be judged by a subpanel established by the committee of the Section.

Nominations submitted by 1 March each year will be considered at the time of the BPS Annual Conference.

The external examiner's report, the candidate's form and the extended abstract of the thesis should be returned to: Dr Richard Mallows, Hon. Secretary/Treasurer, BPS Social Psychology Section, School of Sports Science and Psychology, York St John College, Lord Mayor's Walk, York YO31 7EX.

DIVISION OF EDUCATIONAL AND CHILD PSYCHOLOGY

Educational and Child Psychology editorial board vacancies

Educational and Child Psychology, published by the DECP, is a leading publication for professional educational and child psychologists practising in the UK. The editorial board includes leading academics and practitioners from the UK and abroad. There are now two vacancies on the editorial board and we would welcome applications from psychologists interested in making an active contribution to the development of the publication. As a member of the editorial board

you would be involved in refereeing papers and compiling topical issues. The board formally meets twice a year in London, but you would be in more frequent contact with other members of the board as well as authors as part of your editorial work.

Applications should be in the form of a letter to the General Editor indicating your interest and commitment. An accompanying CV should give details of relevant work and areas of interest. Applications should be sent to Dr Simon Gibbs, General Editor, Council Offices, Scalby Road, Scarborough YO13 0RA. E-mail: simon.gibbs@northyorks.gov.uk. Deadline: 28 February 2003.

WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH

'Psychology an integral part of primary care?'

Thursday 6 February 2003, 12 noon until 4.30pm.

Speakers include Peter Spurgeon, Louise Wallace, Gwen Hollis and Jonathan Cole.

Details from Elizabeth Hensel (tel: 0121 449 5858; e-mail: liz.hensel@blueyonder.co.uk).

SCOTTISH BRANCH

AGM and call for nominations

The 2003 AGM will be held on Friday 7 February at the Lister Postgraduate Institute, 11 Hill Square, Edinburgh. Nominations are sought for new members to join

the committee. Elections will take place at the AGM. The deadline for nominations for both office bearers and for ordinary membership of the Branch committee is **10 January 2003**.

Further information and nomination forms are available from Kate Skellington Orr (Honorary Secretary), Scottish Executive Social Research Group, Criminal Justice Branch, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH4 0BA. Tel: 0131 244 4046; e-mail: KateJane.Skellington@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

DIVISION OF COUNSELLING PSYCHOLOGY

Annual Conference 2003

16–18 May, The Moat House Hotel, Stratford-upon-Avon

Invited speakers: Dr Peter Heint; Dr Kathryn Mannix; Dr Martin Milton; Professor David Rennie.

The conference organisers are keen to receive proposals for papers, symposia, workshops and posters on a range of topics. The aim is to explore a broad range of issues and celebrate what is new in counselling psychology and related fields.

Please note: A maximum of two presentations will be accepted by the organisers.

Abstract deadline: **14 February 2003**.

Further information and submission details from: Isabelle Roney (e-mail: irony@btoopenworld.com).

DEADLINE

Copy deadline for Society contributions is **31 January** for the March issue

MEETING DATES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 14 March 2003

COUNCIL

Saturday 15 February 2003

Saturday 10 May 2003

Saturday 18 October 2003

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Friday 17 January 2003

Friday 14 February 2003 (pre-Council)

Friday 7 March 2003

Friday 9 May 2003 (pre-Council)

Friday 13 June 2003

Friday 5 September 2003

Friday 17 October 2003 (pre-Council)

Friday 28 November 2003

RESEARCH BOARD

Saturday 1 February 2003 (followed by Book Award Committee)

Wednesday 12 March 2003 (followed by Spearman Medal Committee)

Friday 27 June 2003 (followed by Presidents' Award Committee)

Friday 24 October 2003 (followed by

Visiting Psychologists Committee)

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE BOARD

Saturday 8 February 2003

Friday 4 April 2003

Friday 6 June 2003

Friday 12 September 2003

Saturday 22 November 2003

MEMBERSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING BOARD

Friday 21 February 2003

Friday 20 June 2003

Friday 19 September 2003

Friday 7 November 2003

PSYCHOLOGY EDUCATION BOARD

Friday 21 February 2003

Friday 11 April 2003

Friday 6 June 2003

Friday 10 October 2003

PUBLICATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS BOARD

Friday 14 March 2003

Thursday 12 June 2003

Thursday 11 September 2003

Friday 12 December 2003

FELLOWSHIPS COMMITTEE

Friday 14 February 2003

Thursday 22 May 2003

Friday 3 October 2003

DISCIPLINARY BOARD

Tuesday 4 March 2003

Tuesday 14 October 2003

GRADUATE QUALIFICATIONS ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

Thursday 23 January 2003

Thursday 6 March 2003

Thursday 1 May 2003

Thursday 26 June 2003

Thursday 11 September 2003

Thursday 13 November 2003

ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE

Thursday 16 January 2003

Thursday 20 February 2003

Thursday 24 April 2003

Thursday 5 June 2003

Thursday 4 September 2003

Thursday 6 November 2003

STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE PROMOTION OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Friday 10 January 2003

THE PSYCHOLOGIST POLICY COMMITTEE

Friday 24 January 2003

Friday 16 May 2003

Friday 3 October 2003

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Wednesday 5 March 2003

Tuesday 24 June 2003

Thursday 18 September 2003

Wednesday 10 December 2003

FUTURE SOCIETY CONFERENCES, ETC.

Annual Conference –

13–15 March 2003

London Lectures –

Friday 5 December 2003

NORTH WEST OF ENGLAND BRANCH**Presentation skills workshop**

A one-day workshop for beginning and refreshing oral presentation skills

Saturday 15 March 2003 at Didsbury Campus, Manchester Metropolitan University, 799 Wilmslow Road, Didsbury, Manchester M20 2RR

The workshop will involve a series of exercises and practical sessions: Planning your talk; Addressing the audience; Using your time; Self-presentation; Visual aids; Managing anxiety; Handling questions.

Constructive feedback will be given, and the workshops are facilitated by

experienced trainers (Dr Kath Knowles, Dr Judith Sixsmith and John Griffiths).

The fee for the day is £30.00 per person, which includes refreshments and buffet lunch.

Details from: Janine Acott, Commercial Office, Manchester Metropolitan University, Elizabeth Gaskell Site, Hathersage Road, Manchester M13 0JA

Careers in Psychology Day

Thursday 17 April 2003 in conjunction with Manchester Metropolitan University.

To be held in the Manton Building, Manchester Metropolitan University, commencing at 10am.

Further details from Hilary Neve (tel: 0161 437 6443; e-mail: hiliary_neve@totalise.co.uk) or Dr Shirley Pressler (tel: 01695 584085; e-mail: pressles@edgehill.ac.uk).

NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH in conjunction with the WELSH and SCOTTISH BRANCHES**Annual Conference 2003 – Call for papers**

The Comfort Hotel, Portrush, Co Antrim, 25–27 April

All abstracts must be submitted electronically. Abstract deadline via the internet (www.nibps.org.uk): **20 January 2003.**

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP IN ONCOLOGY AND PALLIATIVE CARE**'Psychosocial rehabilitation in cancer care'**

SIGOPAC invites you to this meeting, which will take place on Friday 14 March 2003 from 10am to 4.30pm at the Education Centre, Bristol Royal Infirmary, Bristol.

Cost: £5 to SIGOPAC members (only £10 to join), £10 to non-members.

Contact: Dr James Brennan, SIGOPAC Membership Secretary, Bristol Haematology & Oncology Centre, Horfield Road, Bristol BS2 8ED. E-mail: james.brennan@bristol.ac.uk.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES listed by deadline**15 January 2003**

Sense of Smell Institute. Research grants for research on olfaction. Website: www.senseofsmell.org/funding/grants.asp

20 January 2003

BBSRC. New investigators scheme and research programme grants. Contact: Grants and Awards Administrator. Tel: 01793 413200; website: www.bbsrc.ac.uk

1 February 2003

Harry Frank Guggenheim. Dissertation fellowships. Tel: 00 1 212 644 4907; website: www.hfg.org

Wingate Foundation: Scholarships. Contact: Faith Clark. Tel: 020 7438 9513.

National Institutes for Health. Joint proposals: Age-related changes in reading and oral comprehension projects and programmes. Contact: Extramural Outreach and Information Resources Office. Tel: 00 1 301 435 0714; fax: 00 1 301 480 8443; e-mail: asknih@odrockm1.od.nih.gov; website: www.nih.gov/grants/oer.htm

US Agency on Healthcare Research. Research grants: Alcohol-related problems. Contact: Harold Perl. Tel: 00 1 301 443 0786; e-mail: perl@nih.gov; website: <http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide.html>

US National Cancer Institute. Research grants: Cancer prevention, screening and care. Contact: Martin Brown. E-mail: mb53o@nih.gov; website: <http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide.html>

National Institutes for Health. Joint proposals: Basic and translational research in emotion projects and programmes. Contact: Extramural Outreach and Information Resources Office. Tel: 00 1 301 435 0714; fax: 00 1 301 480 8443; e-mail: asknih@odrockm1.od.nih.gov; website: www.nih.gov/grants/oer.htm

US Social Science Research Council. Research grants: Causes of violent conflict. Tel: 00 1 202 332 5572; e-mail: gsc@ssrc.org; website: www.ssrc.org

National Institutes for Health. Joint proposals: Occupational safety and health. Contact: Extramural Outreach and Information Resources Office. Tel: 00 1 301 435 0714; fax: 00 1 301 480 8443; e-mail: asknih@odrockm1.od.nih.gov; website: www.nih.gov/grants/oer.htm

NERC: New Investigators Competition. Contact: Dr J. Baker. Tel: 01793 411564; website: www.nerc.ac.uk

National Institute of Mental Health. Integrating Behavioural Science and Mental Health. Contact: Dr Peter Muehrer. Tel: 00 1 301 443 4708; e-mail: pmueher@nih.gov

National Institutes for Health. Joint proposals: Research on autism and autistic spectrum disorder. Contact: Extramural Outreach and Information Resources Office. Tel: 00 1 301 435 0714; fax: 00 1 301 480 8443; e-mail: asknih@odrockm1.od.nih.gov; website: www.nih.gov/grants/oer.htm

National Institute on Aging. Higher order cognitive functioning and ageing projects, programmes and investigator initiated applications. Tel: 00 1 301 496 1752.

National Institutes for Health. Joint proposals: Basic and applied research related to ADHD. Contact: Extramural Outreach and Information Resources Office. Tel: 00 1 301 435 0714; fax: 00 1 301 480 8443; e-mail: asknih@odrockm1.od.nih.gov; website: www.nih.gov/grants/oer.htm

8 February 2003

MRC. Pre-doctoral fellowships. Contact: Studentships Section. Tel: 020 7636 5422; e-mail: students@headoffice.mrc.ac.uk; website: www.mrc.ac.uk

28 February 2003

Alcohol Education and Research Council. Research grants. Contact: Leonard Hay. Tel: 020 7271 8379/8337; e-mail: len.hay@aerc.sec.demon.co.uk; website: www.aerc.org.uk

1 Feb 2004 (ongoing)

National Institute on Aging. Research projects. Contact: Linda Whipp. Tel: 00 1 301 496 1472; e-mail: lw17m@nih.gov; website: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide.html>

open date schemes

BBSRC. Responsive-mode research grants. Tel: 01793 413200; website: www.bbsrc.ac.uk

EPSRC. Overseas travel grants, Visiting Fellowships, and research grants. Tel: 01793 444000; fax: 01793 444010; e-mail: infoline@epsrc.ac.uk; website: www.epsrc.ac.uk

ESRC. Research grants and research fellowships. Contact: Management, Psychology, Linguistics and Education Research Support Team. Tel: 01793 413000; e-mail: mple.rst@esrc.ac.uk; website: www.esrc.ac.uk

MRC. Grant for Centres, Programmes, Co-operative Groups, Development, and Strategic. Tel: 020 7636 5422; e-mail: rgb@headoffice.mrc.ac.uk; website: www.mrc.ac.uk

Nuffield Foundation. Social science small grants scheme. Contact: Louie Burghes or Ann Weber. Tel: 020 7631 0566; website: www.nuffield.org.uk

Schizophrenia Research Fund. Small and medium project grants Contact: Irving King, Secretary, SRF, New Court, St Swithin's Lane, London EC4P 4DU.

A searchable database containing full details of the various national and international funding opportunities for psychologists can be found on the Society's website at www.bps.org.uk/careers/funding.cfm

If you are a grant-awarding body, please e-mail Lisa Morrison (lismor@bps.org.uk) with details of your scheme for inclusion in this column.