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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. Subsystem notices: notices received from elected officers of subsystems of official meetings, events, conferences of Divisions, Sections, Branches and Special Groups of the Society are inserted free of charge. Items should be sent to susepp@bps.org.uk.

A decade of outcomes

TO mark 10 years of the Society's Centre for Outcomes Research and Effectiveness (CORE), we thought it appropriate to consider its work so far.

Working within the sub-department of clinical health psychology at UCL, CORE's broad aims are to promote clinical effectiveness, encourage the use of high quality outcome measures, and to evaluate health services and interventions. Through its links with the Society's Professional Practice Board, CORE provides support to applied psychologists working in or with a research interest in health and social care.

In 2001, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) formed the National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health (NCCMH), which was a partnership between CORE and the Royal College of Psychiatrists Research and Training Unit, to develop evidence-based clinical practice guidelines. The first guideline emerged the following year, on the treatment and management of schizophrenia. The World Health Organization and World Psychiatric Association, in a comparison of 24 schizophrenia guidelines worldwide, found a 'remarkable superiority of the NICE guidelines with respect to methodological quality'.

At any one time several guidelines are under development, with each one taking one to two years to produce. The guidelines are updated every two to four years, with schizophrenia currently under review. Other published guidelines include eating disorders, self-harm,

depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, depression in children, and obsessive-compulsive disorder. Guidelines are currently in development on antenatal and postnatal mental health, ADHD, bipolar disorder, dementia, drug misuse, and

personality disorder.

Professionals can register as stakeholders through the Society or other organisations, in order to comment on draft guidelines.

NICE guidelines are now an important element of the Department of Health's Standards for Better Health, on which the Healthcare Commission bases its assessment of trusts in terms of performance ratings. The Commission looks at how well trusts are taking clinical guidelines into account, and from 2006/7, how far patients are being treated according to clinical guidelines.

CORE also works to support implementation of NICE guidelines. It works alongside the NICE implementation programme in helping to produce implementation advice and tools (such as slide sets focusing on the key messages, audit criteria, and cost impact analyses and templates). Independently CORE, through its part in the NCCMH, produces its own materials to support implementation, organises conferences and

establishes links with training and education. It is also involved in supporting the use of guidelines in practice locally, through managing a NICE implementation pilot in London.

The NICE guidelines are just one part of CORE's main areas of research and development. Researchers also work on the development and implementation of routine outcome monitoring in health services and advise professionals on the appropriate use of outcome measures. Part of this work is to encourage service user- and carer-focused monitoring methods.

Important work is also being undertaken to further understanding of the psychological processes involved in the implementation of evidence-based practice in healthcare services. Researchers are developing a psychological framework to study and support the implementation of evidence-based practice with a view to expanding the use of psychological theory in implementation research.

Finally, CORE contributes to the evaluation of health service interventions occurring as a result of national and local policy initiatives, and to the increasing involvement of service users and carers in that process. Current research includes a trial on early intervention services for psychosis and, with UCL's Department of Primary Care and Population Sciences, on enhanced care for depression.

*Steve Pilling, Clare Taylor
and Kathryn Price*

□ See www.psychol.ucl.ac.uk/CORE/index.html.

Fellowship citation

Professor Mark Griffiths

IN these days of the multi-million pound lottery rollovers we need to consider the true cost of gambling. Professor Mark Griffiths is having a major impact on how we view this activity. He already holds the John Rosencrance Prize for his 'outstanding scholarly contribution to the field of gambling research' as well as the award of 'International Excellence' from the Responsible Gambling Council of Canada and the Joseph Lister Prestige Award from the British Association for the

Advancement of Science for his role as an 'outstanding science communicator'. The Fellowship Committee is pleased to add a further honour to Mark Griffiths' collection by making him a Society Fellow.

Dr Griffith's academic career started in Bradford, then

via Exeter and Plymouth to Nottingham Trent where he rapidly rose from lecturer to professor with visiting professorships also held at McGill and Western Sydney on the way.

He is a prolific writer with over 150 peer-reviewed publications from his early work in fruit-machine gambling to more recently focusing on video-gaming and online gambling. His focus on problem gambling as an addiction has led to an understanding of the psychological processes underpinning the downside of playing the machines. The 'near miss' and the physiological arousal it engenders appear to be sought-after prizes by the pathological gambler, at whatever cost.

Mark Griffiths also authored a popular series of 'Tips on...' for the *British Medical Journal* advising readers on how to beat stress, how to lead a team, how to support your colleagues and how to listen. His eclectic approach to publishing has included material for *Bizarre* magazine, the *Daily Star*, the *Sun* and the *Guardian*. In his spare time he has appeared on over 1300 radio and television programmes from *Crime Squad* to *Kilroy*.

As one of the leading UK psychologists on gambling and probably the most cited throughout the world, Professor Griffith's has influenced policy makers on issues of gambling and alerted us to the perils of the slogan 'It could be you' when in all probability 'It won't be you'!

The Fellowship Committee recognises his outstanding contribution to the advancement and dissemination of psychological knowledge by this award from his fellow psychologists.

SELECTED NEWS FROM THE BOARDS

Publications and Communications Board (31 March 2006)

- *BPS/Blackwell*. Representatives from BPS/Blackwell attended the meeting and gave a report. They confirmed that with new books starting to do very well gross income should increase over the coming year.
- *Subsystem publishing*. Recommendations regarding subsystem publishing were provisionally agreed, subject to full consultation with subsystems.
- *Information technology*. The board agreed to discuss 'moving to an e-based organisation' at their July meeting.
- *BA Media Fellows Scheme*. The board agreed to support the scheme in the 2007/8 financial year.
- *Internal office communications*. It was noted that the chief executive and senior management team have agreed to set up an office-based working group to both examine and make recommendations to improve internal communications. The working group will be advised by expert staff in the PR Unit.
- *Web-based journal*. The possibility of experimenting with a new web-based journal was discussed, and the Chair of Journals Committee was asked to discuss feasibility with the Journals Manager.

Reports of **Board of Trustees** and **Representative Council** meetings are available to members on the BPS website – www.bps.org.uk/members/members_home.cfm

Submissions to government and NGOs can be accessed via www.bps.org.uk/tiny/zee5gf

MEETING DATES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Friday 15 September 2006 (Leicester)
Thursday 26 October 2006 (London)
Friday 8 December 2006 (London)

REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

Friday 27 October 2006

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE BOARD

Friday 8 September 2006
Tuesday 14 November 2006

RESEARCH BOARD

Friday 20 October 2006 (followed by Visiting Psychologists Committee)

MEMBERSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING BOARD

Thursday 14 September 2006
Friday 3 November 2006

PSYCHOLOGY EDUCATION BOARD

Thursday 19 October 2006

PUBLICATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS BOARD

Friday 7 July 2006
Friday 3 November 2006

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT BOARD

Tuesday 17 October 2006 (AGM)

FELLOWSHIPS COMMITTEE

Friday 29 September 2006

GRADUATE QUALIFICATIONS ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

Thursday 7 September 2006
Thursday 9 November 2006

ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE

Thursday 7 September 2006
Thursday 2 November 2006

STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE PROMOTION OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Thursday 21 September 2006

THE PSYCHOLOGIST POLICY COMMITTEE

Friday 6 October 2006

ETHICS COMMITTEE

Wednesday 26 July 2006
Wednesday 27 September 2006
Wednesday 29 November 2006

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Thursday 19 October 2006

FUTURE SOCIETY CONFERENCES, ETC.

Edinburgh Lectures –
Thursday 9 November 2006
London Lectures –
Monday 4 December 2006
Annual Conference –
21–23 March 2007

SUBSYSTEM NOTICES

LESBIAN & GAY PSYCHOLOGY SECTION

Call for contributions Special Trans Issue *Lesbian & Gay Psychology Review*

Editors Penny Lenihan and Stuart Lorimer invite papers (max. 8000 words) and commentaries and 'opinion pieces' (maximum 1500 words) on trans psychology. Commentaries and 'opinion pieces' will only be reviewed by the Editors, papers will also be sent for external peer review. The deadline

for abstract submissions is end of October 2006 (full papers by end of March 2007).

Informal enquiries and submissions should be directed to: Dr Stuart Lorimer, Consultant Psychiatrist or Dr Penny Lenihan, Consultant Psychologist at Gender Identity Clinic, The Claybrook Centre, 37 Claybrook Rd, London W6 8LN. E-mail: penny.lenihan@wlmht.nhs.uk, drstuartlorimer@hotmail.com; tel: 020 7386 1249; fax: 020 7386 1250.

ETHICS COLUMN No.6 RISK ASSESSMENT

The assessment of risk is an area of some psychologists' work which provides important safeguards of the public, but is also likely to be the subject of intense scrutiny if decisions made on the basis of the risk assessment are later proved to be wrong. At the time of writing this column, the Chief Inspector of Probation's report into the management of Anthony Rice had just been released. Rice committed murder while released from prison on licence following an earlier offence. While the report covers a specific area of work, there are some comments about risk assessment that are of wider relevance.

The Chief Inspector of Probation accepts that it is not possible to eliminate risk altogether but says that the public are entitled to expect that all reasonable action will be taken to keep risk to a minimum.

The report emphasises the importance of taking an investigative approach to risk assessment. In the case of Anthony Rice, information about some previous convictions was missing from his prison file. The report reminds those who carry out risk assessment of the need to check that they have all the available evidence and ask questions about any gaps in that evidence.

The Chief Inspector of Probation also considers the possibility that someone involved in the treatment of a person might weigh the available evidence differently from somebody independent. His report recommends that an independent assessor should be used at key decision making points in the process of assessing offenders. The report says "Someone not involved in delivering treatment is sometimes better able to see the recent progress made in a clearer perspective and in proper proportion to the size of the overall problem presented by the case as a whole". The Investigatory Committee has also taken the view in the past that it may not be ethical for someone treating a client to, for example, provide expert evidence to a court about that person.

The report highlights the difficulty of ensuring that public protection is not undermined by consideration for the person being assessed – in this case in relation to human rights legislation. The Society's Code of Ethics and Conduct also recognises that psychologists may have a number of different clients or stakeholders in their work, and that the clients' interests are likely to include the protection of the public. The Code requires psychologists to weigh different clients' interests and the potential harm caused by alternative courses of action or inaction.

These reports are always written with the understanding that hindsight gives a perspective not available to those who made the original decisions. However it is useful to be reminded of the importance of an independent and investigative approach, and of the need to take careful account of all of those who are likely to be affected by decisions about risk.

DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

**Annual Occupational
Psychology Conference 2007 –
Registration now open**
10–12 January 2007, Bristol
Marriott Hotel City Centre

The deadline for all submissions is
Monday 7 August 2006.

More details in the April 2006 issue.

All enquiries to the BPS Conference
Office. Tel: 0116 252 9555; e-mail:
dopannual@bps.org.uk.

CPD masterclass and workshop programme 2006

Highlights of the Learning a Living
programme in July and September:

Masterclass

28 September – Creating inclusive
organisations

Workshops

11 July – Focus group methodology
in occupational psychology

18 July – Coaching in organisations:
Becoming a skilled coach
(Advanced) (Manchester)

6 September – Evaluating the
success of coaching initiatives

20 September – Stress at work:

The vital role of managers and
leaders

Full programme details via

www.bps.org.uk/events/dopws06/.

Further information – e-mail

dopworkshops@bps.org.uk, or call
Mandy Lindsay or Kerry Wood on
0116 252 9555.

DIVISION OF HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY

Annual Conference 2006

13–15 September, Essex University

For lower rates, register before 31
July. Student bursaries: send
applications to Professor Rumsey,
Chair of the DHP by 8 June 2006.

See www.dhp2006.org.uk.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held on Thursday
14 September 2006 between 5pm
and 6pm at Essex University.

DCP – PSIGE

National Conference 'Equality and Diversity in the Third Age'

University of Sussex, 5–7 July

More details in March 2006 issue.

For more info see www.bps.org.uk
or call 0116 252 9555.

Post-qualification training day 'Therapeutic interventions with people with dementia'

Friday 15 September 2006, 9.30am
to 4pm at The Resource Centre,
256 Holloway Road, London N7.

Held in conjunction with the
Division of Neuropsychology.

Topics include:

Evidence-based psychological
interventions (Professor Bob
Woods); Technology-supported
reminiscence work (Dr Arlene
Astell); Cognitive models and
dementia (Dr Ian James); Coping
with forgetting groups (Dr
Carolien Lamers & Dr Rosslyn
Offord); Working with young
people with dementia, (Dr Don
Brechin)

For further information contact:
Professor Michael Oddy, Brain Injury
Rehabilitation Trust, 32 Market Place,
Burgess Hill RH15 9NP. Tel: 01444
237287; fax: 01444 244978; e-mail:
birt@disabilities-trust.org.uk.

PSYCHOBIOLOGY SECTION

21st Annual Scientific Meeting
18–20 September 2006, Low Wood
Hotel, Windermere

Deadline for abstract submissions
for papers and posters – 21 July
2006

Keynote speakers: Professor Steven
Rose (Open University) and
Professor Andrew Scholey
(Northumbria University)

Undergraduate Project Prize 2006

This competition is open to all UK
final year undergraduates. A prize
of £50 will be awarded for the best
project in the field of
psychobiology. The winner will be

2006 AGM AND OPEN MEETING

The draft minutes of the Society's Annual General Meeting held in Cardiff on Thursday 30 March 2006, and informal notes of the Open Meeting that followed it, are available in the members' area of the Society website.

Paper copies can be requested from Nichola Whitmore-Cooper at the Leicester office. Tel: 0116 252 9521.

invited to present their findings at the Psychobiology Section Annual Scientific Meeting. Entries must be submitted to Dr Daryl O'Connor, Chair of the Psychobiology Section, by 14 July 2006.

See www.bps.org.uk/psybio/psybio_home.cfm for more details about the conference and prize).

SPECIAL GROUP IN COACHING PSYCHOLOGY

2006 Event Programme

7 September 2006: 'Positive Psychology in Coaching Psychology'. BPS London office, 9.30am to 4.30pm.

More details in the June 2006 issue.

18–19 December 2006: SGCP 1st International Conference, City University, London.

Further details of the conference are available on the 'News Page' of the SGCP website.

DCP – FACULTY FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Annual Conference 2006

De Havilland Campus, University of Hertfordshire, 14–15 September
To download the full programme and registration form please visit the event website at www.bps.org.uk/cyp2006

All enquiries to the BPS Conference Office Tel: 01 16 252 9555; e-mail: cypconf@bps.org.uk

DCP – NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held on Thursday 12 October 2006 at 3pm at the Dunadry Hotel, Antrim.

COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY SECTION

23rd Annual Conference, Lancaster University, 6–8 September 2006

Keynote presentations: Professor Randall Engle (Georgia Institute of Technology); Professor Ruth Byrne (Trinity College, Dublin); Professor Nilli Lavie (University College London)

Registration details: www.bps-cognitive.org/future_conferences.htm. The deadline for conference registration is 4 August 2006.

For registration enquiries contact Linden J. Ball (l.ball@lancaster.ac.uk) or Sandra Sünram-Lea (s.sunram-lea@lancaster.ac.uk).

l.ball@lancaster.ac.uk) or Sandra Sünram-Lea (s.sunram-lea@lancaster.ac.uk).

Pre-conference linked event

On the day before the conference (5 September) the North of England Thinking Group (NET-Group) will meet at Lancaster. This meeting will focus on the theme of 'Reasoning, Belief, and Prior Knowledge' and will involve paper presentations and associated discussion. This event is open to all conference delegates.

Informal enquiries about the NET-Group meeting to Linden J. Ball (l.ball@lancaster.ac.uk).

DIVISION OF SPORT & EXERCISE PSYCHOLOGY

Eating disorders in athletes workshop

11 November 2006, Edinburgh, hosted by the Eating Disorders Association

Include international speakers Ron Thompson and Roberta Sherman. Full details on the DSEP website.

H.T.A. Whiting Undergraduate Dissertation Prize

Closing date is 15 July 2006 (NB not 1 July as reported in SEPR).

Please see website for more details www.bps.org.uk/spex/awards/dissertation.cfm.

NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held on Wednesday 25 October 2006 at 7.30pm at the Wellington Park Hotel, Belfast.

CONSCIOUSNESS & EXPERIENTIAL PSYCHOLOGY SECTION

Tenth Annual Conference 'Exploring the Boundaries of Experience and Self'

St Anne's College, Oxford, 15–17 September 2006

Further details and registration forms on the CEP website: www.bps.org.uk/conex/events. For registration enquiries contact Dr Guy Saunders. Tel 01 17 328 2185; e-mail: guy.saunders@uwe.ac.uk.

DIVISION OF NEUROPSYCHOLOGY

Post-qualification Training day 'Therapeutic interventions with people with dementia'

See DCP – PSIGE notice.

What you think of us

EARLIER this year, *The Psychologist* worked with a research company to find out what our members want from their membership publication, and how *The Psychologist* measures up. Structured telephone interviews were carried out with 205 members.

The results were generally positive: 88.8 per cent either 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that *The Psychologist* is an interesting, useful publication. Some questions addressed the importance of the magazine/journal hybrid nature of *The Psychologist*, and there are some implications for style and content that stem from results such as three quarters expecting to keep their copy indefinitely, and 80 per cent keeping it as a resource to refer back to. Two thirds felt it was either very or extremely important that the articles are peer-reviewed.

Of those who said *The Psychologist* is 'not very relevant' or 'not at all relevant' to their work (23 per cent), 83 per cent said they still enjoyed and valued it. Those who are not finding *The Psychologist* particularly interesting or useful do not seem so convinced of the importance of having an introduction to a wide range of areas in psychology.

Should *The Psychologist* be a mouthpiece for the Society or for the discipline? Results suggested there is little appetite for more Society-related information: subsystem notices and (particularly) the President's column received low ratings for interest and usefulness.

Around 90 per cent of respondents thought both the articles and *The Psychologist* overall are about the right length. 75 per cent either agree or strongly agree that '*The Psychologist* has good cover design'. There was little

support for devoting more space to illustration.

Results for the website were quite disappointing. Although 82 per cent of respondents accessed www.bps.org.uk, 59 per cent of the sample said they never accessed the *Psychologist* part of it. We are looking to provide more 'added value' on *The Psychologist* site – more news, extra articles, more interactivity – but for now visit www.thepsychologist.org.uk to see what is already up there.

The topline results are available from the editor on jon.sutton@bps.org.uk. He would also be happy to hear views from anyone who didn't get a chance to take part in the survey. The next phase of development is a full redesign for January 2009: your views on our function, emphasis, organisation, content and design will be crucial in ensuring it is a success.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Dr G.E. Berrios has been appointed Professor of the Epistemology of Psychiatry at the University of Cambridge.

Professor Graham Davies will be retiring from the University of Leicester at the end of July 2006.

Two Society members, **Professor Emeritus Simon Folkard** and **Professor Emeritus Graham Harding**, have been elected to Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians.

Dr Jane Ireland has been appointed professor at the University of Central Lancashire.

Dr Sarb Johal is currently working for the Ministry of Health in New Zealand on the Pandemic Influenza Psychosocial Recovery Plan, part of the National Health Emergency Plan.

Dr Pam Maras the Society's President Elect will become Professor of Social and Educational Psychology from 1 September.