

## NEWS OF MEMBERS

**Professor Steve Cooper**, BPS President Elect, as been elected a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London.

**Dr Jan Hill-Tout** has left the learning disabilities service in Bro Morgannwg Health Trust following her appointment as Consultant Clinical Psychologist to the Critical Care Directorate, University Hospital of Wales.

**Vincent Oliver** has had to retire because of ill health. He has MS and is badly affected. Old friends and colleagues, please write to [vincent.oliver@btinternet.com](mailto:vincent.oliver@btinternet.com).

**Patricia Short** (Broadmoor Hospital) has been awarded the 2003 Postgraduate Prize of the Society's Psychology of Women Section. Her research at Salomons, Canterbury Christ Church University College, looked into segregated secure psychiatric services for women forensic patients.

**Stephen Smith** has been appointed Manager, Professional Services by Multi Health Systems UK Ltd.

# Funding under threat

**I**N August 2003 the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) launched its consultation on the proposals to develop the way it allocates funds for university teaching, and for widening access to HE and improving retention of students.

Prior to 1996 universities had received laboratory-based funding (Band B) for teaching psychology students. In the 1995/96 review of the funding method for teaching, it was proposed that psychology should be allocated to Band D (classroom-based funding). This would have resulted in a very significant drop in funding for many departments, as it provided for a substantially lower level of funding per student.

At that time the Joint Committee (of the BPS, the Experimental Psychology

Society and the Association of Heads of Psychology Departments) for Resources in Higher Education (JCRHE) was successful in negotiating with HEFCE to adopt a split-band funding arrangement (between Bands B and D). Submissions from higher education institutions were assessed against a set of criteria to determine the relative costs within each psychology department (if the criteria were met, funding would be at Band B, and if not, Band D). Whilst this resulted in a loss of income for some departments, the level of funding overall for the discipline did not significantly change.

However, the 2003 proposal is that psychology should be wholly reassigned to Band C, for intermediate-cost subjects. This is based on historical cost data derived from Higher

Education Statistics Agency (HESA) returns by institutions, which show that 'the evidence is weak for splitting psychology between price groups B and D... Psychology shows expenditure patterns that are typical of price group C activity' (HEFCE Consultation, August 2003/4, p.4).

If adopted, this proposal will have considerable detrimental effects on the discipline. The JCRHE has calculated that implementation of the proposed model would mean a reduction of funding (from the amount that is actually spent), to a currently Band B department, of up to £600 per full-time student. Consequently, for a department with 350 full-time equivalents, the overall annual reduction could be £210,000.

The impact of such a reduction has been described in a detailed letter submitted to Sir

## SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITY

**D**EDICATED BPS anoraks will have noticed that the Society is no longer governed by its Council. In the changes recently approved by the Privy Council, the former Board of Directors is now the Board of Trustees. The first consequence of this is that those who promoted the awful acronym BoD are now hoist with their own petard as they attempt to avoid jokes about blemishes on the BoT of the Society, but the change of governance also offers the opportunity to provide what is now the Representative Council with a more valuable and vibrant role.

In the old days (last year) Council had to plough through a load of routine business as a result of its function as the Trustees of the charity that is the BPS. All of that now falls on the Board of Trustees, who can deal with it much more expeditiously in its 10 meetings a year. So what happened to democracy? I hear you ask.

I believe we now have an arrangement that, if properly exploited, will improve the democratic input to the way in which the

Society works. No longer trammelled by a huge agenda of routine decisions, Council now has the space and time to debate the real issues. Furthermore, the Board of Trustees is obliged to take Council's advice into account, and Council votes up to five of its members on to the Board every year.

The first thing Council did, last May, was to decide to choose its own, independent chair, rather than be chaired by the President (who also chairs the Board of Trustees) and to send the chair to the Board as an observer. Thus Council has asserted its willingness to engage in (possibly robust) criticism of the Board, if it seems to be called for. The most recent meeting of Council on 18 October was the first to take advantage of the new arrangements. For example, the Board heard Council discuss proposals for the way in which adjectival titles will be controlled under statutory regulation, and some concerns were expressed (about the position of academic, non-practitioner,

members of Divisions) that will be taken back to the working group.

We also gave some serious thinking and debating time to the whole process by which new subsystems come into being. There is a tension here between the need to provide forums for members with common interests to meet and exchange ideas, and the tendency for the Society to fragment. Not a new dilemma, by any means, but having heard the debate, the Board has gone off to consider the whole issue, and will come back to Council when it has done so.

As this year's chair, I don't intend to fill this space with a detailed accounts of Council meetings, but will try to highlight major issues. Those who want detailed information about Council business, or who wish to raise matters for inclusion on the Council agenda, are encouraged to get in touch, either via the BPS Leicester office, or directly to me on [b.napier@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:b.napier@bangor.ac.uk).

*Bruce Napier*  
Chair of the Representative Council

Howard Newby, chief executive of HEFCE, by Professor Dianne Berry, as chair of JCRHE. The letter outlined not only the financial impact of the proposals on departments but also problems associated with basing the proposals on historical data, and the 'hidden' expenditures not immediately evident from HESA returns (such as those relating to the strengthening of the departments infrastructure). Information was also provided from a survey of AHPD members that focused on the significant growth of the discipline in the past five years, and additional expenditure that has been required as a result.

The letter emphasised the increasing use of neuroscientific techniques and the provision of experimental skills training, and pointed out that the proposed cut in funding would inevitably lead to a 'de-sciencing' of the discipline. The potential impact on the ability of departments to meet the requirements for Quality Assurance Agency benchmark statements and of the Society's accreditation for graduate basis for registration was also highlighted. Moreover, in terms of widening access to HE, the high level of female students is presented as evidence of

psychology's success in recruiting more women into science, together with our well above average recruitment of ethnic minority students.

It is hoped that as a result of the letter and the arguments presented, a delegation of the JCRHE will meet with Sir Howard Newby to discuss the implications of the proposals further and urge the HEFCE to reconsider their proposals. We are aware that several other subject organisations that would also be detrimentally affected by the new proposals (such as computer science) are also making their protests known. In addition, many universities are arguing that this is an inappropriate time to introduce a revised method, given that further revisions will need to be made in two years' time when differentiated tuition fees are introduced.

The official consultation on the new proposals closed in November, but members are encouraged to keep up to date with developments and add their voice to the Society's negotiations.

□ *For further details either visit the HEFCE website at [www.hefce.ac.uk](http://www.hefce.ac.uk), or contact Lisa Morrison Coulthard (e-mail: [lismor@bps.org.uk](mailto:lismor@bps.org.uk); tel: 0116 252 9510).*

## History of psychology research seminars

A SERIES of research seminars, jointly sponsored by the Society's Centre for the History of Psychology and the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, is to be held in London early next year. The series aims to provide a forum in which those engaged in research on the history of psychology and related disciplines can present and discuss their work with fellow researchers and students.

- 21 January – Paul Stenner (University College London): 'Natural rights and the history of psychology'
- 4 February – Ben Mayhew (Wellcome Trust Centre for History of Medicine, University College London): 'Bowlby and ideas of love in interwar Britain'
- 18 February – Stefan Schwarz (Birkbeck College, London University): 'Selling modernity: Advertising and the making of British

## MEMBERSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING BOARD

### BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR THE POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN OCCUPATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

The Society's Postgraduate Certificate in Occupational Psychology provides one of the routes to qualification and registration as a Chartered Psychologist. The board is seeking statements of interest in the following positions.

#### Examiner for the Board of Examiners for the Postgraduate Certificate in Occupational Psychology

- Paper 1 – Human–Machine Interaction  
 Paper 2 – Design of Environments and Work: Health and Safety  
 Paper 3 – Personnel Selection and Assessment  
 Paper 4 – Performance Appraisal and Career Development  
 Paper 5 – Counselling and Personal Development  
 Paper 6 – Training (identification of need, training design and evaluation)  
 Paper 7 – Employee Relations and Motivation  
 Paper 8 – Organisational Development and Change

The board would welcome statements of interest from Chartered Psychologists who are familiar with occupational psychology training issues and would be willing to serve as examiners of the board. The positions attract payment with travel and subsistence expenses also reimbursed in accordance with the Society's policy.

**For further information and a statement of interest form please contact Denise Keen, Assistant Examinations and Awards Officer on 0116 252 9512 or [denkee@bps.org.uk](mailto:denkee@bps.org.uk). Statements of interest should be returned by 31 December 2003.**

## RESTRUCTURED PROFESSIONAL TRAINING FOR EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY (ENGLAND)

An update was presented to the National Association of Principal Educational Psychologists conference on 30 September. A copy of the presentation is available at [www.bps.org.uk/sub-syst/decp/docs/NAPEPconference2003.pdf](http://www.bps.org.uk/sub-syst/decp/docs/NAPEPconference2003.pdf).

- consumer culture, 1914–1945'
- 3 March – Richard Rawles (University College London): 'A critique of R.B. Joynson's interpretation of the Burt affair'
- 17 March – David Smith (Thames Valley University) and Eva Jackson: 'Dreaming of Blighty: The POW dream research of Major Hopkins'.

The seminars will take place from 6pm to 8pm in the Centre for the History of Psychology at the BPS offices at 33 John Street, London WC1. Admission and refreshments are free, but please notify

Graham Richards on [graric@bps.org.uk](mailto:graric@bps.org.uk) a week in advance if you intend coming. □ *A further series is being planned for October–December 2004. Postgraduate students and researchers interested in contributing to the next series should contact Graham Richards at the e-mail address given above or Rhodri Hayward of the Wellcome Trust Centre on [ucgarha@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:ucgarha@ucl.ac.uk).*

### DEADLINE

Copy deadline for Society contributions is **5 January** for the February issue

## MEETING DATES

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 16 April 2004

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Friday 16 January 2004

Friday 13 February 2004 (pre-Council)

Friday 5 March 2004

Friday 7 May 2004 (pre-Council)

Friday 11 June 2004

Friday 3 September 2004

Friday 15 October 2004 (pre-Council)

Friday 26 November 2004

### REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

Saturday 14 February 2004

Saturday 8 May 2004

Saturday 16 October 2004

### PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE BOARD

Saturday 7 February 2004

Friday 2 April 2004

Friday 4 June 2004

Friday 10 September 2004

Saturday 20 November 2004

### RESEARCH BOARD

Saturday 31 January 2004 (followed by Book Award Committee)

Wednesday 14 April 2004 (followed

by Spearman Medal Committee)

Friday 25 June 2004 (followed by Presidents' Award Committee)

Friday 29 October 2004 (followed by Visiting Psychologists Committee)

### MEMBERSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING BOARD

Friday 20 February 2004

Friday 18 June 2004

Friday 17 September 2004

Friday 5 November 2004

### PSYCHOLOGY EDUCATION BOARD

Thursday 18 December 2003

Thursday 11 March 2004

Thursday 27 May 2004

Thursday 7 October 2004

Thursday 16 December 2004

### PUBLICATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS BOARD

Friday 12 December 2003

Friday 16 April 2004

Thursday 10 June 2004

Thursday 9 September 2004

Friday 10 December 2004

### FELLOWSHIPS COMMITTEE

Friday 30 January 2004

Thursday 20 May 2004

Friday 1 October 2004

### PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT BOARD

Saturday 13 March 2004 (OGM)

Friday 22 October 2004 (AGM)

### GRADUATE QUALIFICATIONS ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

Thursday 22 January 2004

Thursday 4 March 2004

Thursday 29 April 2004

Thursday 24 June 2004

Thursday 9 September 2004

Thursday 11 November 2004

### ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE

Thursday 15 January 2004

Thursday 26 February 2004

Thursday 29 April 2004

Thursday 10 June 2004

Thursday 2 September 2004

Thursday 4 November 2004

### THE PSYCHOLOGIST POLICY COMMITTEE

Friday 23 January 2004

Friday 14 May 2004

Friday 22 October 2004

### STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE PROMOTION OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Monday 19 January 2004

Monday 29 March 2004

Monday 7 June 2004

Thursday 23 September 2004

### ETHICS COMMITTEE

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### INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Wednesday 10 December 2003

Wednesday 3 March 2004

Monday 21 June 2004

Thursday 16 September 2004

Friday 10 December 2004

### FUTURE SOCIETY CONFERENCES, ETC.

London Lectures –

Monday 1 December 2003

Wednesday 1 December 2004

Annual Conference –

15–17 April 2004

## SUBSYSTEM NOTICES

### NORTH WEST OF ENGLAND BRANCH

#### 'Careers in Psychology' Day

Monday, 19 April 2004, 10am to 4.30pm, Lecture Theatre 1, Manton Building, Mabel Tylecote Campus, Manchester Metropolitan University, Oxford Road, Manchester. Price: £10

Enquiries: Hilary Neve (tel: 0161 437 6443, e-mail: hilary\_neve@totalise.co.uk) or Dr Shirley Pressler (tel: 01695 584085, e-mail: pressles@edgehill.ac.uk).

### DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

#### Annual General Meeting

Thursday 8 January 2004, 6.15pm  
Blenheim Room, Stratford-upon-Avon Moat House Hotel, during the DOP Annual Conference.

### DIVISION OF FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY

#### 13th Annual Conference

22–24 March 2004 at the University of Leicester

Keynote presentations by: Professor Ron Blackburn, Professor Sheila Hodgins and Professor David

Cooke. Master classes to be held on Thursday 25 March.

Submission deadline for symposia and individual papers is **7 January 2004**. These must be submitted on the DFP conference submission form, available from: Claire Porter; DSPD, Wychwood, Rampton Hospital, Retford, Notts DN22 0PD. Tel: 01777 247586; e-mail: claire.porter@nottshc.nhs.uk (please mark all correspondence 'DFP').

### DIVISION OF HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY

#### Annual Conference

8–10 September 2004, Queen Margaret's University College, Edinburgh.

Keynote speakers: Professors Ed Diener, University of Illinois; Jim Prochaska, University of Rhode Island; Lucy Yardley, University of Southampton. Registration forms and provisional programmes will be available in May 2004.

#### Call for abstracts

Abstract submission of symposia, roundtables, workshops, oral and poster presentations on all aspects are invited. The conference theme is 'Health psychology: A positive perspective'.

Details also at [www.dhpconf2004.qmuc.ac.uk](http://www.dhpconf2004.qmuc.ac.uk), by e-mailing [conferences@bps.org.uk](mailto:conferences@bps.org.uk) or on 0116 254 9568. If you would like to

discuss your ideas before submitting, contact Drs Hilary Bekker (h.l.bekker@leeds.ac.uk; tel: 0113 343 2726) or Joyce Willcock (jwillcock@qmuc.ac.uk; tel: 0131 317 3610).

Submission deadlines: **13 February 2004** (papers, posters, roundtable discussions, workshops and symposia); **11 June 2004** (late poster submissions only).

#### Student bursaries

Send applications to Dr Christopher Armitage (Chair, DHP Research Committee) from April until 11 June 2004. See conference or DHP website ([www.healthpsychology.org.uk](http://www.healthpsychology.org.uk)) for details.

#### SCOTTISH BRANCH

##### Annual General Meeting

Friday 6 February 2004, Court & Senate Suite, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow.

##### Call for nominations

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 committee is **9 January 2004**.

Further information and nomination forms are available from Kate Skellington Orr (Honorary Secretary), Seventh Floor, 78 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5UB. Tel: 0141 225 4414; e-mail: [kskellingtonorr@mva.co.uk](mailto:kskellingtonorr@mva.co.uk).

#### DIVISION OF CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

##### Annual General Meeting

Thursday 15 April 2004, Imperial College London

##### Call for nominations

Nomination forms have been circulated to DCP members. Completed forms must be received at the Society's office by **Friday 30 January 2004**.

Full details in November 2003.

#### PSYCHOTHERAPY SECTION

##### AGM and Scientific Meeting

Saturday 7 February 2004, 9.30am, Institute of Physics, 76 Portland Place, London W1.

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS – ACADEMICIANS OF THE ACADEMY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

The Academy for Social Sciences represents over 40 Learned Societies of Social Science, and has over 350 outstanding social scientists elected as Academicians (Fellows).

The elections for Academicians will be held at the end of December. As a member organisation of the Academy, the BPS may nominate up to six social science practitioners or academics. The Research Board invites Sections, Divisions and Special Groups of the Society to suggest potential nominees. The Executive Committee of the board will consider all suggestions, and select the final six to be submitted for consideration by the Academy.

Check [www.the-academy.org.uk](http://www.the-academy.org.uk) to see if any of your suggested nominees are already Academicians. There is no citizenship requirement, but nominees must be resident in the UK. The Academy does not normally accept nominations for politicians who are members of the major parliaments and assemblies in the UK. Persons who accept election to the College of Academicians receive a parchment, and are entitled to the benefits of membership upon payment of an annual subscription of £160 (there is a reduced rate for retired Academicians).

For each suggested nomination, we will require a CV, a justification of why the person has been nominated (making clear how the person has 'advanced the social sciences in understanding today and shaping tomorrow') and an indication that the nominated person has agreed to be nominated.

**Nominations must be sent in strictest confidence to Lisa Morrison, Scientific Officer ([lismor@bps.org.uk](mailto:lismor@bps.org.uk)) by 15 December 2003. If you have any queries, please contact Lisa on 0116 252 9510.**

## SELECTED NEWS FROM THE BOARDS

### Psychology Education Board (23 October 2003)

- *Chair.* The board noted that Peter Morris had resigned as chair. Deputy chair Richard Latto will act as chair and sit on the Board of Trustees until such time as a new chair is elected.
- *Board membership.* John MacDonald, who has resigned as chair of the Standing Committee for the Teaching of Psychology to Other Professional Groups, will be co-opted on to the board.
- *Post-16 education.* The board agreed to set up the Standing Committee for Post-16 Education, the chair of which will become a permanent member of the board subject to Board of Trustees approving the amended membership of PEB.
- *GCSE.* Phil Banyard will provide input into the new 21st Century Science GCSE module GE7 The Brain and Mind.
- *Award for Distinguished Contributions to the Teaching of Psychology.* Sean Cameron has been given the award for 2003.
- *Graduate basis for registration.* The board made a policy decision to raise the Society standard for the GBR to a second class honours level, subject to ratification by the Board of Trustees and approval to convene an implementation group. It was felt that the current standard of a third class honours degree was very low as the entry level to the profession and was contrary to the board's commitment to raising standards.
- *External examining on undergraduate psychology degrees.* The new Guidelines for Good Practice will be distributed following further amendments.
- *Ambiguous degree titles.* The board noted the problems that had arisen from ambiguous degree titles, such as BSc (Hons) Health Psychology, that imply some level of professional qualification, and suggested that the Graduate Qualifications Accreditation Committee wait until the Health Professions Council consultation document is published before writing to institutions expressing concern at the use of these titles.
- *Overseas graduate applications.* The board received a paper from Janet Vaughan, BPS admissions officer, outlining difficulties that have arisen from applications from graduates from overseas institutions under franchise from a UK institution. The board approved the recommendation that all overseas applications be assessed against the same criteria regardless of franchise.

For more information on any of these items, contact the board administrator Kelly Auty on [kelaat@bps.org.uk](mailto:kelaat@bps.org.uk). Also see [www.bps.org.uk/about/subsystems\\_boards4.cfm](http://www.bps.org.uk/about/subsystems_boards4.cfm).

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