

## Elections to the General Medical Council

Psychiatrists have a crucial role to play in assisting the work of the General Medical Council, particularly in relation to its health procedures. There are, at present, three psychiatrists on the General Medical Council, out of a total of 102.

Voting papers for election to the General Medical Council will be dispatched to registered doctors in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland in May 1994. You may wish to know that the following psychiatrists will be standing for election.

Professor Hamid Ghodse  
Professor of Psychiatry, University of London

Dr Pearl Hettiaratchy  
Consultant Psychiatrist in Old Age Psychiatry,  
Winchester

Dr Paul McLaren  
Senior Lecturer in Psychiatry, UMDS, London

Dr Keith Rix  
Consultant Psychiatrist, Leeds

Professor Andrew Sims  
Professor of Psychiatry, University of Leeds

Dr Mabel Tannahill  
Consultant Psychiatrist, Denbigh, Wales.

VANESSA CAMERON, *The Secretary, Royal College of Psychiatrists*

---

## Obituaries

---

**Daud Mohammed Bassa**, *Locum Consultant in Child Psychiatry, Chipstead, Surrey*

Daud Bassa, who was born in Durban on 22 December 1918, died in Delhi on 21 January 1993. He was a shy man whose deafness tended to underline his outsider image, but he was actually an unusual and deeply sensitive, lovable man, who affected quite deeply those who were close to him: family, friends and patients.

He came from an influential Indian family in Durban with relatives presently living in South Africa, Mauritius, Gujrat, Lancashire and London. Early in his life he had the experience of chauffeuring Mahatma Gandhi around South Africa.

He graduated MB BS from Grant Medical College, Bombay in 1947, and was active in politics during the struggle for Indian independence. His journey inwards on the one hand resulted in his being one of the few to train at that time in India as a psychoanalyst, but his powerful involvement in the world around him led him to take for some 20 years a pioneering research post working with slum families in Bombay. In the last years of this post he was awarded an honorary professorship in psychiatry and social work at Bombay University. His close study of familial and transcultural factors affecting patterns of child rearing was subsequently to enrich his practice, teaching and writing in London, where he moved with his

family in 1975, becoming a guest member of the British Psycho-Analytical Society. He was elected MRCPsych in 1971 and proceeded to the Fellowship in 1977.

After a succession of consultant locums, he played a leading role in the psychiatric management of the Royal Philanthropic Society's home for delinquent children until its closure.

He was redeployed in the Child Psychiatry Department of St George's Hospital from where he retired in 1983, but he continued locum work until his death. His understanding of distress in the family led him to stress family strategies which depended on his leading a team working together and communicating as a good family.

He had an abiding interest in transcultural psychiatry and, despite his last illness, journeyed to Lucknow in considerable discomfort to talk to the Indian Association of Psychiatrists because he cared passionately about communicating and understanding the themes of our common humanity across ethnic and cultural differences.

GERALD WOOSTER

**David Gilmour** (*formerly Director of Psychiatric Services, Dumbarton*)

David Gilmour was born in Dunfermline in 1908 and died in September 1993, in Glasgow, at the age of 85.

---