

- recruitment of 25–30 (WTE)¹ consultants to this field being maintained for the next ten years.
- (4) Resources, workload, manpower and training facilities relating to old age psychiatry should be clearly and easily identified and the data used by the DHSS and the regions to ensure that policies are effectively implemented in what has long been recognised as a priority area.
 - (5) Improved collaboration between geriatric medicine and old age psychiatry should be constantly pursued since this is essential for good patient care, efficient use of resources and effective planning and liaison with other services. Joint departments, should be more widely considered.
 - (6) Members of psychogeriatric teams should be actively involved in supporting, observing and training staff engaged in providing alternative forms of domiciliary and residential care. However, skilled long-term hospital care must remain available for patients with severe behaviour problems.
- Education, training and research**
- (7) Each medical school should have an adequately supported senior academic post in old age psychiatry to develop and evaluate teaching for medical students and allied professions and to promote research in this field.
 - (8) All medical students should receive training in old age psychiatry in approved specialised departments with clinical exposure in both hospital and community. Consideration should be given to integrating such teaching with that in geriatric medicine.
 - (9) Posts in old age psychiatry (in conjunction with geriatric medicine or general psychiatry) should be included among the options for the general professional level of postgraduate medical training for doctors aiming at a career in hospital medicine, as well as for those training for general practice.
 - (10) Those intending to practise general psychiatry should be encouraged to spend a period at some stage of their training in approved departments of old age psychiatry. The clinical experience should reflect the full range of the service and should be geared to training as opposed to service needs.
 - (11) Higher professional training for specialisation in the psychiatry of old age should include: two years in old age psychiatry, at least two months experience in geriatric medicine, further experience in general psychiatry.
 - (12) Where higher training for the psychiatry of old age is incorporated in Regional general senior registrar rotations, such schemes should be monitored to ensure that the appropriate output of psychogeriatricians is achieved. This applies particularly to the posts recently allocated by JPAC² to enhance training opportunities in this field, the uptake and targeting of which has been in some doubt.
 - (13) Guidelines should be agreed between the respective higher training committees as to the experience and training required by senior registrars in geriatric medicine and old age psychiatry in each other's specialty. They should also uphold the supernumerary concept of the senior registrar grade in respect of the workload implications of such secondment. Mutual exchanges and linked training in joint departments should be encouraged.
 - (14) There is a need for continuing evaluative research in the psychiatry of old age (including models of collaboration with geriatric medicine and other services). It is hoped that the research project initiated by this working party will contribute to this process.

Reference

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PSYCHIATRISTS (1987) Guidelines for Regional Advisers on Consultant Posts in the Psychiatry of old Age. *Bulletin of the Royal College of Psychiatrists*, 11, 240–242.

¹(WTE) = Whole time equivalent

²(JPAC) = Joint Planning Advisory Committee on Manpower

'The Practical Administration of Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT)'

Council has recently approved a report of the ECT Sub-Committee of the Research Committee entitled *The Practical Administration of Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT)*. It has been agreed that each ECT Suite should have a complimentary copy of this report. Consultants in charge of ECT should therefore

write to the Publications Department at the College enclosing an A4 self-addressed envelope and 26p in stamps.

VANESSA CAMERON
The Secretary