



columns

miscellany

BUPA Foundation Communication Award 2002

This will be the ninth year of the Communication Award, which is organised in association with the Medical Royal Colleges and the Patients Association. The aim of the award is to enhance the mutual understanding between patients and health care professionals, and

should describe work that could be widely adopted for the benefit of patients. There is a prize of £10 000 to the winning entry. The closing date for the full submission is the beginning of July 2002, and a one-page outline must be sent in by the end of May 2002. The criteria must show an improvement in one of the following areas: doctor-patient communication; communication between doctors and the general public;

communication skills of individual doctors as a result of the project; methods of transferring information between doctors and patients; and in-patient systems. The Royal College of Psychiatrists has won the prize for 2 years running. For further information about the award please contact Lady Nourse, Dullingham House, Dullingham, Newmarket CB8 9UP (tel: 01638 508 186; e-mail: nourse@dircon.co.uk).

forthcoming events

The **7th World Congress on Innovations in Psychiatry** will be held in London on 28–31 May 2002. This multi-disciplinary conference is being organised in conjunction with professionals from leading centres in psychiatric research and clinical practice across the world. The objective of this conference is to exchange information on current developments in biological, social and community psychiatry and their application in planning comprehensive mental health services. For further details please contact World Forum for Mental Health, PO Box B135, Huddersfield HD1 1YG (tel: 01484 532 102; fax: 01484 425 699; e-mail: worldforum@aol.com).

The North London Centre for Group Therapy will be holding a group analytic weekend workshop titled **Trauma and After** on 28–30 June 2002. Further details are available from Lesley Holmes, North London Centre for Group Therapy, 138 Bramley Road, Oakwood, N14 4HU (tel: 020 8440 1451; fax: 020 8449 3847; e-mail: NLCent@aol.com).

Pavilion would like to announce the following conferences: **Mental Health Training Annual Conference** (3–4 July 2002, University of Lincoln); **Securing the Future Psychiatric Services for Women in Secure Environments** (3 July 2002, London); **Alcohol and Families** (4–5 July 2002, London); and **European Drugs Conference 2002 – Drugs and Society; Implementing the Changing Agenda** (24–25 October 2002, Kent). For further information please contact Pavilion (tel: 01273 623 222; fax: 01273 625 526). You can book online at <http://www.pavpub.com>.

BBR Beynon, Bishop, Ross Medical Education Ltd are the organisers of the following MRCPsych courses: **Critical Appraisal**, a 4-hour course taking place on 26 July 2002, and **Part I and II Written Courses**, which will take place on 27–28 July 2002. For further details please contact BBR, 82 The Maltings, Roydon Road, Stanstead Abbots, Hertfordshire SG12 8HG (tel/fax: 01920 872 407; e-mail: admin@bbrmedicaleducation.net).

Professor R.N. Mohan, Consultant in Old Age Psychiatry and Associate Medical Director, Northern Birmingham Mental Health Trust, is the organiser of the following courses: **MCQ/PMP** (this course will be held on 2–3 September 2002 and aims to prepare trainees for the multiple choice questions and patient management problems part of the MRCPsych Part II examination); and **Critical Review Paper Preparation** (this will be held on 11–12 September 2002 and aims to prepare trainees for the critical review paper part of the MRCPsych Part II examination). Both courses will be held at the Birmingham Medical Institute and further information is available from Mrs Julie McKenzie (tel: 0121 685 6570).

The **First International Conference on Symptom, Diagnostic and Disability Validity: Improving Patient Outcomes** will be held in Toronto, Canada, on 26–29 September 2002. The scientific purpose of this conference is to disseminate and foster advances in the assessment of symptom, diagnostic and disability validity, with the aim of improving patient outcomes and increasing the precision of disability determinations. The conference also provides a platform to launch a new organisation and journal, and foster

research in this important but underfunded area. For further information please contact Ana Marie Butcher, Conference Secretariat, e-mail: ana.marie.butche@icpro.org.

Mole conferences would like to announce **Deafness – Development and Wellbeing: Achieving Mental Wellbeing for Deaf Children and their Families**. This 1-day conference will take place on 9 October 2002 in London. For further information please contact Mole Conferences, 26 Church Road, Portslade, Brighton BN41 1LA (tel: 01273 242 634; fax: 01273 235 095; e-mail: info@mole-conferences.com; website and online booking: <http://www.mole-conferences.com>).

University College London MSc in Culture and Mental Health (full- and part-time). This course aims to provide an advanced education in the concepts and theory of transcultural psychiatry, particularly in relation to Britain and Europe. Besides the understanding it offers of mental health, a primary focus of the MSc is research in other cultures and minority groups in Britain and abroad. Closing date for applications is 28 June 2002 for session beginning October 2002. For further information and an application form please contact the Course Administrator, MSc in Culture and Mental Health, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Sciences, UCL, 2nd Floor, Wolfson Building, 48 Riding House Street, London W1N 8AA (tel: 0202 7679 9478; fax: 020 7679 9426; e-mail: gloria.jones@ucl.ac.uk). For further academic information on the course please contact Professor Roland Littlewood (tel: 020 7679 9479).