



columns

miscellany

The International Society for Affective Disorders

The International Society for Affective Disorders (ISAD) is a society of scientists from any discipline or country who are active in the field of affective disorders research. The basic requirement to qualify for membership is authorship of articles on affective disorders that have been published in peer reviewed journals. The membership includes those working in a scientific capacity in universities, hospitals, industry and other settings. ISAD operates a policy of mutual respect for different scientific approaches to the investigation of the affective disorders, providing they remain within an evidence-based framework. Members will receive the *Journal of Affective Disorders (JAD)* as part of their membership and gain access to the network of researchers through the organisation's website (<http://www.isad.soton.ac.uk>). When fully operational the site will contain an open access section for information to the public and for announcements. There is currently no conference that focuses solely on research into affective disorders from all disciplines and brings together recent research findings on a yearly or biennial basis. The first meeting is being planned for 9–13 March 2002 in Sicily. For more information on how to join ISAD

please contact David K. Beck, Director and Administrator, The International Society for Affective Disorders ISAD, Professional Education & Training Unit, Mental Health Group, University of Southampton, Royal South Hants Hospital, Southampton SO14 0YG; tel: 023 8082 5543; e-mail: isadsoton.ac.uk.

New website for mental health

A major new website for mental health was launched in February 2001: <http://www.emental-health.com>. This is one of the first sites to provide research-based information for a general audience and should prove useful to both mental health professionals and service users. The opinion-based content of the site and the discussion boards offer a 'virtual meeting place' where hot topics can be debated and advice and support obtained. In conjunction with The Royal College of Psychiatrists' Changing Minds: Every Family in the Land campaign, emental-health.com aims to challenge the stigma of mental illness. It also promises to be a useful resource for anyone wanting to find out more about schizophrenia, depression, Alzheimer's disease and bipolar disorder.

The International Academy of Behavioral Medicine, Counselling and Psychotherapy

The International Academy of Behavioral Medicine, Counselling and Psychotherapy (IABMCP) is a multi-disciplinary, non-profit, professional association dedicated to the recognition and pursuit of excellence and advanced professional competence. Applications are currently being accepted by the academy for Diplomate status in four areas: behavioural medicine, professional counselling, professional psychotherapy and chemical dependency counselling. The requirements for IABMCP Diplomate status are quite rigorous and are designed to assure that holders of such will be recognised by both the professional and public communities as having fulfilled extremely high standards for professional competency and excellence. In addition, the academy is looking for prominent psychiatrists in countries outside the USA who might be interested in joining the academy's Advisory Council. For further information and application materials please contact The International Academy of Behavioral Medicine, Counselling and Psychotherapy, Inc., 3208 North Academy Blvd, Suite 160, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80917, USA (tel: +1 719 597 5959; fax: +1 719 597 0166).

forthcoming events

Clinical Audit in Psychotherapy, which will take place on 16 May 2001, and **Clinical Governance in Forensic Mental Health Services**, taking place on 13 June 2001, are two events being organised by The Clinical Governance Support Service (CGSS) at the Royal College of Psychiatrists' Research Unit.

For further information please contact CGSS on tel: 020 7227 0829. The College Research Unit is also organising a 1-day multi-professional conference entitled **Old Age Psychiatric Day Hospitals: current developments and messages from the latest research**, due to take place on 21 June 2001. For further information please contact Jo Baker on tel: 020 7227 0827; e-mail: joanne1.baker@virgin.net.

The Association of Therapeutic Communities (ATC) are the organisers of **Experiential Residential Workshop**. The event will be held on 11–13 May

2001 in Kent. Details can be obtained from ATC, 13–15 Pine Street, London EC12 0JG, tel/fax: 020 8950 9557; e-mail: post@therapeuticcommunities.org.

The Department of Psychiatry of the School of Postgraduate Medicine at Keele University is organising a **Conference for Masters in Psychiatry/MRCPsych Course Organisers**. The conference will take place on 24–25 May 2001 in Yarnfield, Staffordshire. Further details are available from Miss Louise Alstone or Miss Tracy Brittain on tel: 01782 554 019; e-mail: pca00@keele.ac.uk.

The Professional Education and Training Unit (PET) of the University of Southampton would like to announce the following conferences: **Mental Health and The Human Rights Act**, which is a 1-day event taking place on both 2 July 2001 and 24 July 2001 in Southampton; and **Psychosis and Spirituality 2001**,

which is a 2-day conference being held on 6–7 September 2001 in Winchester. For further information please contact David K. Beck, Director PET Unit, Mental Health Group, University of Southampton, Royal South Hants Hospital, Southampton SO14 0YG; tel: 023 8082 5543; e-mail: dkb@soton.ac.uk; website: <http://www.som.soton.ac.uk/depts/mentalhealth>.

Mental Health Services Research: Putting Evidence into Practice is a 1-day conference administered by Mole Conferences for the Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London and The South London and Maudsley NHS Trust. The conference will be held at Regent's College, London, on 11 October 2001. For further information please contact Mole Conferences, 26 Church Road, Portslade, Brighton BN41 1LA, tel: 01273 242634; fax: 01273 235095; e-mail: enquiries@mole-conferences.com; website: <http://www.mole-conferences.com>.