



planning and peer-monitoring of CPD and ensured its close linkage to the still evolving NHS processes of appraisal and revalidation. As before, predictions of doom proved unfounded and I am delighted to see the CPD Committee go from strength to strength under Joe Bouch's very capable direction.

Time does not permit me to dwell in detail on my work in recruitment and retention. I am delighted though that we have been able to collaborate as closely as we have with the English Department of Health, and that there has been a similar collaborative initiative in Wales. I am confident that the comprehensive recruitment and retention strategy we are developing will lead to real improvements both in filling posts and in encouraging constructive working styles for consultants.

Being Dean of the College has been a tremendous pleasure, honour and privilege. I shall miss it more than I can say. I owe a huge debt of thanks to many of the College staff, who have shown a uniformly high level of skill and dedication that I have not seen in any other institution. In this context, I particularly need to thank:

Vanessa Cameron
Gareth Holsgrove
Anne Dean, his predecessor
Lena Hartley
Carole Pashley
Claire Drummond
Robert Jackson
Sam Bendall
Cate Cole
Marion Palmer Jones
Joanna Carroll

I also need to thank Chairs and members of all the Special Advisory Committees and of the other educational committees within the College. Within that, my most particular thanks are due to the sub-deans past and present who have been so supportive over the years

Prof. David Cottrell
Dr Kingsley Norton
Dr Sue Whyte
Dr Parimala Moodley
Dr Jeremy Bolton
Dr Kandiah Sivakumar
Prof. Dinesh Bhugra

And last but not least, Professor Mary Robertson, who as many of you know has been seriously ill for some months and I am sure you would want to join me in wishing a speedy recovery.

The Education Committee and Court of Electors have agreed that there should be an update of the Education Strategy. I am delighted to leave this major task in the excellent hands of the new Dean, Professor Dinesh Bhugra, and the new Head of Postgraduate Education Services, Dr Gareth Holsgrove, and can confidently

predict that implementing it will keep them enjoyably busy for the next 5 years!

Cornelius Katona

Librarian's Report

This past year has seen a further change in library staffing, with Alexandra Cohen joining us part-time as Library and Information Services Assistant.

The thrust of the Library and Information Service staff's work has been in three main areas. First, there is the electronic side of information services with an increasing move towards electronic journal subscription, an aim to have our book collection catalogue on-line, and with our continuing to contribute to the College website.

In some contrast has been our work concerning antiquarian books. The grant that I reported last year has been very successfully used in restoring to excellent condition a number of priceless texts.

The work on the College Archive continues, but of particular note in this area has been the development of a Records Management Policy by Margaret Harcourt-Williams. College activities are already significantly devolved at national level here in the UK and Ireland, but we anticipate further devolution within England, with all Divisions taking on more responsibility. If there is to be a corporate College voice, then this depends upon accurate information-gathering and record-keeping and this new policy will facilitate this.

My individual contribution has not been as much as I had hoped. Although there were some early recruits to the Virtual Library Committee, it was only in spring that we had full Faculty membership together with trainer and trainee representatives and so it is only now that I am seeking advice from my colleagues. As before, however, my intention is that this process will inform our providing a Library and Information Service that is sensitive to our Members' needs and we would hope to build upon that by advising colleagues as to their own local developments. I would hope to have something more substantial to report in this area next year.

David Tait

This concluded the business meeting, which was followed by the presentations. The Registrar presented to the President representatives from overseas psychiatric organisations, then College Prize winners and new Fellows. Following this, the Registrar called upon the Citators of each Honorary Fellow for 2003 to come forward and give their citation, as follows.

Mr John Bowis, OBE, MEP

(Introduced by Professor Rachel Jenkins)

'It is the province of knowledge to speak and it is the privilege of wisdom to listen'

The Poet at the Breakfast-Table
1872, ch 10 Oliver Wendell Holmes
(1809–1894)

I have had the privilege of knowing John Bowis for over a decade, first as a health minister for 3 years, then as transport minister for just under a year, then working with me for something over a year in the World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre, and finally as a Member of the European Parliament.

At school, he was very interested in drama, playing in the *Mikado* with gusto and handing out fearful punishments to all. He subsequently played Gloucester in *King Lear*, an experience that gave him insight into having disability, people with disability and tackling its surrounding stigma. This has remained a lifelong preoccupation in his work. It may be that this early dramatic interest not only led him to become a member of the Board of the National Theatre, but also into his political career.

Some of us have wondered why John was and is a member of the Tory Party, when he seems much more left wing than some. I can now reveal all. At Oxford in the 1960s, John decided to take an empirical approach to politics and he joined all the political parties to see what they were like. He found that the Liberals had lots of ideas but little likelihood of any opportunity to implement them. The Communists told you what to think. Labour was suffering from a very dominant left wing movement in those days, which displayed much 'control freakery', which he did not like. The Conservative Party did not have a particularly dominant right wing in those days, and in any case had little tendency to control freakery, and so John came to the view that he was more at home in the Conservative Party than the others.

He was and is an excellent constituency MP and positively enjoys listening and solving problems. Indeed I would have known him for longer if I had taken him up on an offer to come for a drink in the Commons to discuss my concerns about mental health services. This occasion arose before he was a health minister, when one of his team had come canvassing to my home (as he was coincidentally my MP) and I had treated the canvasser not only to a cup of tea, but also a brief or not so brief diatribe of current problems in the services. The poor Tory canvasser eventually made his escape, but a few days later I received a kind invitation from John to meet in the Commons to discuss my concerns at greater length, and I will