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Activities of the European International Division of the Royal College of Psychiatrists

The Division has been in correspondence with its members asking for collaboration. It has also organised a number of symposia:

- 'Royal College of Psychiatrists Travels Overseas', at the WPA Regional and Intersectional Congress in Athens (March 2005)
- 'European Division: Launching and Perspectives', during the 13th World Congress of Psychiatry (September 2005)
- 'European Division of the Royal College of Psychiatrists: Activities and Perspectives', during the 19th Panhellenic Congress of Psychiatry in Athens (May 2006)
- participation in a symposium organised by the Pan-American Division of the College in Toronto, Canada, on Migration and Mental Health (May 2006)
- 'Psychiatric Education in Europe' at the College annual meeting in Glasgow and participation by the Division chair at the College's World Psychiatric Association Liaison Meeting (July 2006).

A major aim of the Division will be the provision of educational opportunities and expertise on the organisation of mental health services for psychiatric associations and individual colleagues in Eastern Europe. Joint activities with the Psychiatric Association for Eastern Europe and the Balkans (affiliated with the World Psychiatric Association) will be scheduled and experts from Western Europe will provide teaching and direct courses in Eastern Europe.

George Christodoulou
Chair, European International Division

The International Divisions at the College annual general meeting

All six International Divisions contributed well received symposia to the Glasgow meeting in July:

- The European Division took part in the trainees' day and the speakers (Christodoulou, Lindhardt and Bomba) covered themes ranging from the values of psychiatry from antiquity, to the European-wide training recommendations for psychiatry from the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS) and the specific developments in Poland integrating historical and European trends.
- The African Division speakers (Zabow, Ndetei and Olugbile) gave insightful and informative papers on areas of conflict and complementarities between African traditional healers and psychiatry.
- The theme of alternative and complementary medicine in relation to psychiatry was continued

by the Pan-American Division (Kisely, Meehan) and then the potential role of anti-oxidants in schizophrenia was outlined by Fernandez.

- The Western Pacific and South Asia Divisions joined to focus on the need to develop effective training and interventions in primary and community care, including inter-regional cooperation (Deva, Rajkumar, Javed, Mufti, Mendis and Chaudhry).
- The Middle East Division (Kamel, Taha and El-Gaddal) focused on several aspects of the family in working with drug misuse, schizophrenia and attempted suicide as well as post-traumatic stress disorder.

The organisation of the symposia this year allowed for greater dialogue with those attending.

Association of European Psychiatrists conference, 2007

It is our pleasure to invite you to attend the 15th European Congress of Psychiatry on European Psychiatry, Science and Art, in Madrid, Spain, 17–21 March 2007, organised by the Association of European Psychiatrists. The high-quality scientific programme will open new perspectives on the science and art of psychiatry and on issues related to treatment and patient care through state-of-the-art lectures, plenary lectures and core symposia. The Congress will also serve the educational mission of the Association through a variety of courses (continuing medical education with accreditation from the European Union of Medical Specialists), workshops, lectures and symposia. Information, proposals and registrations are available at <http://www.kenes.com/aep2007>.

Henning Sass
AEP President

Juan J. Lopez-Ibor
Local Organising Committee Chairman

WPA Permanent Secretariat

The World Psychiatric Association (WPA) now has a Permanent Secretariat with its headquarters based in Geneva. The contact details are: World Psychiatric Association Secretariat, Psychiatric Hospital, Pavillon Les Voirons, 2, Chemin du Petit Bel-Air, 1225 Chêne-Bourg, Geneva, Switzerland, tel. +41 22 305 5737, fax +41 22 305 5735, email wpasecretariat@wpanet.org. Members of the College are very welcome to visit the offices in Geneva. Anna Engstrom is the Administrator and Pamela Atiase the Deputy Administrator. The WPA website is <http://www.wpanet.org>, where contact details can be found for the extensive range of scientific sections of the WPA, all of which would welcome personal communications and contact from individual College members.