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Interest Group in Gay and Lesbian Mental Health has been established to increase the understanding of issues and needs when treating gay men and lesbians with mental illness. The group also aims to provide a forum for open discussion of gay and lesbian issues within the College and contribute to education. The group will focus on (a) mental health problems in gay and lesbian people; (b) advocacy for appropriate service provision for gays and lesbians with mental health problems; (c) improving undergraduate and post-graduate education on sexual orientation; (d) enhancing knowledge about how young gays and lesbians understand their sexuality; (e) the role of advocacy for gay

and lesbian psychiatrists; and (f) medico-legal issues with particular reference to gays and lesbians with mental health problems.

The first working meeting of this special interest group – 'Whose relative is it anyway? Legal implications of gay and lesbian partnerships for patients and health professionals' – took place in September 2001. Membership is open to all College members and Fellows, irrespective of sexual orientation. The group also welcomes up to 30% of its membership from outside the College (including Inceptors of the College). Membership may be a sensitive matter for some psychiatrists. However, prospective

members can be reassured that their details will be kept confidential. For further information please contact Professor Michael King, Professor of Primary Care Psychiatry, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Sciences, Royal Free and University College Medical School, Royal Free Campus, Rowland Hill Street, London NW3 2PF (tel: 020 7830 2397; fax: 020 7830 2808; e-mail: m.king@rfc.ucl.ac.uk) or Dr Anie Bartlett, Senior Lecturer, Section of Forensic Psychiatry, Jenner Wing, St George's Hospital Medical School, Cranmer Terrace, London SW17 0RE (e-mail: abartlett@sghms.ac.uk).

forthcoming events

The Annual Specialist Registrar in Forensic Psychiatry Conference

2001 will be held at the Leeds Marriott Hotel on 29–30 November 2001. This year's themes include: forensic services for women, modernising forensic services, specialist registrar training and a mock trial. Details of the event can be obtained from Ms Tina Minshell, Admin Services Manager, Education Centre, Fieldhead Hospital, Wakefield WF1 3SP (tel: 01924 327 094).

The University of Birmingham Department of Psychiatry would like to announce the **Fourth Annual West Midlands Regional Psychiatric Study Day: Women's Mental Health**. This 1-day meeting will celebrate the career and

mark the retirement of Professor Ian Brockington and will include eminent UK and overseas speakers. The event will take place on 30 November 2001 at The Botanical Gardens, Birmingham. Following the meeting there will be a dinner for Ian Brockington at Staff House, University of Birmingham. For further information please visit the website (<http://www.bham.ac.uk/psychiatry/studyday.htm>) or contact Mrs Jo Baker (tel: 0121 678 2358; e-mail: j.m.baker@bham.ac.uk).

The University of Manchester Department of Psychiatry would like to announce a **Course on Psychodynamic Interpersonal Therapy** to be held on 21–25 January 2002. The aims of this

intensive week-long course in psychodynamic interpersonal therapy are to provide a brief theoretical introduction to the model; to acquaint participants with the main features of the model and to enable participants to work using the model with patients with the following conditions: somatisation, depression, deliberate self-harm and complex conditions. The course organiser is Professor Else Guthrie. Application forms and further details can be obtained from Mrs Una Dean, Secretary to Professor E. Guthrie, University Department of Psychiatry, Rawnsley Building, Manchester Royal Infirmary, Manchester M13 9WL (tel: 0161 276 5383; fax: 0161 273 2135; e-mail: Una.Dean@man.ac.uk).