



AGM Minutes – 2009 38th Annual Meeting

The 38th Annual Meeting of the College was held at the BT Convention Centre, Liverpool, from 2 to 5 June 2009.

Business Meeting

The Business Meeting of the Royal College of Psychiatrists was held on Thursday 4 June 2009 and was chaired by the President, Professor Dinesh Bhugra. It was attended by 102 members of the College.

The Minutes of the previous meeting held in London on Wednesday 2 July 2008 and published in the *Psychiatric Bulletin*, December 2008, were approved and signed. Proposed: Dr Clare Oakley; seconded: Dr Josanne Holloway.

The Registrar read out the obituary list of members who had died since the Winter Business Meeting, and a minute's silence was observed.

The President, Dean, Registrar, Treasurer and Editor presented their annual reports (full text available at www.rcpsych.ac.uk/college.aspx).

General Business

The approval of the Annual Accounts for 2008 was proposed by Professor Hamid Ghodse and seconded by Dr Amit Malik.

The proposed fees and subscription rates with effect from 1 January 2010 were approved. Proposed: Dr Rupendra Brahma; seconded: Dr Amit Malik.

The reappointment of Buzzacott as Auditors of the College to hold office until the next Annual General Meeting was approved. Proposed: Dr Denise Coia; seconded: Professor John Cox.

Changes to the Supplemental Charter and Bye-Laws of the College

The President introduced the proposed changes to the Supplemental Charter and Bye-Laws of the College, as detailed in the agenda circulated to all Members and Associates.

The President took questions and comments from the floor concerning two points, the proposal to revert to the term 'Council' and the change from 'Vice-Presidents' to 'College Leads'.

The President thanked all who contributed to the debate. The ancillary points raised would be referred to the Central Executive Committee for further consideration, but there was a clear majority in favour of the proposed changes to the Supplemental Charter and Bye-Laws.

The following resolution, proposed by Professor Sue Bailey and seconded by Professor George Ikkos, was carried.

That the Bye-laws of the College be amended, revoked and added in accordance with the memorandum thereof

containing such amendments, revocations and additions sent to the Members with the notice of this Meeting provided that such amendments, revocations or additions shall not take effect until the same shall have been approved by the Privy Council and provided further that the Central Executive Committee of the College shall have authority to approve any further amendments required thereto by the Privy Council.

Presentation Ceremony

Following the conclusion of the business meeting, the new Fellows, the representatives of overseas psychiatric associations, the winners of the Laughlin and Standish-Barry prizes, and the Honorary Fellows for 2009 were presented.

The full text of the citations for Honorary Fellows is available at www.rcpsych.ac.uk/college.aspx.

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Royal College of Psychiatrists' Winter Business Meeting

The Winter Business Meeting will be held on Friday 5 February 2010 at 12.00 at the Royal College of Psychiatrists and will be chaired by the President, Professor Dinesh Bhugra.

Agenda

1. Approve the Minutes of the previous Winter Business Meeting held on 23 January 2009 at the Royal College of Psychiatrists.
2. Obituaries.
3. Election of Honorary Fellows.

Nominations for Honorary Fellowship

The Rt Hon Lord Adebowale, CBE

Lord Adebowale has committed his working life to reform in public services in pursuit of reversing the inverse care law. Lord Adebowale has, with modesty, tact and courtesy, robustly lobbied, managed and fund raised in order to provide services for socially excluded, impoverished and disempowered groups with mental health problems. Lord Adebowale's work is and has been to provide comprehensive, safe and effective services for people with intellectual difficulties, homeless people, and people with drug and alcohol problems. As a Cross-bench peer he is a regular contributor to debates in the House of Lords on these matters and on equalities issues.

Professor Germain Berrios, FRCPsych

Professor Berrios is a distinguished clinician, historian and epistemologist recently retired from the Chair of the Epistemology of Psychiatry in the University of Cambridge. This chair, the first in the world to carry such a name, was especially created to celebrate his contribution to psychiatry and concerns an inquiry into the origin, basis and legitimacy of psychiatric knowledge. Such knowledge, according to his conceptual model, issues out of a dialectical interaction between theoretical models and empirical research.

Professor Berrios' research closely follows this model. His historical work started during the 1970s, developing new historiographical techniques in the field of psychiatry (conceptual history, model of convergence) and the introduction into the English language of clinical phenomena such as the Charles Bonnet syndrome (1981) and presbyophrenia (1985), and of meta-historical devices such as cognitive paradigm of dementia (1989). His empirical research into mental symptoms, both in the field of general psychiatry and in neuropsychiatry (which according to his strict definition is the psychiatry of neurological disease) led to his early publications (starting in the early 1980s) on the non-cognitive mental symptoms of dementia during a period when there was much resistance to acceptance of the reality of these clinical phenomena. A comparison between the presentation of mental symptoms in general psychiatry and in neurology also allowed the developments of concepts such as behavioural phenocopy and of a model of symptom-formation, which takes into account both the biological origins of the mental symptoms and the extensive formatting by means of cultural configurators.

All this work was undertaken by Professor Berrios while running a busy neuropsychiatric service at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge (for 31 years), and contributing to the institutions with which he became associated. He was Librarian of the College between 1985 and 1995 serving on Council, founder and first Chair of the History in Psychiatry group, and an Assistant Editor of the *British Journal of Psychiatry*.

Professor Berrios did not neglect his own locality and served for 15 years as College Tutor and then Course Organiser at Fulbourn Hospital. He was Chairman of the Research Ethics Committee of Cambridge University (one of the busiest in the country) for 20 years; in his Cambridge college (Robinson, where he has been awarded a Life Fellowship) he was Director of Medical Studies and