



ANNUAL REPORT

2005

The Section and European Board of Psychiatry met in Turin, Italy, on 14 - 16 April 2005 and Košice, Slovakia, on 6 - 8 October 2005.

These committees have continued their policy of visiting local psychiatry services on the day before formal committee agendas are discussed. Such visits allow for the participating centres to inform European colleagues of national and local training arrangements and also to demonstrate the clinical settings in which training takes place. Particular care is taken to include community aspects. The process has the potential of also enabling constructive feedback from delegates. Procedures to enable a record of the representative views of committee members in such feedback are currently in development.

In both Italy and Slovakia trainees joined senior colleagues in presentation of their experience in respect of their introduction to and progress with psychiatric training and practice. Issues raised were discussed with the visiting group. Feedback from the visits reveals that both patients and staff at the facilities visited have appreciated the informal opportunities the process has offered. They have recognised the broadening of local perception to the wider European context within which they also operate.

Experience of these visits has encouraged return visits to further examine practicalities in greater detail, e.g. this year a Slovakian visit by medical managers and non-governmental organisations to community care developments in Scotland.

In the course of the year the principal issues addressed were:

Profile of a Psychiatrist

The final version of this document was agreed and can now be accessed on the Section website:

<http://www.uemspsihry.org/section/sectionReports.htm>.

WHO Ministerial conference -Helsinki

The declaration summarising the outcome of this event was much in focus and contacts have been established with national psychiatric organisations to encourage response and implementation.

European Taskforce

UEMS continues actively to participate as co-founder with AEP, WHO and WPA of this gathering with Leaders in European Psychiatry. A meeting in Munich in April 2005 was well attended and focussed on the further developments arising from the Helsinki ministerial meeting.

Survey of Specialist Training in Psychiatry.

This has now been completed with responses from 23 countries. The initial analysis gives cause for concern. Large variations in training arrangements and qualification standards have emerged. Notable clinical areas neglected in training include learning disability and old age. Training in community aspects of care is frequently overlooked, despite its importance at a time of rapid de-institutionalisation throughout Europe. There is an absence of audit, effective assessment of competency and adherence to UEMS training guidelines.

The final report has yet to be agreed.

European Training Scheme Audit

With the encouragement of UEMS there has been the initiation of a psychiatric training scheme audit at two centres in Germany. It is hoped that this will now be taken further and that other national associations will institute similar arrangements.

Areas of on-going work:

Working groups are continuing to look at issues which include stigma, old age, private practice, recruitment and retention, CME, undergraduate teaching and liaison psychiatry.

The two committees continue to benefit from the active participation of trainees via EFPT and PWG.

All delegations have also helpfully given verbal account of issues relevant to psychiatry from their unique perspective.

The year has seen an ongoing preoccupation with the financing of the work of these committees, as several national subscriptions remain unpaid. There has been particular discussion concerning the formula used in fee allocation.

Elections

Dr T Hansen (Denmark) has been elected President and Dr E Pálová (Slovakia) a Vice President of the Section.

Dr James Strachan
President, European Section of Psychiatry