

The happy demise of SCPEO?

ERICA WARNER explains why SCPEO is probably the only Society committee looking forward to becoming defunct.

THE Standing Committee for the Promotion of Equal Opportunities was established in May 1992 following the recommendation of the report of the Presidential Task Force on Equal Opportunities. Its initial remit was to draft an equal opportunities and employment policy for the BPS.

Except for the secretary to SCPEO (staff member Felicity Hector) the committee comprises Society members who have volunteered their time and talents for a three-year term. The Leicester and London

offices host five meetings a year, currently chaired by Pat Frankish. Other members include Ho Law, deputy chair, along with ordinary members Christeen George, Mumtaz Ahmed Khan, Gesthimani Merodoulaki, Ian Rivers, Sue Warner and myself. Vacancies for the committee are announced in *The Psychologist* and those with an interest in issues of equality and diversity are invited to apply.

Achievements

After successfully developing an equal opportunities policy approved by Council in February 1994, SCPEO's task was to continue to advise on the implementation of the policy and identify other tasks falling within its terms of reference. In the early days a number of projects were undertaken including:

- establishing a database of Society members able to offer expertise in equal opportunities issues, which could be accessed by SCPEO when necessary;
- examining disabilities policies around access to conferences;
- exploring ways of monitoring the membership of the BPS in order to achieve equality of opportunity (this resulted in a full-scale monitoring exercise with all new applicants being asked to submit a completed equal opportunities form with their applications);

- examining equal opportunities on training courses; and
- setting up the Award for Promoting Equality of Opportunity.

Communication with other committees and subsystems

Designated members of SCPEO are representatives on other boards and committees of the Society. There is currently representation from SCPEO on the Professional Practice Board, Membership and Professional Training Board, Research Board, Ethics Committee and, of course, Council. SCPEO also submits an annual report to Council at the end of the year.

Recent work

Over the last two years SCPEO has risen to the challenge of maintaining continuity and focus while absorbing a new chair and several new ordinary members. It has revised its terms of reference and development plan in order to maintain a relevant framework for current and future projects.

Committee work can range from the mundane to the more creative. While not an exhaustive list, the following activities show the scope of ongoing or recently completed work.

The *BPS equality monitoring system* has been revised and updated to bring it into line with national equality policy and legislation. As less than 40 per cent of the membership had completed an equal opportunities monitoring

form, it seemed timely that the current arrangements be reviewed. A major project has been under way to modify the current form and bring the ethnic categories in line with those used by the Commission for Racial Equality, to allow ease of comparison with national data if required. Recommendations from relevant bodies have been followed concerning the inclusion of categories on disability and sexual orientation. Categories such as age, language and religion have also been included.

SCPEO continues to present the *Award for Promoting Equality of Opportunity* every year to a psychologist who has made a significant contribution to challenging social inequalities. The procedures for nomination have been revised in order to maximise timely submissions. The call for nominations will now be made at the Annual Conference in March followed by further calls starting in the April issue of *The Psychologist*, closing in July. The award selection is made in September by the committee and the recipient is invited to present a paper at Annual Conference (see p.558 for this year's award lecture).

SCPEO has responded on behalf of the Society to various *government consultation documents* such as the Race and Employment Directives adopted under Article 13 of the EC Treaty. These Directives will potentially offer a greater level of protection against discrimination and harassment than current legislation allows.

Roundtable discussions on issues of equality have been sponsored and convened by SCPEO organised at Annual Conference. The 'Psychologists,

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Frank D. Fincham, a Fellow of the Society, has been appointed as a distinguished professor at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Cheryl Haslam (Professor of Health Studies at Brunel University) has moved to the University of Nottingham, Institute of Work, Health and Organisations to take up a chair in health psychology.

Dr Ian McPherson has been appointed as Director of the West Midlands Mental Health Development Centre of the National Institute of Mental Health in England from October 2002.

Gesthimani (Manya) Merodoulaki has left North Derbyshire Community Healthcare Services to take up her B-grade (consultant) post with Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Trust. Manya is now working in primary care adult mental health services in Grantham.

Michael Miller, who has devoted his professional work to career guidance (in the Department of Employment, at the Universities of Leicester and Sheffield, and finally in private practice), has retired.

Annual Student Writer Competition 2003

See p.586

Spearman Medal 2003 – Call for nominations

See p.585

racism and the Lawrence Inquiry' roundtable took place at the London Conference in December 2000 and was reported in *The Psychologist* (February 2001, pp.86-87). This year's roundtable, 'Justice, power, abuse and diversity', took place at the Blackpool conference. It featured presentations about the Prison and Probation Service, local government and the health service. SCPEO hopes to take the work further in 2003.

SCPEO has responded to a number of individual and organisational requests for advice and assistance around matters of equal opportunity and diversity.

Lastly, SCPEO has provided advice on equality proofing Society documentation, including the careers

information leaflets, the Code of Conduct and the revised style guide.

And what of the future?

The progression through this new century will no doubt witness SCPEO continuing to challenge inequality for the benefit of the membership and society at large. But what if through its efforts and that of others equality and anti-discrimination practice became the norm, nothing more than the colourful threads that weave the fabric of a diverse culture? This would be the moment when SCPEO would celebrate its own demise.

■ Erica Warner is an independent Chartered Clinical Psychologist with Psi Services.

Fellowship citation

Nigel Beail

THE Fellowship Committee is pleased to confer the honour of Fellow on Dr Nigel Beail, currently Consultant Clinical Psychologist with Barnsley Primary Care Trust and Lecturer in Clinical Psychology at the University of Sheffield.

Dr Beail has deserved this honour for his exceptional professional and academic contribution in the field of learning disability. For many years this field was largely the ground for applied behaviour therapists; Dr Beail tempered this approach by reminding us of a potentially rich seam of psychodynamic interpretation still worthy of mining using the tools of empirical analysis. He has published research on the effectiveness of psychodynamic psychotherapy with adults with intellectual disabilities, and has presented his work on psychological evaluations of adults with intellectual



disabilities in the criminal justice system to international audiences. Dr Beail has become one of the leading clinical practitioners in this field and is active in dissemination of his work through training others. On the grounds of his pioneering and seminal research work, together with his international contribution, Fellowship status has been conferred by the committee.

News from the Boards

Professional Practice Board (13 September 2002)

- *Board representative appointments ratified:* Richard Eiser to Hazards Forum and Elaine McWilliams to the National Council for Hospice and Specialist Palliative Care Services.
- *Psychologist reports relating to PTSD:* The Home Office is questioning the validity of these. A letter summarising the evidence of the key role of psychologists in diagnosing and treating PTSD would be sent to the Home Office.
- *Centre for Health Improvement:* It was agreed that the Standing Committee for Psychologists in Health and Social Care would consider how to establish closer contact with CHI.
- *Mental Health Collaborating Centre:* The Society's contract with the Royal College of Psychiatrists to run the Centre had now been signed.
- *Outcome measurement and clinical audit in mental health services:* A letter was tabled from Professor Louis Appleby, National Director of Mental Health, outlining the implementation of a national programme of in England. It was agreed to respond positively.
- *Mental health legislation:* Peter Kinderman reported that the Mental Health Act Working Party had agreed to take an advisory stance with the Mental Health Alliance. The draft response to the Mental Health Bill was approved, subject to minor changes. (See www.bps.org.uk/about/pab_papers.cfm for response and discussion forum.)
- *Lie Detector Working Party:* It was agreed to revive this working party, and that relevant Divisions and the Research Board would be contacted for representative details.
- *Ratified documents:* *Quality Standards for Educational Psychology Services* and the *Inclusive Education Position Paper*.
- *Child Health Advocacy Network:* The board endorsed a letter from the Network to Alan Milburn and all MPs.
- *Health and Safety Laboratory:* The board had received a request for information to help further research on violence to lone workers.
- *Consultation submissions:* Submissions were noted on the draft NHS (Wales) Bill, donor consultation, interagency working in the family justice system, helping people who have difficulty deciding for themselves, National Suicide Prevention Strategy for England, registration of an Institute of Forensic Psychophysiology, and helping vulnerable witnesses give evidence. (See www.bps.org.uk/about/pab_papers.cfm.)

Publications and Communications Board (9 September 2002)

- *Journals:* There has been a 35 per cent increase in submissions to Society journals year on year.
- *Ecstasy articles:* The Psychologist Policy Committee at their next meeting would discuss implications arising from the publication of the Ecstasy peer commentary in the September issue of *The Psychologist* and the attendant media coverage. It was noted that after the articles had been published, responses to the media attention were handled well.
- *Science and Technology Select Committee:* The select committee's report *Government Funding of Scientific Societies*

was noted, especially a series of recommendations concerning government funding of advice from Societies to government.

- **Subsystem publications:** The two subsystem editor representatives were asked to consider improved means of communication between the office, themselves and the group of editors. It was also noted that draft 'preferred' house styles for these publications were in development.

SUBSYSTEM NOTICES

DIVISION OF NEUROPSYCHOLOGY

Developments in the Assessment and Treatment of Executive Dysfunction After Brain Injury

Friday 15 November 2002, London
Voluntary Services Resource Centre, Holloway Road, London

Speakers to include: Dr Nick Alderman – The contribution of executive dysfunction to the management of behaviour disorders; Caroline Knight – A hospital-based version of the multiple errands test for the assessment of executive functioning; Dr Tom Manly – An electronic knot in the handkerchief: 'Content-free cuing' and the maintenance of attentional control; Jonathan Evans – Case studies in the rehabilitation of executive dysfunction in an intensive neuropsychological rehabilitation programme
Cost: members of DoN £50; non-members £75

The AGM of the Division of

Neuropsychology will also be held this day.

For application forms please contact Dr Michael Oddy, Brain Injury Rehabilitation Trust, 32 Market Place, Burgess Hill, West Sussex RH15 9NP. Tel: 01444 237292; e-mail: birt@disabilities-trust.org.uk.

NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH

Public lecture by Christine Kalus: 'When dies a son or daughter'
1 November 2002, Malone Lodge Hotel, Eglantine Avenue, Belfast at 8pm (no admission charge)

Associated events
'Psychological trauma: Responses, consequences, treatment', 9, 10 and 12 December 2002

Speakers: Dr George Rhoades from the USA and Martin Dorahy PhD.

9 December – Stranmillis University College, Belfast

10 December – University of Ulster at Magee College, Londonderry

12 December – Jury's

Customhouse Inn, Dublin

For further information and registration forms please contact Anne Kerr, BPS Northern Ireland Branch Administrator, School of Psychology, Queen's University Belfast, 18–30 Malone Road, Belfast BT9 5BP. Tel: 028 9027 4129; fax: 028 9027 4160; e-mail: nibpsoffice@yahoo.co.uk.

EDUCATION SECTION

Annual Conference 'Transforming Learning'
1–3 November 2002, National Education Centre, Crouch End, London

Key speakers: John Biggs – 'The changing role of psychology in educational practice' (The 2002 Vernon-Wall Lecture); Linda Norton – 'Taking account of the student experience in higher education'; Noel Entwistle – 'Conceptualising and investigating teaching and learning at university'

Further information available from www.bps.org.uk/events/display_results.cfm?event_id=54

Enquiries to Lynne Rogers, School of Psychology and Human Development, Institute of Education, 25 Woburn Square, London WC1H 0AA. E-mail: lynne.rogers@talk21.com

Annual General Meeting

To take place during the annual conference on Saturday 2 November at 5.45pm.

Any nominations for election to the committee should be sent (with the

written consent of the nominee) to the Honorary Secretary at the address below.

Paul Rideout, University of Glasgow, Department of Educational Studies, St Andrew's Building, 11 Eldon Street, Glasgow G3 6NH.

DCP SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP HIV AND SEXUAL HEALTH

Faculty Annual Conference and AGM
East Ham Town Hall, London, 8 November 2002

The theme for the conference will be 'Families living with HIV: Psychological well-being and mental health'. Speakers will include Dr Jenny Miah, Dr Ade Fakoya and Judith Sunderland (Sun Clinic, Newham General Hospital, London), Neil Gerrard MP, Ruth Stainer (Department of Health), Dr Erasmo Tacconelli (St Ann's Hospital, London), Di Melvin and Sue Trickett (St Mary's Hospital, London).

For further details please contact Dr Tomas Campbell. E-mail: tomas.campbell@newhampct.nhs.uk; tel: 020 7445 7755.

DIVISION OF COUNSELLING PSYCHOLOGY

New grade of membership

A new grade of membership – Counselling Psychologist in Training – was approved by Council in May of this year and by majority vote of Division members.

If you are considering taking either

MEETING DATES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 14 March 2003

COUNCIL

Saturday 15 February 2003

Saturday 10 May 2003

Saturday 18 October 2003

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Friday 29 November 2002

Friday 17 January 2003

Friday 14 February 2003 (pre-Council)

Friday 7 March 2003

Friday 9 May 2003 (pre-Council)

Friday 13 June 2003

Friday 5 September 2003

Friday 17 October 2003 (pre-Council)

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE BOARD

Saturday 9 November 2002

Saturday 8 February 2003

Friday 4 April 2003

Friday 6 June 2003

Friday 12 September 2003

RESEARCH BOARD

Saturday 1 February 2003 (followed by Book Award Committee)

Wednesday 12 March 2003 (followed by Spearman Medal Committee)

Friday 27 June 2003 (followed by Presidents' Award Committee)

Friday 24 October 2003 (followed by Visiting Psychologists Committee)

MEMBERSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING BOARD

Friday 8 November 2002

Friday 21 February 2003

Friday 20 June 2003

Friday 19 September 2003

PSYCHOLOGY EDUCATION BOARD

Thursday 19 December 2002

Friday 21 February 2003

Friday 11 April 2003

Friday 6 June 2003

Friday 10 October 2003

PUBLICATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS BOARD

Friday 13 December 2002

Friday 14 March 2003

Friday 13 June 2003

Friday 12 September 2003

DISCIPLINARY BOARD

Tuesday 4 March 2003

Tuesday 14 October 2003

GRADUATE QUALIFICATIONS ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

Thursday 14 November 2002

Thursday 23 January 2003

Thursday 6 March 2003

Thursday 1 May 2003

Thursday 26 June 2003

Thursday 11 September 2003

ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE

Thursday 7 November 2002

Thursday 16 January 2003

Thursday 20 February 2003

Thursday 24 April 2003

Thursday 5 June 2003

Thursday 4 September 2003

FELLOWSHIPS COMMITTEE

Friday 14 February 2003

Thursday 22 May 2003

Friday 3 October 2003

STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE PROMOTION OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Friday 10 January 2003

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Monday 9 December 2002

Wednesday 5 March 2003

Tuesday 24 June 2003

Thursday 18 September 2003

FUTURE SOCIETY CONFERENCES, ETC.

London Lectures –

Monday 9 December 2002

Friday 5 December 2003

Annual Conference –

13–15 March 2003