



I have been a member of the BPS for over 20 years, as a student, a graduate member, an associate fellow and finally as a chartered psychologist. Membership not only enables me to keep in touch with developments, both academic and political,

within my profession, but also to demonstrate to potential clients and employers alike that my credentials are legitimate, and that I am bound by a code of conduct that governs my research practices.

I was keen to apply for CSci status as I felt that this would enhance my reputation and demonstrate that my training and experience are at a level commensurate with other professions. The application process was no different from the BPS procedures for associate fellow or chartered status.

The benefit of CSci to me as an individual means that when generating a press release, or responding to a media call, my credibility as a scientist is apparent. For psychologists generally, this accreditation serves as part of the professional development that we must all adhere to. Prior to the regulation of our profession, CSci provides an additional guarantee of professional competence. Having a benchmark of ability for

practitioners of science will help to maintain the confidence of both public and professional. In my role as Health Services Research Coordinator for an NHS Foundation Trust, I am often asked to comment on the findings of research and to present our own studies to the public. It is important for these messages to be credible, and CSci will prove to be a valuable asset in this process.

I am particularly interested in the application of evidence-based practice in the addictions field. Part of my current role is to encourage and support (from a bottom-up approach) research amongst clinical teams – this is important for their own personal and professional development. I take a pragmatic approach to undertaking research in the field – to me it is important that the lessons learnt in a clinical trial can be easily integrated into routine practice, and for this reason I try to take a real world approach in the design of research protocols, giving those professionals I work with a sense of ownership of the research and assurance that they have an input into the way that studies are developed and integrated.