

The British
Psychological Society
promoting excellence in psychology

Annual Review 2010



www.bps.org.uk



The
British
Psychological
Society

THE SOCIETY

The British Psychological Society was founded in 1901 and incorporated by Royal Charter in 1965. Our sole Royal Charter objective is to promote the advancement and diffusion of the discipline and the usefulness of members.

We:

- are the Learned and Professional body for the discipline;
- aim to make the science and practice of psychology accessible to everyone;
- aim to include in our membership all those who are engaged or interested in psychology;
- award Chartered Status to properly qualified members – there are over 17,000 Chartered Psychologists;
- give grants to support research, scholarship and public engagement activities;
- run a media centre to publicise the work of our members through the media to the wider public;
- represent the discipline by publishing policy statements and preparing responses to government consultations;
- provide evidence-based briefings and reports to the UK and devolved parliaments;
- hold numerous conferences, workshops, continuing professional development and training events;
- publish 11 scientific journals, and jointly publishes *Evidence-Based Mental Health* with the British Medical Association and the Royal College of Psychiatrists;
- publish *The Psychologist* magazine each month;
- publish textbooks under the BPS Blackwell imprint;
- provide a free Research Digest: www.researchdigest.org.uk;
- provide ethical guidance and advice via our Ethics Committee to both our members and others;
- recognise distinguished contributions to psychological science and practice through individual awards, honours and Fellowships;
- accredit through an active partnership scheme both undergraduate and professional postgraduate university programmes;
- provide examinations that allow successful candidates to register with the Health Professions Council;
- help employers find the right psychologist through the Psychologist Appointments (www.psychapp.co.uk) section of The Psychologist;
- publish newsletters and occasional papers for our many specialist member networks;
- have positive working links with psychological societies and associations throughout the world;
- maintain a comprehensive website (www.bps.org.uk).

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES & OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

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| <i>Representative Council Appointments</i> | |
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| Representative Council Cooptees | Dr Richard Mallows Professor Graham Turpin Professor Jill Wilkinson Emeritus Professor Ken Brown |

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Membership Standards Board

The Membership Standards Board (MSB) has a responsibility ensure that high standards are maintained in respect of admission to membership, membership upgrades and transfers, Society qualifications, registrations and professional development.

Three policy development boards report to MSB, with governance responsibility for qualifications (the Qualifications Standards Committee), accreditation of courses (the Partnership and Accreditation Committee) and the Psychological Testing Centre (the Committee on Test Standards).

BPS Learning Centre

The Learning Centre has gone from strength to strength, with new e-Learning modules proving popular and a big rise in CPD event attendance. Over 16,000 members have registered their CPD via myCPD, the Society's online system.

Accreditation through partnership

Following a successful pilot scheme, our new accreditation through partnership model for engagement with universities and students launched in September 2010. Focusing on quality enhancement, it is based on a principle of collaborative working. New accreditation standards and handbooks are available online.

Ten undergraduate and 39 postgraduate visits to psychology programmes were undertaken during 2010; 12 of them programmes seeking accreditation for the first time. Our Partnership and Accreditation team also accredited 20 Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner training programmes in England on behalf of the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme.

Awards and qualifications

The Qualification in Counselling Psychology and the Qualification in Forensic Psychology both achieved HPC approval, with a further four qualifications being prepared for presentation to the HPC in 2011.

New quality assurance procedures have been introduced to improve information about placement settings and the quality of supervision. The introduction of Co-ordinator of Training and Supervisor handbooks will enhance the way our qualifications are supported.

Membership and registration

Whilst membership growth did not match previous years, retention was high and our overall membership has been maintained. New routes to Chartered membership have been implemented for those teaching psychology and for applicants who trained outside the UK.

Our Membership team has been working to improve services and introduced new performance indicators. In addition, the Membership team implemented a new service, providing Criminal Record Bureau checks. A Register of Clinical Neuropsychologists has been launched.

Committee on Test Standards and the Psychological Testing Centre

As part of the 2008 strategy, the Committee on Test Standards has been working towards the development of standards covering all contexts for testing (work, education and health) and to implement the EFPA-based standards framework with a modular system for all qualifications.

Preparation for implementation of the new modular qualification system for all qualifications and an additional qualification at Level One in Educational testing has progressed. All documentation has been created and the database is being tested for a launch of the new structure and register in 2011.

Application for approval of existing qualifications has been granted by the European Accreditation Committee- Tests (EAC-T) as a part of the EFPA pilot scheme set up in 2009 and the CTS continues to be involved in developments taking place internationally.

I would like to thank all of my colleagues on the MSB, the constituent policy development boards and the Directorate staff for their hard work.

Dr Peter Banister, Chair

Professional Practice Board

PPB which brings together all ten Divisions and Special Groups reports to and advises the Board of Trustees on policy, applied practice, consultation responses and other matters related to the application of psychological science. It has two strategic thrusts: Providing Leadership, and Supporting and adding value to the work of Practitioner Psychologists.

The most important matter of all this year was that for the first time in our history Psychologists took up the role of Approved Clinicians (AC) previously reserved for medically trained professionals. Aspirant Approved Clinicians have been supported by the Board's AC Peer Review Panel process. The Society provides facilities for psychologists seeking support as they prepare for this role.

Furthermore, as Chair I have been impressed by the volume of work undertaken and achievements of the Board, its working parties and standing committees.

We have published Working Party papers on:

- Guidance for Registered Psychologists in making Applications to the Society's Approved Clinician Peer Review Panel
- FAQs Approved Clinicians responsibilities for Psychologists
- The Mental Capacity Act Audit Tool
- Psychologists Working as Expert Witnesses 3rd edition.

PPB also supported the development of policy statements on:

- Electronic Health Records
- Obesity
- Working Therapeutically with Sexual Minority Clients
- Capacity to Consent to Sexual Relationships
- Brain Injury and Offenders.

Besides providing two CPD workshops for independent practitioners the Board has supported the development of a Special Group for Independent Practitioners.

Standing Committees

The Board's standing committees have been busy, as always, developing policy in, expert witness skills, workforce planning, and health and social care.

Centre for Outcomes Research and Effectiveness (CORE)

CORE continues its work on systematic reviews and guidelines; measuring and monitoring outcomes; evaluating evidence-based practice in health services; and evaluating new services and roles arising from policy initiatives (see <http://tinyurl.com/6fcwpzg>).

Consultations

The Chair of PPB signed off 80 responses to public consultations (see <http://tinyurl.com/cg8l9>).

Links with Other Organisations

PPB has worked in collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders, and supported:

- The Declaration on Mental Health Research
- MIND's We Need to Talk Campaign
- Quitting in Mind
- PARN's Manifesto
- The National Dementia Declaration
- National Specialised Commissioning Team's Definition No.31 Specialised Pain Management Services
- EFPA's Statement on Health
- Inter-Professional pledge for Social Inclusion.

2010 Awards in Professional Psychology

I am delighted to announce the 2010 award winners are Professor Rosamund (Roz) Shafran for Distinguished Contributions to Professional Psychology and Professor John Hall and Emeritus Professor Gerry Randell for Lifetime Achievement.

Acknowledgements

I must thank all contributors to the Board's work but especially the Board's members, the profession is indebted to them. Nigel Atter, assisted by Zoë Mudie, have provided timely and expert advice in supporting the work of the Board. I would like to extend heartfelt thanks for their unstinting efforts. I thank and commend them most heartily.

(For further information on any of the above see <http://tiny.cc/saevr>).

Dr Carole Allan, Chair

Psychology Education Board

The year 2010 has been one of transition for the Board. The implementation of the Education Governance Review has seen the core purposes and role of the Board expand, presenting new challenges and opportunities. In June, I took over as Chair of the Board from Dr Richard Latto, who served for seven years and had reached the end of his second term. Richard's steady hand and measured, fair and dedicated approach will be missed, as will he himself. The

achievements and growth of the Board under Richard have been immense, especially in the areas of pre-tertiary psychology, it is a tribute to his dedication and work that the Board is in such a healthy position to move forward.

The new terms of reference were adopted in June, expanding our role into supporting the discipline and psychologists at all levels of psychology education, from pre-tertiary to post-graduate. As part of the review, responsibility for the mechanism by which Society membership is determined, the Graduate Basis for Chartership, moved to the new Membership Standards Board, meaning the Graduate Qualifications and Accreditation Committee also moved to be under their aegis. The Board of Examiners for the Qualifying Examination saw through their final candidates this year and have now disbanded. These changes have meant that we have also said goodbye to the Chairs of these committees - Ruth Green and Peter Wright - who have been long-standing members of the Board. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their contributions.

The Board has approved a far-reaching science strategy that will support the promotion of psychological science under a number of initiatives. Not only will the Society be looking to develop and strengthen links with science organisations such as the Science Council, British Science Association, National STEM centre and Association for Science Education, we will also be investigating how to support departments in their efforts to promote psychology through science events and centres.

Finally, the Society has been working to support the discipline of psychology by representing psychology and psychologists at national and government levels, to promote the usefulness of psychology and our members and to provide support to psychologists in a number of ways. We have a strong spine of supporters who offer their time and expertise to develop our Learned Society objectives, but we need greater engagement with the academic community to help promote our discipline through more explicit mutual support. So the Society is embarking on an outreach campaign to academic departments to inform and engage those people with whom the future of the discipline lies. The Society supported an event organised by the Higher Education Academy Psychology Network looking at the future of psychology in Higher Education. The results of this will give a clear steer towards Society education policy and the aspirations of academics for the future of the discipline. Over the next year, we hope to identify how the Society can support academics and students to achieve those aspirations.

Professor Dorothy Miell, Chair

Publications and Communications Board

The Psychologist and Research Digest

The Psychologist remains the central place in the Society where members from all corners of the discipline can come together to share and discuss their work.

In 2010, 'New voices' was introduced to the publication, with the aim of encouraging budding writing talent (see www.bps.org.uk/newvoices). Dozens of articles, on helping the homeless, the aware mind in the motionless body, fonts and fluency, the multisensory perception of flavour, golf, neurosexism, last words from death row, blushing, blindsight, Coca-Cola and so many more. Special issues on pregnancy, the history of experimental psychology (with The Psychologist's first free poster), and the journey to undergraduate psychology. The Research Digest (www.researchdigest.org.uk/blog) began the year with a Research Blogging award for the Best Psychology Blog, providing a welcome fillip to its rising internet profile.

The Digest's 1,500,000th blog visitor arrived around the middle of the year and the number of followers on Facebook (www.facebook.com/researchdigest) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/researchdigest) is fast approaching a combined total of ten thousand. Ad revenue from the Digest email and blog banners has also risen significantly. A special interview feature in July on 'The Bloggers Behind the Psychology Blogs' and a detailed round-up of 'Psychologists who Tweet' added some variety to the usual stream of engaging reports across the breadth of peer-reviewed psychological science.

The Research Digest ended 2010 on a high, with a successful search for a new editor for a specialist occupational psychology blog and e-mail (www.researchdigest.org.uk/occ). Dr Alex Fradera will be launching this exciting new service early in 2011.

PR and marketing

The team continued the development and incorporation of a new media environment. Direct news (Newsreach) has been developed with the supplier to provide stories for the Society's homepage give us a good basic service level to deliver psychology news and comment and are becoming an increasingly valuable part of the Society's communication and search engine optimisation strategy.

Web redesign project

The PR and ICT teams have been instrumental in writing new content for the re-launch of the Society web site, due for release in 2011. New methods of content management are being introduced with emphasis on factual quality, visitor profiling, continuity and substantially improved navigation.

Public engagement

We have been supporting the projects from the 2010 grants:

- The 'allotment project for men with mental health problems' has been very successful. *All in the Mind* has already been in touch with her, and will be visiting her project twice to check progress.
- Peddling Psychology around Wales – this project is scheduled for 2011 The proposal is to travel to secondary schools by bike and get young people interested in studying psychology.
- The grant for the website www.mentalhealthcare.org.uk an evidence-based website for family members and friends of people with psychosis.

The 2010 BA/BPS Annual Lecture was given by Professor David Uzzell. His lecture was entitled 'Psychology and climate change: Collective solutions to a global problem'. The audience of around 180 listened as Professor Uzzell examined some of the significant and influential work being undertaken by psychologists - from adaptation strategies to challenging taken-for-granted ways of thinking about these issues.

Consultations

In 2010 the Society facilitated responses to 71 consultations. These responses were submitted to 26 separate bodies across the UK (including governments, non-government organisations and non-departmental public bodies). The regional spread of these is shown in the table opposite

It was only possible for the Society to submit these responses because of the work put into this area of activity by over 180 members of the Society. Those who took part were drawn from all levels of membership – from graduate members in training to Fellows – and represented all nine of the Society's central divisions as well as 13 of the 15 formalised divisions in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, and many of the other member network groups.

| Region | Number of Responses (% of total*) |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| England only | 23 (32) |
| Northern Ireland only | 8 (11) |
| Scotland only | 8 (11) |
| Wales only | 7 (10) |
| Applicable across two or more of the above | 25 (35) |

* to the nearest whole number

Journals Partnership

The Society entered into a partnership with Wiley & Sons Limited for the production and distribution all of the Society's Journals titles. There has been a great deal of activity in realigning the editorial management of the journals, contract management and preparation for the handover to Wiley on 1st January 2011. We have been very impressed by the support and expertise of our new partners and look forward to the future development and growth of our Journals.

Dr Graham Powell, Chair

Research Board

The Research Board is responsible for the promotion, advancement and diffusion of a knowledge of psychology pure and applied, and encouraging new developments in psychological science and its applications: <http://tinyurl.com/65botop>.

The Board continues to be proactive in the production of evidence-based guidance documents and leading on consultation responses. Of particular significance, the Board submitted nominations for the Research Excellence Framework 2014 Sub-Panel Chairs and members. Members of the Board were strongly involved in the ESRC International Benchmarking Exercise: Psychology – specifically in the presentations and submission of evidence to the review panel in October 2010.

The Working Party on Code of Human Research Ethics launched its consultation on the draft Code in December 2010; the outcomes of this exercise and the final draft will be considered by the Board and the Ethics Committee by March 2011, and the Code itself will be launched at a symposium at the Annual Conference in May 2011.

The Board is concerned to further advance and promote psychological science. In addition to regular liaison with the Science Council, CaSE and the Royal Society, the Board entered into partnership with the Academy for Social Sciences in the production of its Making the Case for the Social Sciences booklets, showcasing the impact of social science. The third booklet in the series, *Sustainability, the Environment and Climate Change*, was successfully launched in Whitehall in November 2010. The next booklet on Crime will be launched in Spring 2011. The Board has also engaged with the Psychology Section of the British Science Association. This has resulted in a number of high-profile presentations being lined up for the Festival of Science in 2011, including a symposium from the Division of Sports and Exercise Psychology.

Highlights of the History of Psychology Centre's year include steady expansion of website resources, a productive year for the Oral History Project, improving visibility of psychology at the Science Museum and the online archive catalogue nearing completion.

The Board continues to support scientific activities through its numerous grant schemes. Research Seminars on emotional processes in the development of autistic spectrum disorder; multiple perpetrator rape; and psychology and dentistry were supported. Postgraduate Study Visits were also supported for visits to: City University, University of Strathclyde, University of Akron (USA), Max Plank Institute of Psycholinguistics (The Netherlands), University of Washington (USA) and VU University (The Netherlands).

Scientific excellence is also recognised at different career stages.

- Presidents Award for Outstanding Contributions to Psychological Knowledge – Professor Paul Burgess
- Spearman Medal – Dr Emily Holmes
- Award for Outstanding Doctoral Research Contributions – Dr Nicole Tausch

For the third year of the Undergraduate Research Assistantship scheme, 41 applications were received and 9 were funded.

For further details on any of the award or grant schemes, please visit:
<http://tinyurl.com/692ctdl>.

I would like to thank all members of the Board for their valuable contributions during the year. Particular thanks are also due to Liz Beech and Dr Lisa Morrison Coulthard for their invaluable advisory and administrative support.

Professor Judi Ellis, Chair

Ethics Committee

The Committee has been concerned with ensuring that the Society maintains its key function in providing a Code of Ethics and Conduct for its members and in providing authoritative and helpful advice and guidance on ethical matters.

Throughout the year, the Policy Advice Team in the office has received an increasing volume of enquiries relating to ethical and practice matters. In the provision of such essential advice, the contributions of the Ethics Expert Reference Group (including representatives of all Divisions, Special Groups and all the members of the Ethics Committee) has been crucial and our sincere thanks is extended to all members of that Group. The Ethical Guidance and Support section on the Society's website has been updated throughout the year and will be restructured early in 2011 to provide greater support to members. See <http://tinyurl.com/6qh34z>.

The Media Ethics Advisory Group has (with the Publications and Communications Board) provided support and advice to members of the Society throughout 2010. Importantly, it submitted evidence to the Thane Review of the system of regulating child performances and its Chair, Professor John Oates has been appointed as co-facilitator (with John McVay of Producers Alliance for Cinema and Television: PACT) of a group of experts looking at improving safeguarding arrangements, building on the best examples already being used by production companies and theatre groups, as identified in the Thane review.

The Working Party on Code of Human Research Ethics launched its consultation on the draft Code in December 2010; the outcomes of this exercise and the final draft will be considered by the Board and the Ethics Committee by March 2011, and the Code itself will be launched at a symposium at the Annual Conference in May 2011.

The Committee is grateful Professor John Oates for his able Chairing of the Working Party.

The Committee has monitored the regulation of applied psychologists by the Health Professions Council, including reviewing the details of hearings and outcomes. It will continue with this work in the coming year and intends to liaise with other bodies whose members are regulated by the HPC, such as speech and language therapists.

The Committee has continued to monitor the implementation of the new Member Rules and believes they should be amended in line with its concerns, which rest on the philosophy and values agreed by the membership and which underpin the Code of Ethics. It is to contribute to a revision of the associated appeal process in the coming year.

I succeeded Dr Richard Kwiatkowski as Chair of the Committee in July 2010. Dr. Phil Stringer served as Deputy Chair throughout the year. We sincerely thank Sheelagh Strawbridge who stepped down from the Committee this year; her dedication, advice and hard work will be sorely missed.

It is important that all the members of the committee are remembered in this brief report; they have worked hard behind the scenes in an often complex and difficult environment; sincere thanks to all.

Tony Wainwright, Chair

Standing Conference Committee

2010 has been a year of success and change for the Committee. The Annual Conference in Stratford-upon-Avon was held in warm Spring sunshine and was attended by 481 delegates. Keynote speakers included Prof David Hargreaves, Prof Alan Baddeley, Prof Alex Linley, Dr Matt Field and Professor Dominic Abrams. The atmosphere at the conference was excellent and the venue was conducive to great networking for the delegates.

Every ticket for the 2010 Student Lectures was sold. Our regional event attracted 400 delegates who enjoyed the wonderful surroundings of the Nottingham Trent University. London attracted 820 delegates, filling Kensington Town Hall to its capacity. These lectures continue to receive excellent feedback and are an important feature of Society provision. Once again in 2012 we hope to partner a University in the North of England and we are looking for a larger venue in the London area to increase the capacity for that event.

The 2011 Annual Conference will be held in Glasgow (4–6 May) and we aim to reach the same delegate numbers as Stratford-upon-Avon 2010. Once again we received a substantial number of submissions to the conference, resulting in an interesting and varied programme timetable visit www.bps.org.uk/ac2011. In 2012 Annual Conference returns to London from 18–20 April; the Division of Sport & Exercise Psychology and Qualitative Methods in Psychology Section have already agreed to hold their 2012 event alongside the Annual Conference in the Grand Connaught Rooms. The venue is in an unrivalled location close to Holborn and Covent Garden.

Mid-way through 2010, the committee changed its structure to incorporate an Executive Committee and a wider committee who contribute via a virtual forum. The committee changed in order to reduce costs, and to allow a wider contribution on the forum. All Member Networks are being encouraged to have a representative on the wider committee.

Further information on these and other Society conferences can be found at www.bps.org.uk/conferences.

Emeritus Professor Ken Brown, Chair

Division of Clinical Psychology

We had our Strategy Meeting midway through the year, where we reviewed the objectives we agreed for 2009-10 and set new ones for this year.

In terms of our objective 1, ensuring that we are an organisation fit for purpose, we have completed our subsystems review, elected to the majority of vacant positions and maintained high levels of membership. We do not yet have a service user/carer member on each of our five main committees, but this work is in progress, and we continue to have the chair of the Service User & Carer Liaison Committee as a full member of our Executive.

The improvement of member services is being led by Petra Gwilliam, our new Membership Services Unit director, and this has already seen changes to our website and improved co-ordination of information on CPD events. Pam Skinner and Richard Toogood have completed the DCP Leadership Curriculum and this is now being implemented. Our Annual Conference took place in Manchester, in response to member requests to try holding it outside London, and a date (2012) has been set to trial a 'mega-conference' that hosts the existing child Faculty, PSIGE and learning disabilities conferences as well as having streams for those working with adults and in clinical health.

Our third objective was to impact on the policy context in which we work, and much of the last year has been taken up in working with other professional bodies to influence party manifestoes in the run up to the general election. Now much time is being spent on creating relationships with the new government and responding to their dazzling array of consultation documents. Our Policy Unit director, John Hanna, has also now convened a Policy Unit committee, with representatives from the main clinical areas, to ensure we tap in to the right expertise in responses.

Objective four was to continue to develop and uphold standards post HPC. We have worked with the Society and others on the development of various competency frameworks to ensure that they work with the existing frameworks and properly recognise the skills of clinical psychologists. The Society is anticipating shortly opening a register for IAPT practitioners and one for supervisors, both of which we have been involved with. On professional guidance, we have published the Core Purpose and Philosophy of the Profession, and are shortly due to publish Guidelines for Service User and Carer Involvement in Psychological Services. On clinical guidance we have published the Understanding Bipolar Disorder report, which we hope will improve standards of care in this field.

Finally, in terms of improving public, media and commissioner understanding of our work, we have appointed a DCP Media and Communications Officer (Lucy Johnstone), who will start work on our DCP Communications Strategy.

All in all, considerable thanks are due to all our elected officers, our service user and carer liaison committee and many individual members for their work on achieving the majority of objectives we set ourselves last year.

Jenny Taylor, Chair

Division of Counselling Psychology

2010 saw DCoP committed to development around three particular areas; namely the Division as the major resource for counselling psychologists, a revitalising of its communication processes and structures, and enhancement of opportunities regarding work and training.

We celebrated the added value to members of three new branches, which we warmly welcome to the Division. These are Northern Ireland, North West England and Central England. DCoP now has six branches and is represented in all four home nations. In addition new innovations included a weekly e-letter for members; the launch of a new website and a presence on both facebook and twitter.

Supporting the work of members in a wide range of contexts has been an important focus and to this end DCoP established a vibrant practice working group. This group has established an email group for members working in the field of learning disabilities and discussions have been started with the Division of Neuropsychology regarding further links. In broader areas of employment DCoP has worked with other Divisions. Work included the preceptorship scheme and the creation of a letter jointly supported by BPS and Unite regarding job advertisements by competency. (Details of these can be found at www.bps.org.uk/dcop/practice). In addition the Applied Division Chairs proposed development of online journal access via the BPS and at the time of writing this is ongoing.

2010 also saw a public engagement agenda for DCoP. The Division's successful Annual Conference in Glasgow included a public lecture entitled 'The Making of the Scottish Man' which drew much publicity and significant attendance by members of the public. DCoP continues to value this public engagement agenda as we go forward and our 2011 conference will again include such an event.

DCoP also committed to further understand the needs of recently qualified counselling psychologists and with this in mind subsidised a fully attended one day seminar on trauma. In addition, a full and exciting continuing professional development programme is underway for 2010/11.

In October 2010 the Division Committee held its strategy meeting. It was agreed that with a diverse membership we need to take forward the work already begun on 2010 of supporting members in a wide range of contexts. Employability was considered fundamental in what are times of structural and financial change. Within research, promoting the links with practice was seen as important. The outcome of these discussions was the identification of two particular priorities as follows:

- to enhance employment prospects in all sectors;
- To support practice based research.

The translation of these overall aims into a unified framework of tangible goals resulted in the development of a diagrammatic strategic plan for the year 2010–11 which can be viewed at <http://tinyurl.com/62rbxa4>.

Finally, I would like to thank Division Committee members, Division members and BPS staff, all of whom have worked very hard and jointly to ensure the success in enacting DCoP's 2010 strategic goals.

Dr Barbara Douglas, Chair

Since last January the committee has met five times, including the more lengthy Wider Issues meeting in September.

The most significant issues for all educational psychologists this year have been the funding and application process for training, which are both still to be resolved. The DECP has been working closely with the Association of Educational Psychologists, National Association of Principal Psychologists and course directors to coordinate lobbying of MPs and maintain a consistent message. The four groups met in July to produce a joint briefing note which has been used widely. By the time members read this, the SEN green paper should have been published and we may have a solution, although I suspect that this may continue to rumble along for some time.

At this point I would like to thank Sandra Dunsmuir who has coordinated a number of BPS/DECP responses to government consultations, the most important of which was the call for views on the proposed SEN green paper.

Members of the committee have been involved in a number meetings and working groups representing the DECP including, for example:

- BPS Professional Practice Board and BPS Representative Council
- Meeting with BPS Divisional Chairs to discuss working practices
- National Forum for EP Training organised by the Children's Workforce Development Council
- Annual meeting of DECP associates

The committee has considered a variety of issues and initiated or continued a number of projects and activities.

- Continued work on the DECP's position paper on Inclusive Education
- Decision on who should be nominated for the Distinguished Contribution Award
- Organisation of the conference and discussion of changes in the way publicity is handled
- Consideration of enquiries or requests for professional advice on relevant psychological matters
- The completion of supervision guidelines; work led by two members of the committee with wide representation on the working party from other groups and organisations; launch at the conference in January.
- Updating of the DECP Strategic Plan in line with the new BPS Strategic Plan
- Continuing development of links with trainees and the courses including exploring publishing doctorate abstracts on the website, continued support of the trainee conference and ensuring trainee representation on the committee.

I am grateful to the hard work of all the committee members. Particular thanks are due to Jane Marriott and the conference committee, who did a splendid job for 2010 and I am sure will provide an equally good event in 2011, and to the Debate team. I would also like to express my gratitude to the other officers of the committee, Joy Wellan, as past chair, Jane Leadbetter, as chair elect, Chris Arnold as secretary and Charmian Hobbs as treasurer; also a big thank you to Sue Eppel of the BPS Leicester office without whose help I would never have been able to cope.

Harriet Martin, Chair

Division of Forensic Psychology

The Division's committee has maintained focus on its 4 core strategic aims and developed activity against each in order to best represent and support the membership. The committee continues to be representative of members from a range of settings in which Forensic Psychologists practice, including health, criminal justice, academic institutions and private practice. Furthermore representatives from Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland continue to be active across all committee activity.

Enhancing a professional identity

The Division website has continued to develop, with divisional business and events regularly updated. The 'who's who' of the committee provides members with information and access to the committee.

The Division is well represented across Society committees, and has supported this work through contributions to working groups and a subsequent position paper on a relevant forensic practice issue. The Division has maintained strong involvement in public policy with DFP members leading on six BPS consultations.

The Division is represented at the BPS 110th annual conference through both a keynote speaker and symposium, demonstrating the contribution of forensic psychology to applied practice.

The Division has continued developing international links such as those with the North American Corrections and Criminal Justice Psychology 'group' which includes colleagues from the US and the Canadian Psychological Association. The Division will be presenting at their conference this year and promoting the Division and the wider Society.

Upholding and enhancing professional standards

The Division has continued to invest in professional development, with a wide range of events delivered for both full and in-training members. This work has been taken forward as a key Divisional activity in upholding and enhancing professional standards and supporting the membership. The work builds on feedback from the Divisional membership survey.

Growing the membership

The Division aims to grow the membership by ensuring that members' funds are reinvested in line with the core strategic themes. Professional development and training events are key activities in retaining existing members as well as encouraging new members to the Division.

The Division continues to host a successful annual conference with eminent key note speakers and a high standard of contributions from members.

Developing and promoting forensic psychology as a scientific discipline

The promotion of forensic psychology as a scientific discipline underpins much of the Division's activity. Ensuring that professional development, conference events and responses to public consultations are informed by theory and research remains a key component of this aim.

The Division provides two publications promoting research in forensic psychology. 'Issues' and 'Forensic Update' provide members with access to research developments and an opportunity to contribute to the promotion of forensic psychology as a scientific discipline. Both publications are seen as central to Divisional business.

The Division of Forensic Psychology continues to support its membership through a wide range of activity. It is the contribution of the members that makes this work possible. I would like to personally thank all members of the committee and others who have supported this work over the past year.

Giles McCathie, Chair

Division of Health Psychology

In this first year after statutory regulation the DHP responded to a Health Professions Council (HPC) consultation on a change to a Standard of Proficiency for Health Psychologists. The Division clarified members' uncertainty about the role of the HPC through FAQs on the DHP website (<http://tinyurl.com/5wzchnh>).

The DHP's consultancy with the Department of Health continued – an exemplary platform to raise awareness of the contribution that health psychology and health psychologists can make to policy and practice.

The Practitioner Subcommittee organised a successful meeting. The Practitioner and Research subcommittees collaborated on a survey of the settings in which health psychologists work. The Research Subcommittee promoted the inclusion of health psychologists on grant-awarding bodies and REF panels and encouraged members to apply for such positions.

DHP members contributed to consultations on a range of issues, including the new government's white papers on the NHS and Public Health, the House of Lords inquiry into behaviour change and BPS working groups.

Work to promote the DHP and health psychology to various audiences continued, with symposia at the BPS Annual Conference and the UK Society for Behavioural Medicine, representation at the Cheltenham Festival of Science, articles in publications for A level students, updated leaflets, introduction of a public engagement grant scheme and the launch of DHP Twitter. The suggestion of an eminent health psychologist to be invited as a keynote speaker at the 2011 BPS Annual Conference was successful. Links with international health psychology groups were developed.

DHP awards for Outstanding Contributions to Research and Promotion of Health Psychology were introduced. The DHP internship scheme that supports students to undertake research received record applications and two awards were made. Twelve bursaries were awarded for postgraduate students to attend our annual conference.

The DHP website was updated with pages to promote regional health psychology groups and the DHP's consultancy work with the Department of Health and summaries of DHP committee meetings.

Two issues of *Health Psychology Update* were produced and four newsletters were circulated: <http://bit.ly/hzT0Y7>.

The Division's annual conference was held at Queen's University, Belfast. Additional events were held, including a Postgraduate Conference organised by the postgraduate subcommittee and an event for Stage 2 course leaders organised in collaboration with the BPS and HPC. The CPD subcommittee ran two events (Interviewing for Health Psychology; CBT for Physical Health Problems) and organised a CPD programme for 2010/11.

Developments within the DHP committee included the expansion of the research subcommittee, creation of a public engagement role within the Publicity & Liaison subcommittee and introduction of a public health lead within the Practitioner subcommittee. Subcommittees have made increased use of conference calls to reduce costs and maintain close working relationships between members. A review of the committee structure and members' attendance at DHP committee meetings was led by the Chair and Chair Elect and has resulted in changes being introduced, on a trial basis, from October 2010.

Dr Diana Harcourt, Deputy Chair

Division of Neuropsychology

I wish to thank officers and committee members for their significant contribution this year. In particular those standing down: Professor Narinder Kapur and Dr Sal Connolly (ordinary committee members), Dr Tom Manly (website), Dr Jamie Macniven (Committee for Training in Clinical Neuropsychology) and Dr Pippa Griffiths (co-opted as a link to the DCP).

The Division has a major role in the development and advocacy of the profession. We set up a Specialist Register of Clinical Neuropsychology (SRCN) open to those who were Practitioner Full Members and eligible for HPC regulation under a basic entry (e.g. Clinical) adjectival title. This allows for representation of the skills and experience required for practice. Over 350 members are now on the SRCN. This year DoN has published commissioning guidelines for promoting the role of clinical neuropsychology (www.bps.org.uk/don/). The HPC may regulate specialist practice in future; the DoN would welcome this and has been involved with the HPC to facilitate it. The regulation of clinical neuropsychology via HPC is likely to come into effect within two years.

The DoN has commissioned a detailed competency framework for clinical neuropsychology to guide training (chaired by Dr Ingram Wright). Courses for providing underpinning knowledge and research competencies for the Qualification in Clinical Neuropsychology have continued uptake of places. There are three adult courses: Glasgow (contact Professor Jon Evans – j.evans@clinmed.gla.ac.uk), Nottingham (contact Dr Jamie Macniven – Jamie.Macniven@nottingham.ac.uk) and a new course at Bristol (Contact Dr Martin Bunnage – Martin.Bunnage@nbt.nhs.uk). There is one child neuropsychology course: at the Institute of Child Health, London, (contact Dr Peter Rankin – p.rankin@ich.ucl.ac.uk). Post-qualification training days were well attended and had positive feedback. In 2011 we aim to hold three of four, covering neurodegenerative disorders, neuropsychiatric conditions, and neurodevelopmental issues. The Charney Manor Child Neuropsychology residential course, directed by Dr Arleta Starza-Smith, has also continued.

The newsletter has continued to be published and the website will be redeveloped in 2011.

A Division of Neuropsychology in Scotland has been set up (DoNS – <http://tinyurl.com/5ut5nu2>).

The DoN has developed awards (chaired by Professor Robin Morris) to encourage excellence in clinical practice, research and service development. The Barbara Wilson Award for outstanding contribution to neuropsychology was given to Professor Michael Oddy; an Early Career Award was made to Dr Jamie Macniven.

The DoN has launched an award for overseas fellowships, with a value of up to £1000, to be run with the British Neuropsychological Society (Chair: Professor Narinder Kapur). We will be endorsing the International Brain Injury Association meeting 2012 in Edinburgh, which will

have benefits for members. Liaison will continue with the International Neuropsychological Society over potential collaborative meetings.

Membership has continued to grow (956 vs 906 last year). The DoN maintains a solid financial position.

As the Society evolves, we envisage becoming more able to meet the needs of academics and researchers in neuropsychology and neuroscience. This may foster collaborations that lead to meaningful advances in the lives of people with neurological illness or injury.

Associate Professor Huw Williams, Chair

Division of Occupational Psychology

The Division has been active during 2010 undertaking activities contributing to our 5 strategic objectives of: Visibility, Influence, Employability, Competence, and Science. Below are a few of the key areas of focus during 2010.

Focus on Trainees. Trainees are the future of the profession, which is emphasised by:

- Trainee issues being the first agenda item at all DOP Committee meetings. This includes feedback from the Career Development Working Group (the support group for our trainees), updates from the QOccPsych Board, and the Training Committee.
- The Ordinary Committee Members who are trainees provide feedback that they have received directly from members about the QOccPsych or their MSc.
- Continue to give free Division membership to everyone enrolled on a MSc course.
- Attended a meeting with MSc Course Directors during the summer and followed up with a presentation. This will hopefully be repeated in 2011.

Representing DOP/Occupational Psychology. The DOP is represented on various BPS Boards to ensure that our members' needs are considered. We have consistently engaged with the Professional Practice Board (PPB) this year, which is a key forum for Division Chairs to get together. This has enabled us to develop personal links to other Chairs resulting in combined voice on several issues. We have re-engaged with the Research Board and connected with the Special Group in Coaching Psychology (SGCP).

Consultations and Papers. The Division directly and members individually have responded to many consultations and shaped discussion documents and proposals.

Expanding DOP. The Division has supported the creation of DOP-Northern Ireland and has provided continued support to DOP-Scotland. We have fully embedded the new DOP Committee structure that was established at the end of 2009. The Working Groups that were created in 2008/9 as part of the Member Engagement initiative have been fully integrated into our Science & Practice agenda. We have expanded our member engagement and are increasing the scope and number of our working groups.

Access to Research. We hear from members outside academia that they would value access to research databases and journals. Following Senate House's removal of online database access we have championed the needs of our members in this area. As an interim solution we have funded an editor of an Occupational Psychology-specific research digest.

DOP Rebranding: This year we have paid close attention to how we communicate with members. We created online communities of interest, standardised our approach to email communication, and ensured members know who is sending an e-mail and what their role is. We also launched a new DOP logo.

Recognising our volunteers: Nearly all of the DOP's activities are achieved through the hard work of volunteers. The Division recognised their commitment and dedication by hosting a Volunteers' Dinner in July and launching a Volunteer Award at the 2011 DOP conference.

Antonia Dietmann, Chair

Division of Sport and Exercise Psychology

This has been a significant year for the Division of Sport and Exercise Psychology. The focus of the committee has been on increasing the visibility and profile of the Division, and I believe we have made progress on this as a result of several recent initiatives.

- The DSEP committee put forward a five-year Strategic Plan which mirrors the BPS 2010-2015 Strategic Plan but with a specific focus on sport and exercise psychology.
- DSEP members continue to provide responses to a range of consultation documents. A significant contribution was made to the writing a position paper entitled *Obesity in the UK: A psychological perspective*.
- The DSEP has been working with the BPS Learning Centre to develop a series of workshops for 2012.
- The Distinguished Contribution Award was presented to Professor Stuart Biddle, PhD Prize to Dr Pete Coffee and HTA Whiting Undergraduate Prize to Christopher Blunt.
- Sport & Exercise Psychology Review, edited by Dr Iain Greenlees, continues to attract high-quality publications.
- Following a successful biannual conference in December (230 delegates) a decision has been made to hold the DSEP Biannual Conference in 2012 in conjunction with the BPS Annual Conference in London. A theme of the 2012 BPS Annual Conference is sport and exercise psychology, and speakers include Dan Gould, Sandy Gordon, John Kremer, Nanette Mutrie, Ken Fox and Mark Bawden.

I would like to thank the committee and Society staff for their support of the DSEP this past year.

David Lavalley, Chair

Division for Teachers and Researchers in Psychology

2010 has been another active year with the Committee promoting the Division to wide sectors of academic psychology to open-up discussion and share good practice. The Division has provided many opportunities for current and potential members to discuss teaching and research-related activities through our participation in the following events. The Annual Conference, where Dr Paul Sander and Dr Tim Jones led a Symposium on 'Reflecting into Practice', which included a presentation from the DTRP Bursary Winner Dr Kai Ruggeri on 'The impact of misunderstanding the nature of statistics'. At the Association for Teachers of Psychology (ATP) Conference, Dr Paul Sander and Dr Tim Jones chaired a round table on bridging the gap between pre-tertiary and higher education. Committee members Professor Steve Newstead and Dr Simon Goodson participated at the PsyPAG Annual Conference in a

session on 'the four stages of academia'. At the Wessex Branch Careers Conference, Dr Jacqui Taylor led a session on training and opportunities for graduates wanting to become psychology teachers or researchers. We had hoped to conclude the current year with an e-learning event, however, the financial uncertainty within FE and HE resulted in fewer applications than we needed so with regret the event was postponed.

The Division encourages communication through a variety of media and our publications have improved in quality and interactivity this year thanks to the dedication and work of the publications team (Dr Paul Sander, Valerie Bentinck, Stella Williamson and Dr Tim Jones). We now publish an e-Newsletter, a website forum and an expanded and regular Psychology Teaching Review (PTR). The first of our special issues of PTR was published in the Spring 2010 issue on 'Widening Access to Psychology' and in 2011 we have an issue which will focus on psychology in other countries. The Division will now publish one special issue per year, normally write-ups of presentations made within the DTRP Symposium at the Annual Conference.

At our AGM, it was recognised that currently the Division provides excellent support for teachers of psychology and for those whose research is related to teaching, but that it may not be serving as well those who join as researchers of non-pedagogic research. We agreed to revise the Division aims and activities (and possibly our name!) to provide more support for researchers and to develop closer links with BPS Sections (where researchers are more dominant) and the Research Board.

One of our key aims for 2011 is to continue to improve the services we provide to attract new members and retain current members. We would like to encourage more dialogue with and between our members through our new online discussion forum. We will continue to support new and future teachers and researchers by strengthening links with the ATP and PsyPAG. We are running a Symposium at the 2011 Annual Conference on 'Past and Future Teaching Practices in Psychology' and we look forward to meeting Division members and those interested in joining at this session or at the Division stand.

Associate Professor Jacqui Taylor, Chair

SECTIONS

Consciousness and Experiential Psychology Section

Consciousness and Experiential Psychology (CEP) was initiated as a Section in 1994 by Jane Henry, Max Velmans, John Pickering, Elizabeth Valentine and Richard Stevens. As a section our mission is 'to advance our understanding of consciousness, to bring scientific research on consciousness closer to other traditions of inquiry into the nature of mind, and to explore how this research can be used to improve the quality of life'.

To this end the theme of our very successful 2010 conference was Nature and Human Nature, and it took, as its focus and starting point, the claim that 'Mind is part of nature, not apart from it'. We had contributions from folk working in ecology, eco-psychology, neuroscience, eastern traditions, neuropsychiatry, philosophy, art, architecture, and artificial intelligence, and that's just a flavour of the backgrounds that were represented. As Graham Horswell has said in his *Journal of Consciousness Studies* review, this gives 'a wonderful air of the multidisciplinary nature of consciousness studies in modern times, and fostered an atmosphere of good-natured debate throughout the weekend'; we like to think that is the spirit of all our meetings, whether one-day workshops, three day conferences, or our AGM!

We had fascinating presentations from each of our keynote speakers: David Abram: A Climate of Mind: On the Ecology of Consciousness, Matthijs Cornelisen: Concepts of Mind and Consciousness in the Indian Tradition, and Peter Fenwick: Is non-locality an essential ingredient of any comprehensive explanation of consciousness?, and these sandwiched a wealth of other exciting work from, I'm sorry to say, too many folk to mention.

In addition to our conference Mike Beaton (Hon. Sec.) and Rebecca Semmens-Wheeler (PsyPAG Rep. 2007–9) organised a super one-day workshop on Unconscious Processes at which Axel Cleeremans, Zoltan Dienes, and Gustav Kuhn were the principle speakers. We are in the process of thinking about a workshop for this year, but have already settled our conference theme and dates for 2011: Crisis and Consciousness, 2nd-4th September, St. Anne's College, Oxford. John Pickering and Guy Saunders are chairing, and they will be ably supported by Emma Crofton who has become our new Hon. Treasurer, and Mike Beaton.

We have seen a number of changes within our committee. We would like to thank our previous PsyPAG Rep, Rebecca Semmens-Wheeler for her contribution over the last couple of years, and welcome Greg Elder as our new PsyPAG Rep. for the next two. Greg is already organising a CEP symposium for the PsyPAG conference in July 2011. So, thanks and well done to him.

Our thanks must also go to Natalie Gough who has joined the committee this year and is doing a magnificent job of improving the social networking of the Section.

For more information or to make contact, please see our pages on the Society website: www.bps.org.uk/CEP or join us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/BPS-Consciousness-and-Experiential-Psychology.

Dr Susan A. J. Stuart, Chair

Annual Conference

The Annual Conference was, for the second year in a row, hosted by the Psychology Department at the University of Edinburgh. The Section was delighted to welcome Professor Richard Bentall whose Keynote Address focussed on shifting clinical perceptions of severe mental illness. Fascinating and illuminating, his talk was the culmination of an afternoon session devoted to the history of psychopathology. Papers presented included: 'The psychopathology of suicide in mid-19th century England' (Sarah Chaney); 'The remarkable contribution of Edinburgh-trained medical men to developments in the institutional treatment of the insane in Georgian England' (Leonard Smith); 'The West Riding Lunatic Asylum in the 19th century' (Michael Finn); and '20th Century schizophrenia classification' (Kieran McNally).

As usual the conference featured papers submitted by internationally recognised scholars, independent researchers and graduate students including: 'The Foundation of William James's psychology' (Martin Farrell); 'Little Albert' (Sandy Hobbs); and 'A secondary analysis of Milgram's obedience experiments' (Stephen Gibson). A charismatic session on psychology and religion featured papers by Alison Torn ('Madness, mysticism and the medieval narrative'), Graham Richards ('Founding modern psychology: The religious factor'), Alastair Lockhart ('The "Parson's Clinic": Religion and psychology at the interwar Tavistock Clinic' and Gavin Miller ('R.D. Laing: The voice of religious experience?') Another highlight was a symposium on 'Psychologists' contribution to the development of educational psychology in Scotland'. Our second invited speaker, Professor Dan Burston, gave a brilliantly disconcerting talk on 'Pediatric bipolar disorder: Myths, realities and consequences'. This and other papers presented at the Conference were subsequently published in the Section's journal. On behalf of all delegates I would like to congratulate Peter Wright and Pete Lamont for organising such a successful event.

History and Philosophy of Psychology

Under Liz Valentine's proficient editorship, the Section's journal *History and Philosophy of Psychology* publishes a combination of refereed papers, conference papers, comments and book reviews. The journal continues to attract high quality contributions from scholars across the globe. Contributions from historically and philosophically minded scholars are always welcome (see the Section website at <http://tinyurl.com/6bpouvt>).

The Psychologist

2010 was a vintage year for the 'Looking Back' pages of *The Psychologist*. Of particular note was the December 2010 special issue marking the 150th anniversary of the publication of Gustav Fechner's *Elemente de Psychophysik*, to which a number of Section members contributed essays. The issue included a poster chronicling notable events in the history of experimental psychology – a first for *The Psychologist*. Other highlights included Roger Smith on why history is indispensable to psychology, Larry Weiskrantz on blindsight, Arthur I. Miller on Carl Jung and Wolfgang Pauli, and Nestar Russell on Stanley Milgram's first obedience to authority experiment. The Section remains indebted to Associate Editor Julie Perks, whose inspired work on its behalf continues to enlighten and provoke.

I offer my thanks to all of the Section's committee members for their contributions to the Section during the past year. Particular thanks are due to Peter Wright who retired as Honorary Treasurer in April.

Dr Geoff Bunn, Chair

Mathematical, Statistical and Computing Section

The Section took part in two events designed to explain statistical methods and to publicise the Section. In the first, three members of the Section's Committee gave presentations at the PsyPAG (the Psychology Postgraduate Affairs Group) Statistics Workshop at the University of Strathclyde in January: Andrew Rutherford talked on statistical assumptions, Gillian Smith on teaching statistics and Thom Baguley on multilevel modeling. Another Section member, Mark Shevlin talked on Structural Equation Modelling. After the presentations, the speakers acted as a panel for a statistics surgery where those attending the Workshop raised issues to do with their own projects and received advice from the panel members. The event was organised by PsyPAG's Josie Booth and supported by the PGwT (Postgraduates who Teach) Network and the University of Strathclyde Roberts Innovation Fund.

In the second event, to encourage people to attend the Section's annual scientific meeting and to join the Section, this year the scientific meeting was held as part of a two-day programme. The first day was offered as a CPD and general training event, with a programme of workshops introducing statistical techniques and software.

The Section's scientific meeting was held in December at Nottingham Trent University. Professor Michael Brammer, Institute of Psychiatry, London, gave the Keynote talk entitled 'Lies, damned lies and fMRI: Issues and challenges in the analysis of fMRI data'. The Ranald Macdonald Postgraduate Research Award was given to Colette Corry for her use of statistical methods in her research into predicting suicide ideation.

David Clark-Carter, Chair

Psychobiology Section

The Psychobiology Section held its Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) at the Low Wood, Windermere, in September 2010. We had 35 delegates compared to 40 the year before, which in the current economic climate with funding for conference attendance becoming more difficult to obtain, represented a good uptake. Our two guest lecturers provided stimulating talks, with Professor Jenny Rusted from the University of Sussex speaking on procholinergic approaches to memory modulation, and Professor Tim Kirkham from the University of Liverpool speaking on cannabinoids and appetite regulation. The undergraduate project prize was won by Claire Allsop from the University of Keele for her project on state aggression and pain tolerance. As ever, the quality of the winning entry was remarkable. Our thanks go to the judging panel chaired by our secretary, Dr Cathy Montgomery. We also acknowledge the companies who provided financial sponsorship for our ASM. These were Salimetrics Europe who sponsored the undergraduate project prize and who have done so for some years now, and Linton Instruments and AD Instruments who sponsored the guest lecturers.

As ever, the success of the ASM was attributable to all the delegates who presented oral papers and posters, and who contributed in other ways. In particular, committee members Dr. Sarita Robinson and Dr Trudi Edginton took the lion's share of responsibility for reviewing submitted abstracts, whilst Dr. Cathy Loveday organised the quiz which traditionally forms a major part of the second evening following the conference dinner.

At the Section's AGM, held as part of the ASM, two long serving committee members stood down, these being Dr Georgia Butler who resigned from the position of treasurer, and Dr Lynne Dawkins who resigned from the position of newsletter editor. On behalf of the Section,

I would like to extend thanks to both Georgia and Lynne for the work they have done over the years. Dr Richard Stephens was elected to be our new newsletter editor, and since the AGM Dr Anna Scarna has become our new treasurer.

It was decided at the AGM that the Section would submit at least one symposium for the 2011 BPS Annual Conference in Glasgow, in the area of psychological functioning and substance intake. Our submission, entitled 'Enhancement or Impairment? The effects of what we consume on our cognitive processes' was accepted, and consists of five papers addressing effects associated, respectively, with plant secondary metabolites in common food and drink products, nicotine, caffeine, and the black market drug 'ecstasy' (MDMA).

The 2011 ASM will be at the Low Wood, Windermere, from Monday 5 to Wednesday 7 September. Our two guest lecturers will be Prof. Doug Carroll from the University of Birmingham who will talk on the behavioural, cognitive and health corollaries of blunted stress reactivity, and Prof. Phil Terry from Kingston University who will talk on the associative conditioning of drug effects in people. More details of this event will be available through the Section's web site in due course.

Dr Philip Murphy, Chair

Qualitative Methods in Psychology Section

Qualitative Methods in Psychology (QMIP) remained the largest Section of the BPS during 2010. Throughout the majority of 2010 the QMiP committee consisted of the following personnel

- Chair: Anna Madill
- Honorary Secretary: Rachel Shaw;
- Honorary Treasurer: Jennifer Clegg (the incoming treasurer is Peter Branney);
- Committee members: Peter Ashworth, Peter Branney, Jenna Condie, Paul Flowers, and Victoria Tischler.

All QMiP members receive a biannual newsletter, now the *QMIP Bulletin*, of which Victoria Tischler is the incoming editor. The editorial board through most of 2010 consisted of:

- Editor: Peter Branney;
- Advisory Editor: Zazie Todd;
- Associate Editors: Victoria O'Key, Helena Priest, Victoria Tischler and Stephen Gibson.

QMIP runs an event competition and, through this, sponsors several member-led events each year. QMiP also awards a yearly 'Early Career Scholar' (Michelle Palmer) and biennial 'Mid-Late Career Scholar' (Sue Wilkinson) awards. During 2010 the Section also sponsored a working party on the ethics of using internet material in qualitative research the report of which is currently under consideration by the BPS Ethics Committee.

The highlight of 2010 was the second QMiP conference which was held during August at the University of Nottingham. The organisation of the event was led by Jennifer Clegg and Victoria Tischler. We had three excellent pre-conference workshops: Brett Smith, 'Narrative analysis and waves of understanding'; Steven Stanley, 'Mindfulness as a qualitative research methodology for psychology'; and Wendy Stainton-Rogers and Paula Nicolson, 'Getting qualitative research funded'. The conference keynote addresses were given by Anna Madill,

Alan Collins, Cathrine Hasse, David Rennie, Jonathan Smith, and Lucy Yardley. The conference poster prize was won by Hollie Honeyman.

QMIP has contributed actively to the BPS consultation requested from HEFCE on the constitution of the relevant REF panel. We are also proactive on nominating high-profile qualitative psychologists for available awards and recognition such as Academician of the Academy of Social Sciences.

Anna Madill, Chair

London and Home Counties Branch

The London and Home Counties Branch is the largest of the Society's regional branches, serving more than 11,000 members. Now in its fifth year of operation, the Branch has continued to develop its programme of events designed to appeal to the diverse interests of our members, who practise in a range of psychological fields and at various stages of training.

This year, we responded to demand by expanding the student careers talks. We also ran several events for postgraduates, including our first Research Students Symposium. As a result of feedback on this, we developed and ran a workshop on preparing a PowerPoint presentation and will continue this theme with 'how to turn a presentation into a publishable article' in the spring. We also introduced the first undergraduate prize. Heads of Department were asked to put forward their best students, who then designed a poster on the theme of 'The contribution of psychology in society'. We congratulate Wendy Jephson, at the University of Reading, who will be presented with her award of £500 and have her poster displayed at the upcoming Psychology For All Conference on 26 March 2011. This promises to be a highlight of the Branch calendar next year with keynotes Professor Geoff Beattie on nonverbal communication and Professor Richard Wiseman on 'The luck factor' already agreed. Further details can be found on the BPS website.

We continue to run free evening talks for members. Highlights of the general interest talks included a packed audience for Dr Daniel Freeman's talk on 'Paranoia: The 21st-century fear', and another talk in high demand by Dr John Green on 'The mysteries of sex'. These were matched by some excellent research-based talks such as Professor Zenobia Nadirshaw's 'Race, culture and diversity in mental health'. We have been fortunate enough to persuade many excellent speakers to come and talk to our members and we extend our thanks to them all.

In the autumn, we held two of our big events of the year. We were delighted to host Baroness Susan Greenfield, Professor of Synaptic Pharmacology and Senior Research Fellow at Lincoln College, Oxford on 'The brain of the future: The impact of new technology on how we think and feel', who delivered a fascinating illustrated talk to an audience of 500. December saw our first combined talk and social networking event in a magnificent setting at the Inner Temple. The event was a great success with lively discussion promoted by Dr Tanya Byron, Consultant in Child and Adolescent Mental Health and Professor of the Public Understanding of Psychology at Edge Hill University, who encouraged members to think about how clinical psychology could and should become a more public facing profession through better interaction with the media.

Finally, we were pleased to welcome six new committee members following our AGM in July. Whilst the Chair position is still vacant, Stella Tickle, Christine Hussain and I are rotating as Chair for four-month periods until the AGM next year.

Stella Tickle, Chair

North East England Branch

The North East of England branch is focused on providing support and services for its members, so the events that we organise aim to engage the members. As the branch covers a vast area, we plan to have our annual conference in a different city in the region each year and take the event to the members. Thus far we have had events in Sheffield, Leeds, and Durham, and in 2011 we plan to have the conference in York, with a focus on the forensic and occupational strands of psychology.

The 2010 annual conference

While the 2010 conference did not generate a high number of attendees, it did receive some very good feedback. We decided to change the format of the conference, moving from a two-day to a one-day, more focused event. This, we felt, would provide more insight into the theme of the conference, and this it did in the two specific areas of sexual behaviour and food and appetite. In addition to the keynote speakers (John Morgan, who spoke on 'Sexuality, reproductive pathology and eating disorders' and Helen Gavin, who presented on 'Sex, food and the pursuit of happiness (with apologies to Jon Locke)') and the focused papers, the conference also provided workshops and a poster session.

Other events

Other events in 2010 included our support of the PsyPAG Annual Conference 2010 in July at the University of Sheffield and Sheffield Hallam University, and our representation at the Newcastle University School of Psychology careers event in October 2010. This was held at the Newcastle University Medical School and was very well attended by students from the School of Psychology. Further, we are pursuing the formation and support of local hubs within the region.

The committee

The committee meets on average six times per year face to face, and when issues need to be clarified and finalised we also meet by teleconference at least four times throughout the year. Our face-to-face meetings have been held in York, Leeds and Bradford, and we try to ensure that the meeting places are accessible to the committee members as well as any branch members who wish to attend.

Our committee continues to grow and at each conference we manage to engage more interest in the committee. We are hoping to restructure the committee to allow members to select individual roles that will strengthen what we wish to achieve.

And last, but not least, I thank the current and past members of the committee for their dedication and hard work over the last year.

Roxane L. Gervais, Chair

Northern Ireland Branch

The Northern Ireland Branch goes from strength to strength. A significant development in the past few years has been the deepening of the professional connections within the Branch, through the creation of local professional divisions. This year, two new local divisions of professional psychology were launched – the Division of Counselling Psychology at the Branch Conference in April, 2010, and the Division of Occupational Psychology, at a special event in

May 2010. Now, there are six active divisions that are part of the Northern Ireland activities, and two more groups are actively working towards divisional status: the Teachers and Researchers, and the Sport and Exercise groups.

In addition, in order to cement relationships between divisions, a cross-divisional forum was established two years ago, representing the Branch and all of the Society's divisional branches, to carry out a mapping exercise of postgraduate courses. This will be reported on shortly. From this exercise, collaboration is expected between course providers, who will share training where appropriate.

The Branch has a long history of cooperation with its sister society, the Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI). One of the big international events in this year's calendar was the 32nd Annual Conference of International School Psychology Association (ISPA) held at Trinity College Dublin in July, co-hosted by the Northern Ireland Branch and PSI. Some 540 delegates from 40 countries attended. The opening ceremony was in the state rooms of Dublin Castle at which the two education ministers (from North and South) addressed delegates. NIBPS and the Division of Educational and Child Psychology branch co-hosted a visit of some 130 delegates from the conference to Northern Ireland. This visit included a guided tour of Belfast and a reception at Stormont hosted by the Northern Ireland minister of education Caitriona Ruane.

The Branch continues the work of reaching out to students. This year the 5th All Ireland Undergraduate Careers Event, was held at the National University of Ireland at Maynooth in February, which was attended by 400 students from all over Ireland. This event is another partnership event with PSI and is sponsored by all 10 psychology departments in Ireland. In March our public lecture series A Flavour of Psychology once again brought six keynote speakers to Northern Ireland, giving both undergraduate, A level students and the public a flavour of psychology. A training event for postgraduate students (supported by PSYPAG and the HEA) was held in conjunction with the Annual Conference in April.

This is my first year as Chair of the Branch. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all the Committee members who give a great deal of their personal time to promoting psychology, and particularly to the Secretary/Treasurer of the Branch, Dr Barbara McConnell. On behalf of the Committee, I would also like to express our thanks to Anne Kerr, our regional administrator, who works tirelessly on our behalf and provides the infrastructural force for the work of the Branch and the local divisions.

Carol McGuinness, Chair

North East England Branch

It has been a busy year for the branch and committee members. We have met regularly and have made an active contribution to our members, the Society and the wider public.

In April we hosted a careers event aimed at giving early undergraduate and sixth-form students of psychology a flavour of what it is like to be a psychologist, as well as information about entry into the profession with training and funding options explained. The places were quickly filled and many school groups attended. Feedback was very positive and we received requests to visit schools and colleges in the area as a result.

We welcomed a number of new members during the year, many of whom have gone on to become involved in our activities. Chris Lynch attended the network training event at the BPS

London Office on behalf of the committee, and is keen to develop some 'new media' promotional material to use in schools and colleges.

The branch was pleased to sponsor the annual PSYPAG conference earlier this year. We funded an innovative session on how to avoid death by PowerPoint, delivered by Matthew Trump, a postgrad at the University of Salford. Our thanks also go to Jenna Condie, our branch PSYPAG rep, for organising this.

The committee has discussed the changing shape of the regulation of psychologists in the UK and has been pleased to contribute ideas to the wider discussions on the future strategy of the Society as a whole. We were pleased to nominate Ray Bull and Cary Cooper to the society for Honorary Membership and were delighted that both were elected.

The committee has a busy year ahead and joint events are planned with the North East branch and the Division of Clinical Psychology. We plan to hold further events for schools and colleges, as well as strengthen links with the British Association Science Alliance. We have events planned to get psychology 'out there' in the wider public domain. A café-style event designed to bring psychology to the non-psychologist is planned, as is a CPD event involving media training for all professionals who may have a brush with the BBC as part of their work.

It remains for me to thank all members of the branch and the committee who have worked so hard during the year. Particular thanks are due to Polly Sangar, our branch secretary, who despite having a busy life of her own has given up her time to organise and support the work of the branch so well. Thanks are also due to Mike Berry, our treasurer, who despite having so many wrangles with the bank's paperwork has, with the assistance of the outgoing treasurer Les Jones, made sure all bills have been paid and the books balanced. Finally, thanks to Ming Wai Wan for looking after our webpages for another year and for stepping in as vice chair when I was unavailable. I look forward to another productive and fulfilling year.

Tina Thomas, Chair

Welsh Branch

This year we welcomed back Helen Bazley and John Boddy and also welcomed Alice Varnava and Martin Graff to the committee. Tracey Herlihey and Paul Byers left the committee and we would like to thank them for all their hard work. Paul Hutchings is stepping down from the role of treasurer but will remain on the committee and we would also like to thank him for all his hard work. Since the AGM we have also welcomed Michael Beverley, Jemma Chambers, Sue Williamson, Chris Lewis, Berni Bustin, Rhian Worth, Sally Baker and Emyr Williams.

The addition of committee members from Glyndwr University has meant that we have had our first three-way video conference – exciting times!

Over the last year the Welsh Branch has delivered a varied series of scientific meetings by the following speakers Dr Chris Chambers ('Linking the psychology and neuroscience of human attention using transcranial magnetic stimulation'), Dr Paul Thomas gave a talk titled 'Does complexity guarantee success', Dr Steve Whidett gave a talk titled 'What do we do and why do we do it?', Dr Paul Dockree gave a talk titled 'Understanding changes in cognitive flexibility After traumatic brain injury', Professor Binna Kandola gave a talk titled 'After the recession: What next for occupational psychology?', Professor Robert Snowden gave a talk titled 'Why we don't see what we look at', Professor Graham Hitch gave a talk titled 'Some recent

developments in research on working memory' and Nita Clarke gave a talk titled 'What next for employee engagement?' We also organised a talk from the Health Professions Council at City Hall, Cardiff.

In both north and south Wales, we held psychology taster-days for sixth-formers which were attended by over hundred students on both occasions. Both events will also be taking place at the end of 2011.

We have been involved in policy consultation responses with regard to Substance Misuse Service and System Improvement, and Obesity Pathway amongst others. Once again we contributed to the science exhibition at the National Eisteddfod (thanks again to Dr Wynford Bellin). Around 40 undergraduate students from around Wales presented their research at the annual student conference at Cardiff University. It was enjoyed by all who attended.

Bursaries were given to branch members to help obtain participants for Masters' projects and to attend the International Association of Forensic Mental Health Services Conference in Vancouver and Morningside Academy, Seattle.

This year brings the first Welsh branch conference at Glyndwr University on Sustainable Well-being.

Dr Nick Perham, Chair

Wessex Branch

This past year has continued to be an active one for the Branch with a focus on both continuing annual/biennial and new events. As with previous Chairs' reports, this one focuses on the delivery of Branch activities through a hub system that has developed further this year. We have split the eastern Hub into two and mapped county boundaries in providing Surrey and Sussex Hubs. The former is in the process of forming with a new hub coordinator who will launch it in 2011. The Sussex hub was relaunched on 24 November 2010 at Sussex University. After much hard work and in a relatively short time-frame, the hub coordinator Jessica Christie-Sands, in conjunction with Gene Johnson, put together a programme with two guest speakers. Professors Davey and Field each spoke to the audience on 'Doing psychology research in the laboratory' and 'How children develop fears from what they are told'. Future events include one on trauma and the body and ADHD diagnosis and management.

Our regular events, which are usually held in alternate years, have been held this year within six months of each other. The postgraduate/undergraduate conference, which attracted 140 attendees from universities within our area, produced some very informative and interesting posters and presentations. The careers conference was attended by 170 students representing both undergraduate and sixth form communities. They were able to learn about the different disciplines of psychology presented by practicing psychologists and also to network. The day was introduced and closed by two keynote speakers who both used animal themes to present their topics. To provide such popular and well attended events takes a lot of hard work by dedicated committee members. Our thanks go to Terry Butler (our Secretary) and a team from Southampton Solent University for this tremendous effort. Other events during the year have included 'How to avoid living negatively' which was held at Dorset hub and our AGM, where members gained a personal view of the future of the Society from its President Sue Gardner.

This year's BPS General Assembly presented an opportunity to share with other subsystems the different activities of the Branches, Divisions and Special Groups. In preparing for the

presentations we were able to identify our main foci for the next year. One of the areas which we wish to address is how better to include our retired members in all activities including involvement in committee representation. An additional aim is to ensure representation on the committee of all psychology disciplines. To this end we are inviting our retired members and non-represented discipline members to contact us if they would like to get involved.

The Wessex Branch runs because of the dedication, energy and enthusiasm of its committee members and the input, feedback and support of its members. We welcome requests for activities from members and for any interest in joining our committee.

In finishing I would like to thank our Administrator for her unstinting and dedicated support.

Kathryn Fielden, Chair

West Midlands Branch

The year began with our AGM at the BPS Annual Conference, held in Stratford-upon-Avon, which hosted Patrick Jordan as an excellent speaker discussing 'The psychology of success'. At the AGM a number of changes were made to the committee including Catherine Steele stepping down as Chair and my being elected.

In November we launched our Psychologists in the Pub events. The first speaker, Dean Burnett, gave a lighthearted and entertaining talk about what he has learned promoting neuroscience and psychology through comedy. The first event in Oxford was a great success and drew an audience in excess of 100 people. In the coming months we are looking forward to holding four more Psychologists in the Pub events across the west midlands on a variety of topics. In the first talk of 2011 in Worcester, Andy Johnson (<http://tinyurl.com/64lgnpt>) was be discussing his research on the 'Effect of chewing gum on self-rated and physiological measures of mood and stress'. This was be followed with further events featuring Gillian Smith (<http://tinyurl.com/6zdkeps>) in Coventry speaking about the psychology of alcohol and illicit drug use and Mark Burgess (<http://tinyurl.com/6x6sn6n>) in Birmingham discussing the psychology of the professional rock tribute band. The final Psychologists in the Pub will be held at our AGM where, Philip Loring (<http://tinyurl.com/68x96zd>), BPS Curator of Psychology at the Science Museum, will be giving a talk on the history of psychology and his current work at the Science Museum.

The Branch committee has spent much of this year planning ways to improve membership engagement. To facilitate this we have set up an e-mail list and Facebook page (<http://tinyurl.com/62d6cot>) to allow greater communication. As most of you know, the Branch committee is run by volunteers, so I would like to thank all the committee members for their hard work this year – particularly Catherine Steele and our new PsyPAG representative Emma Jackson.

The branch relies on input from its members, so if you would like to get involved at any level then please contact me. If you would like to host a Psychologists in the Pub event in the 2011–12 season please get in touch. We would particularly like to hear from people in Stoke-on-Trent, Telford, Walsall, Wolverhampton, Dudley, Hereford, Gloucester and Swindon. I look forward to meeting lots of Branch members at our events in the coming months.

Emma McDonald, Chair

Special Group in Coaching Psychology

The highlight of our year was the launch of the 1st International Congress of Coaching Psychology, held at City University, London. The SGCP was delighted to host the congress and to work all the more collaboratively with the IGCP as a strategic partner. The congress attracted nearly 300 delegates from around the world. It will continue globally during 2011 and 2012.

During this event, an award for Distinguished Contribution to Coaching Psychology was presented to Dr Siobhain O’Riordan, with special commendations to Dr Tatiana Bachkirova and Dr Jonathan Passmore. Keynote speakers included Julie Allan, Professor Michael Cavanagh, Dr David Drake, Professor David Lane, Dr Ho Law, Professor Alex Linley, Dr Siobhain O’Riordan, Professor Stephen Palmer, Dr Jonathan Passmore, Dr Alison Whybrow and Peter Zarris.

Further planned events are:

2011 Switzerland – March; Sweden – April; South Africa/Southern Hemisphere event – May; Ireland – June; Spain – October

2012 Netherlands – January 2012; Australia and New Zealand – February 2012; Italy – May 2012. Israel and the Nordic countries are planning events with dates to be confirmed.

The UK events’ success was achieved through the leadership of the Congress Chair, Vicky Ellam-Dyson, and the congress committee and of Professor Stephen Palmer, Chair of the Scientific committee. Haley Lancaster and Yvonne Mc Adam of the publications and communications committee were also instrumental in promoting and marketing the congress to achieve such successful attendance and media visibility.

The SGCP subcommittees have worked tirelessly to develop a new revised SGCP website which offers an informative communication medium, supported by Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter. It markets the SGCP through a range of core activities including:

- An online list of SGCP members of Chartered Psychologist status, linked to the Directory of Chartered Psychologists;
- Access to CPD, training courses and conferences;
- Workshop webinars;
- A Coaching Psychology Forum;
- A network of regional peer practice groups.

SGCP’s two peer reviewed publications, *International Coaching Psychology Review* and *The Coaching Psychologist* continue to grow both in terms of contributions and readership. Both are abstracted in leading databases and remain the main sites for publishing coaching psychology papers.

The SGCP, through the Representative Council and the PPB, has over the year worked to influence policy and practice in the broader field of psychology, both providing expert opinion on consultation documents and communicating BPS policies and opportunities through to the SGCP membership.

Dr Ho Law, Past Chair has worked with the SGCP to develop a comprehensive business strategy which reflects the broader goals of the BPS and the current economic and political climate. In particular, this year has seen increased emphasis placed on the market for coaching.

Details of events hosted by the Special Group in Coaching Psychology, and details of SGCP publications, can be found at www.sgcp.org.uk.

Details of on-going international events of the 1st International Coaching Psychology Congress can be found at www.coachingpsychologycongress.org.

Angela Hetherington, Chair

For a list of Society officers and accounts
see our Annual Report 2010
www.bps.org.uk

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