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Catia Acosta, Mark Ashraph, John Bainton, David Baird, Lindsay Banham, Anna Barnes, Caroline Biddle, Sulagna Chakrabarti, Katrina Davis, Tom Dixon, Jacek Donocik, Sarah Dorrington, Muhammad Firdosi, Marcella Fok, Christopher Garrett, Lauren Gavaghan, Vishaal Goel, Ben Goldacre, Surya Goudaman, Jemima Gregory, Duncan Harding, Simon Harrison, Jenna Hathway, James Hecker, Brad Hillier, Daniel Hume, Rosemary Humphreys, Elizabeth Hunt, Jonathan Huntley, Nicolas Crossley Karmelic, Adam Kasperek, Tom Lavender, William Lee, email: william.lee@kcl.ac.uk, **Kathleen Levick, Geraldine Lines, Vanessa Loftus, Catherine Louise Murphy, Deirdre MacManus, Rebecca Marriot, Ian McClelland, Isabel McMullen, Ben McNeillis, Amritha Mishra, Valeria Mondelli, Omer Moghaby, Ana Morelli, Christoph Mueller, Omar Murad, David Nelson, Tim Nicholson, Sarah Nyame, Aspasia Paspali, Areti Pavlidou, Tom Pollak, Catherine Polling, Sotiris Posporelis, Annabel Price, Jalon Quinn, Lena Rane, Muffazal Rawala, Ricardo Sainz-Fuertes, Gregory Shields, Pratima Singh, Sarah Stringer, Alex Thomson**, email: alex.thomson@kcl.ac.uk, **Alex Tulloch, Tom Walker-Tilley, Wojtek Wojcik, Felicity Wood, Angeliki Zoumpouli**, all residents in psychiatry, South London and Maudsley Rotation, London, UK.

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College response: In 2010, the College made a surplus of £759 861 from examination fees after allowing for expenses and a 15% transfer to a development fund. In 2011, the excess was £603 678.

The College has always stated that it does not set out to make a profit from examinations. These surpluses have come about from an underestimate of the number of candidates sitting the examinations. At a recent Council meeting the issue was discussed and it was agreed that examination fees for next year will be frozen, with a 15% reduction for affiliates and trainees registered with the College.

The International Congress received £73 580 in sponsorship in 2010 and £67 444 in 2011; £16 836 in 2010 and £14 410 in 2011 came from the pharmaceutical industry.

The issue of what should be done with the money from the examinations needs careful thought and the idea of funding the Congress is an interesting one. Another suggestion is to use it to develop an online revision course for MRCPsych and this is currently being considered. We welcome trainees' input to the debate and the views of the Psychiatric Trainees' Committee will be very important in influencing the final decision.

Wendy Burn Dean, Royal College of Psychiatrists.

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