

expectations for talking therapies compared with the evidence base.² As a member of the public, watching television and listening to the radio, I can understand these views.

An enormous amount of work has been done by the Royal College of Psychiatrists in public education and attempting to boost the perception of psychiatry, but the results are disappointing; more detail on the reasons for success and failure in this area is required. One approach may be to emphasise what psychiatry specifically is, what it does and does not do and reduce the contradiction, confusion and negative views in the media portrayal of psychiatry. Given the enormous challenge of this, it is likely that more help from professional experts in political spin and advertising with influence within the media will be required to achieve this. Any improvement in the public perception of psychiatry could well have the biggest impact on recruitment.

- 1 Mukherjee K, Maier M, Wessely S. UK crisis in recruitment into psychiatric training. *Psychiatrist* 2013; **37**: 210–4.
- 2 Sartorius N, Gabel W, Cleveland HR, Stuart H, Akiyama T, Arboleda-Flórez J, et al. WPA guidance on how to combat stigmatization of psychiatry and psychiatrists. *World Psychiatry* 2010; **9**: 131–44.

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Recruitment into psychiatric training – positive change

We welcome Mukherjee *et al's* article,¹ with its thoughtful analysis of the reasons for recruitment problems and suggestions for some helpful solutions.

We are happy to report that the most recent recruitment figures show a great improvement. For 2013, we achieved a 95% fill rate of CT1 (first year of core training) in England with a 19% increase in actual numbers of trainees. There are also reports from those involved in recruitment of higher-quality applicants; 70% of those appointed are British graduates.

We believe this change is due to the success of the College's recruitment campaign, which has included initiatives to engage medical students, an increase in foundation posts, summer schools and taster sessions. It is essential that we continue with these activities to attract trainees to our specialty.

- 1 Mukherjee K, Maier M, Wessely S. UK crisis in recruitment into psychiatric training. *Psychiatrist* 2013; **37**: 210–4.

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