



# International Psychiatry

Issue 9, July 2005

*Bulletin of the Board of International Affairs of the Royal College of Psychiatrists*

## Contents

### *Editorial*

#### **Doctors' health and performance**

Hamid Ghodse 1

#### ***Thematic papers – Women's mental health in a context of violence, exploitation and oppression***

Introduced by David Skuse 2

#### **The confluence of violence towards an intimate partner, substance misuse and mental health: a worldwide problem affecting women**

Cari Jo Clark and Grace Wyshak 3

#### **Psychosocial and cultural motivations for self-inflicted burns among Iranian women**

Abdolaziz Rastegar Lari, Reza Alaghebandan and Mohammad Taghi Joghataei 5

#### **Attitudes to women and their mental health in Mexico**

Maria Elena Medina-Mora and María Asunción Lara 6

### *Country profiles*

#### **Psychiatry in Spain**

Juan J. López-Ibor and Blanca Reneses 8

#### **Psychiatry in Venezuela**

Edgard Belfort and Javier González 11

#### **Mental health services in Norway**

Jan Olav Johannessen, Bjarthe Stubhaug and Jan Skandsen 13

### *Special paper*

#### **Establishing a mental health system in the Occupied Palestinian Territories**

Rita Giacaman, Neil Arya and Derek Summerfield 16

### *Associations and collaborations*

#### **The American Psychiatric Association**

Michelle B. Riba, Steven S. Sharfstein and Allan Tasman 18

#### **The Royal College of Psychiatrists goes 'international': the European International Division**

Athanasios Douzenis, Nikos Christodoulou and George Christodoulou 21

#### **News and notes**

23

**Correspondence** 25

**Forthcoming international events** 26

## Subscriptions

*International Psychiatry* is published four times a year.

Subscription: £15.00 per annum.

For subscription enquiries please contact:

Head of Postgraduate Educational Services

Royal College of Psychiatrists  
17 Belgrave Square  
London SW1X 8PG

## Editor

Prof. Hamid Ghodse

## Editorial board

Dr John Henderson

Dr Nasser Loza

Dr Brian Martindale

Dr Shekhar Saxena

Prof. David Skuse

Design © The Royal College of Psychiatrists 2005.

For copyright enquiries, please contact the Head of Publications, Royal College of Psychiatrists.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reprinted or reproduced or utilised in any form or by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publishers.

The views presented in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, and the publishers are not responsible for any error of omission or fact.

The Royal College of Psychiatrists is a registered charity (no. 228636).

Printed in the UK by Henry Ling Limited at the Dorset Press, Dorchester DT1 1HD.

Contributions for future issues are welcome – please contact Hamid Ghodse

Email: [hghodse@sghms.ac.uk](mailto:hghodse@sghms.ac.uk)

## Tsunami survey: estimating the need for services in the UK and Ireland

### Can you give us 5 minutes of your time?

The College has established a Task Force, chaired by the President, Dr Mike Shooter, which, among other things, has been gathering and disseminating information about the relief effort, primarily through the website, and also supporting and coordinating longer-term solutions to the training needs identified in the areas most affected.

What about survivors from the UK and Ireland? Many people who were directly affected by the tsunami have now returned home. It is currently very difficult to estimate how many people – survivors, families, friends and relief workers – have been affected and may need to access mental health services. We are keen to assess the need for mental health services, how services are coping with these referrals and how the College can provide help or support.

A brief questionnaire has been designed for this purpose; it can be downloaded from the College website: [www.rcpsych.ac.uk](http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk). Copies of the survey are also available from Deborah Hart, Head of External Affairs, The Royal College of Psychiatrists, 17 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PG, UK, or email [dhart@rcpsych.ac.uk](mailto:dhart@rcpsych.ac.uk).

Please take 5 minutes of your time to complete our survey. The more information we receive, the clearer the picture will be and the better the College can respond to the needs of tsunami survivors, their families and friends in the UK and Ireland. We hope to publish the results of the questionnaire in the *Psychiatric Bulletin* in due course.

## Board of International Affairs' Senior Volunteer Programme

We are pleased to announce that the database for the Senior Volunteer Programme (SVP) is now up and running.

The SVP project, designed to provide a vital link between Members and Fellows in the UK who wish to offer their expertise to low-income countries and international Members and Fellows who would like to use it, is primarily a matchmaking exercise between volunteers and host institutions.

If you wish to find out more about this initiative, please visit the Board of International Affairs page on the College website ([www.rcpsych.ac.uk/college/spcomm/bia/index.htm](http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/college/spcomm/bia/index.htm)) or contact the International Unit at the College, telephone 020 7235 2351, extension 112 (Miss Smith) or 123 (Mrs Carroll).