Continuing Professional Development

Continuing Education Awards

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The Council of Psychiatric Continuing Education (COPCE) and the Canadian Psychiatric Association present an annual award for the most outstanding continuing education (CE) activity in psychiatry in Canada. The purpose is to recognize the individual or group responsible for excellence in the planning, delivery and evaluation of a CE activity of psychiatry in Canada. One award is for CE planners who work in a community or rural setting. The other is for CE planners affiliated with a medical school.

Two excellent submissions for medical planners affiliated with a medical school were received in 2003: Dr. Rima Styra, an assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry, University of Toronto, for a program entitled “Posttraumatic Stress Disorder” and Dr. Harry Karlinsky, clinical professor in the Department of Psychiatry, University of British Columbia, for a program entitled “Frames of Mind.”

The “Posttraumatic Stress Disorder” program took place over three separate half days in September, October and November 2002. The topic was carefully chosen after a needs assessment that involved both subjective issues identified by the learners and objective issues identified by experts in the field. The planning committee identified a need to highlight medicolegal aspects, and thus faculty with legal expertise were included, which was a creative addition to the curriculum.

The format of each conference half day was flexible and linked to participant feedback. It included plenary sessions and workshops. Knowledge building occurred by using the content of the plenary sessions in problem-solving activities in the subsequent workshops. This is in keeping with adult-learning principles.

In addition to a binder of learning materials, a Web site was developed to complement the program by providing information for the participants. This enabled material to be reviewed at leisure, along with providing other Web-based reference sites to further expand the knowledge base in the area.

The learning objectives were clearly delineated and involved diagnostic, treatment and medicolegal issues. Evaluations involved immediate feedback regarding the format and content of the sessions. An “impact on practice” questionnaire was also sent out six months after the program. Interestingly, this showed that most of the participants felt it had effected some change in their practice.

This excellent program included a lot of important CE principles: a careful needs assessment, interactive experiential teaching with additional paper and Web-site learning materials and an evaluation that included a knowledge translation into practice component six months following the program.

The “Frames of Mind” program, which won the COPCE award, was an ongoing CE series for both health professionals and the public that presented weekday evening programs of feature films and documentaries once monthly in a public not-for-profit Vancouver movie theatre. Combined with postscreening presentations and discussion, this series promoted professional and community education on issues pertaining to mental health and illness. Community mental health organizations were recruited to cosponsor specific screenings. These organizations made their members aware of the screening and provided information displays in the theatre’s lobby on the night of the screening.

Specific movies and presenters were selected according to learning needs identified by planning committee members, community organization cosponsors and participants who completed questionnaires.

Each screening consisted of a film; an invited expert’s short, informal, didactic presentation; and a moderated discussion. Presenters were sent the film in advance and were informed as to the professional and public makeup of the audience to help them construct their comments accordingly. At the conclusion of each screening, formal evaluation was encouraged, and the educational design and teaching methods were adjusted according to the feedback received. A Web site was also developed to publicize screenings and encourage learners’ participation.

This program clearly was a highly imaginative, innovative program built on a novel educational design. It reached out to professionals, consumers and the general public.

Professional–public dialogue was encouraged using an accessible medium in a public setting. Interestingly, the popularity of “Frames of Mind” has already led to other initiatives. A more intensive mental health film festival is now scheduled for May 13–16, 2004, in Vancouver.

Both programs were worthy candidates for the COPCE awards. It is hoped that future submissions will continue to reflect this high level of commitment to continuing medical education and adult learning principles.
 Meetings ● Réunions

For more details, please contact the host organization directly. To list a meeting, please forward the meeting name, theme, date, location, contact person and contact information to bulletin@cpa-apc.org. Indicate whether you would like the meeting listed on the CPA Web site. Meetings of interest to Bulletin readers will be included. More meeting listings appear on the CPA Web site at (www.cpa-apc.org).

Pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez communiquer directement avec le comité organisateur. Pour annoncer la tenue d’une réunion, veuillez communiquer le nom de la réunion, le thème, la date, l’endroit, la personne-ressource et tout autre renseignement pertinent à bulletin@cpa-apc.org. Veuillez indiquer si vous désirez que la réunion soit affichée sur notre site Web. Les assemblées qui pourraient intéresser les lecteurs du Bulletin seront mentionnées. D’autres assemblées sont énumérées au site Web de l’APC (www.cpa-apc.org).

Provincial Psychiatric Association Meetings / Assemblées des associations de psychiatres provinciales

January 29–31 Janvier Ontario Psychiatric Association  
March 19–21 mars Alberta Psychiatric Association  
April 23–34 avril Saskatchewan Psychiatric Association  
June 1–5 juin Association des médecins psychiatres du Québec  
June 18–19 juin Atlantic Provinces Psychiatric Association Annual Conference  
November 20 novembre British Columbia Psychiatric Association

National 2004

March 4–7 mars Mont-Tremblant, QC, 2nd Annual SKI-CPD Conference / 2e colloque annuel de ski-PPC Web site: www.cpa-apc.org  
March 19–21 mars Banff, AB Alberta Psychiatric Association Scientific Program and Annual Meeting Information: Kathy Stirling, Conference Coordinator (tel: 1-403-269-2000; fax: 1-403-266-0787; e-mail: stirlink@shaw.ca)  

June 13–16 juin St. John, NF 95th Annual Conference of the Canadian Public Health Association—Population Health in Our Communities Web site: www.cpha.ca  
June 17–18 juin Ottawa, ON 15th Annual Trauma and Dissociation Conference - The Many Faces of Trauma Web site: www.anxietyandtraumaclinic.com  
October 14–17 octobre Montréal, QC 54th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Psychiatric Association / 54e Assemblée annuelle de l’Association des psychiatres du Canada Web site: www.cpa-apc.org

International 2004

March 17–20 mars Washington, DC Second World Congress on Women’s Mental Health Web site: www.womenmentalhealth.com  
March 22–26 mars Johannesburg, South Africa World Association for Social Psychiatry (WASP) 1st Regional Congress of Social Psychiatry in Africa Web site: www.sawasp.co.za  
March 23–25 mars Eilat, Israel First International Conference of Psychiatry, Law and Ethics Web site: www.isas.co.il/conference_list.htm  
March 26–27 mars Miami, FL 4th International Congress on Disaster Psychiatry—Approaches to Disaster Psychiatry: Good Science or Good Intentions? Web site: www.disasterpsych.org  
April 21–23 avril Barcelona, Spain 4th International Review of Bipolar Disorder—Bipolarity Through the Ages Web site: www.irbd.org  
July 6–9 juillet Harrogate, United Kingdom Royal College of Psychiatrists Annual Conference Web site: www.rcpsych.ac.uk/2004  
September 10–13 September Bristol and Bath, United Kingdom International Federation of Psychiatric Epidemiology 10th International Congress—The Life Course Epidemiology of Psychiatric Disorder Web site: http://www.snica.edu.tw/~ifpe/  
October 9–13 octobre Stockholm, Denmark 17th European College of Neuropsychopharmacology Congress Web site: www.eccnp.nl  
November 10–13 novembre Florence, Italy Treatment in Psychiatry: An Update WPA International Congress Information: Dr. Mario Maj (e-mail: majmario@tin.it)