



Oxford Neurological Society

MEMORANDUM

Oxford, 27th August 2020

20.00

No formal complaints were filed regarding previous minutes and memoranda. Apologies were received from two members of the Convocation House (in absentia) Dr Matthew Kobetic, FNS and Christopher Schpackenbaum, FNS.

REMAKRS ON THE 2020/21 YEAR

The Prefect announced that there are considerable challenges in the current state of affairs regarding psychosis; its recognition, prevention and treatment, especially amongst the younger population.

More psychopathology is being recognised earlier in the childhood. Recent research shows that adequate prevention in the early years of life can have a positive impact in the future.

Both pharmacological and psychological preventions are currently extremely limited. The research regarding these areas is gathering pace but service provision lags significantly.

Neurorehabilitation options within the current system of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services is extremely limited and, for some patients, nearly non-existent.

Vast misunderstanding of psychotic treatment options leads to huge uncertainty and lack of confidence in clinicians to refer suitable patients. Instead, they opt for behavioural diagnoses and conservative management only, which leads to suboptimal outcomes.

It is noted that each psychotic episode not only promotes another psychosis (i.a. via kindling effects) but also generates vast neurotoxicity to the brain.

There is, naturally, considerable stigma in the community about the word “schizophrenia” and thus “primary psychotic disorder” may be a better and phenomenologically clearer term. It is, however, imperative that clinicians diagnose early or very early signs of psychosis with confidence and refer susceptible patients to secondary and tertiary mental health services.

This will be further complicated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Solutions will need to take this into account.

To promote this further and to campaign for a better solution, the Society agrees that the year 2020/21 shall be devoted to psychosis prevention and prehabilitation.

There were no objections to this, and the motion was carried.

APPOINTMENTS

Art.1

Pursuant to Sch3 Art 7 of the Act of Foundation and upon advice of the Prefect and the Convocation House, the President calls Lauren Celentano (Candidate of Sciences, 2020) to the position of the Secretary General of the Oxford Neurological Society.

Art.2

The House recognises the new Secretary and congratulates her on this remarkable achievement. She is duly called to join the Trustees Board and the Executive Committee of the Society.

Art.3

It is upon the President to inform appropriate bodies of this appointment without delay. Measures will be brought forward for the Secretary to efficiently discharge her duties using online resources and work within the framework set out by the Act of Foundation.

Art.4

The President confirms that he is satisfied that the honorary praetor, Dr Nicholas Bridger (Candidate of Science, 2017) has achieved by evidence of his knowledge the required threshold prescribed by the Act of Foundation to undertake his examination for the Fellowship. It is upon him to organise this in the coming year if he wishes to do so.

Art.5

The House recognises Dr Bridger as the Praetor Maximus. He shall be presiding over all matters relating to the praetors until the end of his tenure.

Art.6

The House recognises Dr Paapa A-Odame (Candidate of Science, 2020) as the Diversity Lead for the Society. In order for him to discharge his duties adequately, the President nominates him for the position of an honorary praetor for a six years' tenure.

Art.7

The House recognises Dr Matthew Carr (Candidate of Science, 2017) as the honorary praetor in the curia for ethics. He shall be assuming the position vacated by Dr Bridger pursuant to Art. 5.

The memorandum concludes and is presented to Board of Trustees via email:

(mbrzezicki@neurologicalsociety.org, pzakowicz@neurologicalsociety.org, lcelentano@neurologicalsociety.org)

Please submit your objections to the memorandum via *admin@neurologicalsociety.org* at your earliest convenience but not after two weeks from receipt of the document. The memorandum is effective immediately and is subject to scrutiny and appeals process as outlined by the Act of Foundation.