

**Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Board of Directors  
Pacific Rim College of Psychiatrists**

Held in the Carmel Room 1, Nikko Hotel, San Francisco,  
Tuesday 20 May 2003, 7.00-9.00 a.m.

**1) Present**

B. Singh, E. Pi, S.K. Min, F. Lu, A. Tasman, M. Nishizono, C. Chung, E-S Tan.

**By invitation**

P. Morris, Editor, PRCP Newsletter

R. Pasnau, Past President, PRCP

H Minas, Director, International Mental Health Leadership Program (for part of the meeting)

**2) Apologies**

K.H. Lee, H. Chiu, J. Gold.

The Board congratulated Professor Masehisa Nishizono on winning the Kung Po Su Award. The Board also noted the previous awardees included prominent Fellows of the PRCP, Professors Robert Pasnau, Francis Lu and Ching-Piao Chien.

**3) Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the board meeting held on 25 August 2002 in Yokohama were accepted.

**4) Matter Arising**

**a. Membership**

The following psychiatrists were accepted as Fellows of the PRCP: ZePing Xiao, Peter Foster, Zheng Lu and Robert Fisher their details have been circulated previously.

**b. Outstanding Dues**

The Board was reminded that out of the 187 paying members of the PRCP, 53 members have outstanding dues of three years or more. The consensus of the Board was that these outstanding debts should be waived on a once off basis and that the PRCP should make an effort to collect the dues which are to be paid from now on. Currently the PRCP bank balance is AU\$53,586.00, thanks to prudent management of finances since the secretariat moved to Melbourne. Given that the PRCP is not in dire need of the outstanding dues, the collegiality of these members was deemed more important.

**c. Emeritus Membership**

The Board agreed to confer Emeritus status on Professor Mitsumoto Sato.

**d. 2003 Congress in Hong Kong**

Professor Helen Chiu forwarded a paper proposing the postponement of the PRCP Congress scheduled for October 2003 in Hong Kong. The Board concurred with this recommendation and decided to make a decision based on advice from Professor Helen Chiu as to when the next congress should be held in 2004. It was agreed that the meeting should be held in Hong Kong. This means that the Presidency of Professor Bruce Singh will extend until the next Congress. It was also agreed that the following Congress would be held in 2006. The Board noted that the CINP Meeting in Beijing, at this stage, will proceed. (Since cancelled).

Professors Shinfuku, Sartorius and Herrman as well as other invited speakers will have to be notified in writing of the postponement of the Congress by Professor Helen Chiu.

**5) Newsletter**

The Editor of the PRCP newsletter, Professor Phillip Morris, informed the Board that the latest March-April edition of the Newsletter has been published and posted on the PRCP website and mailed to members without e-mail addresses.

Correspondents have been nominated in a number of countries to keep the Newsletter informed of psychiatric events and development in their respective regions.

Professor Alan Tasman suggested that the President might commission individual members to write on specific topics for the Newsletter.

**6) History of the PRCP**

Professor Robert Pasnau presented his compilation "The Brief History of the PRCP" which was warmly received. He suggested that an Archivist be appointed for the PRCP who would be responsible for collecting historical material of the PRCP such as programs of events, lists of Boards and Committees, photographs, etc., for the PRCP records as well as for publication in the Newsletter. The Board agreed with this and suggested that Professor Pasnau might take on this role.

**7) International Mental Health Leadership Program**

Associate Professor Harry Minas briefed the Board on the International Mental Health Leadership Program. This program is jointly sponsored by Harvard and the University of Melbourne in order to train young leaders in psychiatry in the countries of South East Asia. The training is done at the Centre for International Mental Health at the University of Melbourne. The program has now been upgraded to a Masters degree in International Mental Health. The program is running well.

The endorsement of this program by the PRCP was sought. Whilst the Board was supportive of the program it felt that some principle needed to be established in regard to what kind of courses or programs the PRCP should endorse. Associate Professor Harry Minas will work with the Secretary General to prepare these for the next Board Meeting. Professor Tasman suggested that these candidates be encouraged to join the PRCP.

## **8) Working Groups**

### **a. Teaching**

Professor Nishizono reported on the Seminar on the Teaching of Psychiatry, held in Yokohama during the WPA Congress in August 2002.

### **b. Research**

No report.

### **c. Service Delivery**

No report. (Since the Board Meeting Dr Kyu Hang Lee has written to Professor Bruce Singh stating that he will stand down from the position of Chairman of the Working Group on Service Delivery.)

## **9) Membership of the Board**

The following names have been suggested as replacements for Board members who are retiring:

- He Qin Yan to be replaced by ZePing Xiao
- Eng-Kung Yeh to be replaced by Ming Been Lee
- Masehisa Nishizono to be replaced by Fumitaka Noda.

The Board endorsed these suggestions which need to be formalized at the Biennial Meeting to be held in association with the 2004 Congress.

## **10) Membership of Non-Psychiatrists**

The Board felt that there was no problem with non-psychiatrists participating in PRCP meetings, but felt that it would be a mistake to dilute the PRCP's focus on Psychiatry.

## **11) Linkage of the President to the PRCP Congress**

The issue as to whether the Congress of the PRCP should be held in the country where the President is located was discussed. It was pointed out that there was nothing in the By-Laws which demanded this linkage. It was a tradition hitherto in the PRCP.

Professor Francis Lu pointed out that the priority for election to President needed to be based on strong leadership. The site of the Congress should be a secondary issue. If it was agreed that a convener of the congress should not necessarily be the President Elect, then that individual could be given the title of Congress Convener. It was agreed that this new procedure would be implemented from the end of Professor Helen Chiu's presidency. The call for nominations for Presidency will now be separate from deciding the site of the next congress.

## **12) President's Report**

Professor Bruce Singh reported that the move of the Secretariat to Melbourne has been completed and the Secretariat is now functioning well with Ms Alis Gordon having returned to the role of Administrative Officer on a one-day-a-week basis.

## **13) Secretary General's Report**

The Secretary General reported that PRCP website is now well established. The Newsletter is also posted on the website.

The tax-exempt status of the PRCP in Australia cannot be established. However, subscriptions will not be taxed, though other donations (e.g. from Pharmaceutical companies) may be. Professor Francis Lu will make inquiries as to whether it is still necessary to keep an address for the PRCP in Los Angeles and to file financial statements there.

## **14) Treasurer's Report**

Financial Statement:

Balance as of 14/11/02	\$32,917.80
Income from subscriptions	\$12,482.24
Funds transferred from USD Account	\$15,921.98

Expenditure:

postage	126.04
website	132.00
printing	2,275.88
bank charges	378.60
salaries	4,385.00
gst on salaries	438.50
total	7,736.02
<u>Balance as of 17/04/03</u>	<u>\$53,586.00</u>

## **15) Newsletter Editor's Report**

In addition to the regular publication of the PRCP Newsletter a PRCP On-Line Chat Group has been established for the discussion of professional issues. Unfortunately use of this facility is still extremely low.

## **16) President-Elect's Report**

Professor Helen Chiu forwarded a paper suggesting the establishment of ten travelling fellowships to encourage participation in the activities of the PRCP. She also suggested the establishment of a number of research fellowships. The Board supported these, providing that funding could be found for them.

## **17) Psychotherapy Interest Group**

A seminar was proposed for the Hong Kong Congress in October 2003 by Professor Judith Gold. This will now have to be postponed.

## **18) World Psychiatric Association**

The affiliation of the PRCP to the WPA has been established. An affiliation fee of US \$125 has been paid.

**19) Any Other Business**

None.

**20) Next Meeting**

At APA in May 2004, New York.