

Editorial

'And the winners are': the top articles of 2002 and introducing Manuscript Central

In 2001 we devised and trialled a procedure to appraise the quality of an individual article. A panel of five judges were asked to select articles published in that year which met the key criterion of adding consequentially to psychiatry. We were fortunate enough to recruit a distinguished team: Professors Anthony Clare, Glen Gabbard, Felice Lieh Mak, Norman Sartorius and Dr George Szukler. They selected three articles from each of the six issues which fulfilled one or more of the following criteria:

- Adds consequentially to the field through original, innovative research findings
- Expands or challenges current knowledge
- Opens additional areas for new research activity
- Opens a pathway to advance knowledge
- Integrates discoveries obtained by different approaches and/or disciplines through creative synthesis – thus bringing new insights to bear on original research
- Reflects critically on research findings to guide the direction of further research.

Having determined that our judges could identify the top 10 per cent (approximately) of all relevant articles published (we excluded case reports, commentaries on articles and editorials), the Editorial Board decided to repeat the experiment in 2002, using an identical procedure. We were again able to recruit a fine team of colleagues to serve as judges:

- Professor Jules Angst, Zurich
- Professor George Christodoulou, Athens
- Professor Michael Gelder, Oxford
- Sir David Goldberg, London and
- Clinical Professor Stephen Green, Washington DC.

We are immensely grateful to them for tackling their task so conscientiously. As a result of their effort, we take pleasure in announcing that the following nine articles have been selected as best meeting the above criteria. We now list them alphabetically (by first author) but give pride of place to Allan Shore's superb integrative article which was unanimously voted as the most outstanding of the nine:

Schore AN. Dysregulation of the right brain: a fundamental mechanism of traumatic attachment and the psychopathogenesis of posttraumatic stress disorder. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry* 2002; 36:9–30.

Alexander T, Bloch S. The written report in consultation–liaison psychiatry: a proposed schema.

Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry 2002; 36:251–258.

Castle D, Morgan V, Jablensky A. Antipsychotic use in Australia: the patients' perspective. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry* 2002; 36: 633–642.

Clarke DM, Kissane DW. Demoralization: its phenomenology and importance. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry* 2002; 36:733–742.

Dudley M, Gale F. Psychiatrists as a moral community? Psychiatry under the Nazis and its contemporary relevance. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry* 2002; 36:585–594.

Hugo M, Smout M, Bannister J. A comparison in hospitalization rates between a community-based mobile emergency service and a hospital-based emergency service. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry* 2002; 36:504–508.

Pirkis J, Burgess P, Jolley D. Suicide among psychiatric patients: a case-control study. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry* 2002; 36:86–91.

Rosenman S. Trauma and posttraumatic stress disorder in Australia: findings in the population sample of the Australian National Survey of Mental Health and Well-being. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry* 2002; 36:515–520.

Slade M. What outcomes to measure in routine mental health services, and how to assess them: a systematic review. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry* 2002; 36:743–753.

Given the success of the two year experiment, the Editorial Board has decided to make the judging procedure a standard feature of the Journal. A new team of judges has been invited to serve in 2003.

The 2002 list will be posted on the website of the publisher at <http://blackwell-science.com/anp> and of the College at <http://www.ranzcp.org>.

A web-based editorial office

The Journal has remained abreast of technical advances in publishing, a process readily facilitated by working with a large progressive international publisher. With our online version, Synergy, solidly entrenched as a facility for readers wishing to avail themselves of

bibliographical and related services, we are introducing in the second half of 2003 an entirely electronic procedure for the handling of manuscripts. ScholarOne, a software company, has developed a system called Manuscript Central which provides authors with the capability to submit manuscripts over the Internet and facilitates online peer review, administration and tracking of manuscripts. Although authors will still have a choice of submitting manuscripts non-electronically, we propose to complete the establishment of an entirely electronic editorial office within 12 months.

We are confident that everyone will be won over by the advantages of Manuscript Central. The system, organized around online 'Centers', is user-friendly, providing step by step instructions for the novice. From the contributor's point of view, the 'author centre' will enable you to submit full text and graphics, and in most file formats. Automatic email correspondence

such as acknowledgement and review decisions will be generated. You will be able to check the status of your manuscript at any time as well as read and respond to review comments and submit revisions online. The centre will be accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Comparable centres for the editor, editorial staff and reviewers will speed up all aspects of the publishing process.

We will soon announce the starting date of Manuscript Central. Watch this space! For those who are computer-challenged, fear not. Our staff will be pleased to lend you a hand if you encounter any difficulty. We hope you are as excited as the Editorial Board in anticipating the launch of the new system; it is another notable milestone in the development of the Journal.

Sidney Bloch
Editor

**Watch out for an announcement
regarding Manuscript Central**

(see above editorial)