

Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting of the Evolutionary Psychiatry Special Interest Group (EPSiG) 12 January 2016



Present:

Riadh Abed
Agnes Ayton
David Geaney
Sundar Gnanavel
Adrian James (RCPsych Registrar to oversee SIG elections)
Dan McQueen
Mark Nathan
Louise Richards
Paul St John-Smith
Anne Swanepoel

Apologies:

Mohammed Abbas
J Carley
Teif Davies
K Dudleson
Naomi Fineberg
R Gowda
George Ikkos
Madhava Rao
Shane Ryan
Hannah Sheftel
Rahul Tomar

1. Election of SIG Officers:

We agreed on a number of appointments for the SIG as follows:

Chair: Riadh Abed RA

Treasurer: Agnes Ayton AA

Newsletter and Website Editor: Paul St John-Smith PSS

The registrar (Adrian James) was present for the first hour or so of the meeting and oversaw the election of the officers. Given the large number of apologies (mainly due to the junior doctor strike) it was agreed that the posts will run for a year and be reviewed at the next AGM.

2. Presentation by Riadh Abed

The PP presentation was used to stimulate discussion regarding the future plans of EPSiG and the bulk of the meeting involved an open discussion regarding the aims and objectives of EPSiG as well as future plans.

3. Workplan for the next 12 months

- **Website:** It was agreed to aim to launch this as soon as possible. It was agreed to include a database for references, books, links to relevant websites, interviews with eminent evolutionists, teaching modules etc.. To explore technical support from the College. PSS, RA, DM
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- **MRCPsych syllabus** - to approach the dean to explore the inclusion of evolutionary science into the syllabus, building on RA and PSS soon to be published paper in the Bulletin - AA AB MN DM RA
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- **Newsletter and Website Editor:** PSS agreed to take on the role (with support from other members). We discussed some ideas as to how best to use the newsletter for engagement with the wider membership as well as exchange of ideas: next 6 months. We will aim to publish 2-4 newsletters in the first year.
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- **Symposium** - RA suggested a full day symposium targeting an audience less than 50 (in order to minimize cost as the college offers facilities for small meetings free of charge subject to room availability) at the college. AS offered to help.
- A discussion took place regarding the frequency and purpose of future meetings (exchange of ideas, monitoring progress) possibly twice a year
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- **Email communication** will be established. For those who are interested to join the existing World Psychiatric Association (WPA) Section of Evolutionary Psychiatry email list which currently has 32 members worldwide, the link below can be used:

https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/WPAEvolutionaryPsychiatry/info;_ylc=X3oDMTJmbmU2ZXJsBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE0BGdycElkAzkxOTQ5MjI0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MDgxMwRzZWMDdnRsBHNsawN2Z2hwBHN0aW11AzE0NTI2NDAYNzk-

Or alternatively send an email request to the list moderator: Mohammed Abbas on mohdgum@hotmail.com

4. **Date and time of future meetings (provisional):** 18 May (afternoon) RCPsych HQ and Tuesday 4th October (whole day symposium) at RCPsych HQ with presentations by Professors Robin Dunbar and Simon Baron-Cohen