Editorial introductions

*Current Opinion in Psychiatry* was launched in 1988. It is one of a successful series of review journals whose unique format is designed to provide a systematic and critical assessment of the literature as presented in the many primary journals. The field of psychiatry is divided into 13 sections that are reviewed once a year. Each section is assigned a Section Editor, a leading authority in the area, who identifies the most important topics at that time. Here we are pleased to introduce the Journal’s Section Editors for this issue.

**Section Editors**

**Richard Williams**

Richard Williams has been a child and adolescent psychiatrist for more than 30 years and a strategic leader and manager in health services design and delivery for the last 15 years. He is the Professor of Mental Health Strategy in the University of Glamorgan, Honorary Professor of Child and Adolescent Mental Health in the University of Central Lancashire, and a Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist with Gwent Healthcare NHS Trust.

Richard Williams is Special Adviser on Child and Adolescent Mental Health to the Welsh Assembly government and Scientific Adviser on Psychosocial and Mental Health and Disasters to the Department of Health in England. He chairs the Ethics Committee of Welsh Assembly government’s Healthcare Standards Advisory Board. His research and writing is in healthcare policy and strategy, service development, clinical governance, modern professionalism and user and carer participation in service design and continuing professional education. He is co-editor of a book, published in 2005, on strategic approaches to designing and developing child and adolescent mental health services.

Much of Richard Williams’ current work is on the psychosocial impacts of trauma, terrorism and conflict. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the Society of Apothecaries of London’ Faculty of Conflict and Catastrophe Medicine, and examines for the Diploma in the Medical Care of Catastrophes. He is a member of the Department of Health’s Emergency Planning Clinical Leadership Advisory Group and is advising the UK government on managing major incidents, resilience, post-incident recovery, and models of post-disaster mental healthcare. He is also advising NATO’s Joint Medical Committee on psychosocial resiliency and managing the mental health aspects of disasters. He is a member of the UK government’s Committee on the Ethical Aspects of Pandemic Influenza, which has recently completed development of an ethical framework for planning for pandemic influenza.

Richard Williams graduated from the University of Birmingham in 1972 and is a Fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatrists and of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health. Previously, he was a consultant psychiatrist at the Bristol Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Director of the NHS Health Advisory Service, Senior Fellow in the Health Services Management Centre in the University of Birmingham, and Vice Chairman of the Mental Health Act Commission. Recently, he was Chair of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges in Wales (2003 to 2006), Director of Conferences in the Royal College of Psychiatrists (2001 to 2007), and headed the Royal College of Psychiatrists in Wales (2002 to 2006).

**Philip Hazell**

Philip Hazell is a Conjoint Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry with the University of Sydney, and Director of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services for the Sydney South West region, New South Wales, Australia. He undertook undergraduate medical training at the University of Otago, New Zealand and postgraduate training in general psychiatry and child psychiatry in Adelaide, South Australia. He was awarded a PhD from the University of Newcastle
(Australia) in 1997 for a thesis concerning automatic and effortful information processing in ADHD and related disorders.

Professor Hazell chairs the committee overseeing advanced training in child and adolescent psychiatry in Australia and New Zealand. His other roles within the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists include membership of the Committee for Training and the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Faculty Executive.

Professor Hazell’s research output spans youth suicide, disruptive behaviour disorders of childhood and adolescence, mood disorders, primary and secondary studies of treatment effectiveness, psychological sequelae of disaster, and the evaluation of medical education. He is an editor on two Cochrane Collaboration Review Groups, one directed to depression, anxiety and neurosis, the other to psychosocial, learning and developmental problems in children. He contributes regularly to the British Medical Journal publication *Clinical Evidence* in which he has a chapter on depression in children and adolescents. He is a member of an international group, now sponsored by the US National Institute of Mental Health, dedicated to research into paediatric bipolar disorder. In 2004 he was honored by the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry with the Elaine Schlosser Lewis Award for research in attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder. He has authored over 100 published papers and book chapters.

**Mariano Bassi**

Mariano Bassi was born in Bologna in 1949. In 1976 he took his Degree in Medicine at the University of Bologna, discussing an experimental thesis in Psychiatry and in 1981 he completed his residency in Psychiatry at the University of Modena. In the years 1976 to 1992 he worked in different mental health services and in 1992 he was appointed as Head of the Mental Health Department of the Local Health Unit No. 5 in Fidenza, Parma. In the years 1995 to 1996 he was also Director of the Psychiatric Hospital of Colombo, Parma. In 1999 he was appointed as Head of a mental health service in Bologna, and in 2002 he was appointed as Director of the all Mental Health Department of the local Health Unit in Bologna. He has had several teaching appointments in different residency programmes in psychiatry, and he currently is Professor in the psychiatric residency programme of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Bologna. He has been a Visiting Fellow of the Clinical Research Center for Schizophrenia and Psychiatric Rehabilitation of the University of Los Angeles, USA several times. Since 1994 he has continuously been Vice President of the Italian Psychiatric Association. He is also on the Board of several scientific societies, including the Italian Society for Psychosocial Rehabilitation, the Italian Society of Neuropsychopharmacology and the Italian Society for Psychiatric Research Methodology. Since 1990 he has been International Member of the American Psychiatric Association and since 1994 member of the Association of European Psychiatrists. Dr Bassi is author of more than 100 publications in areas such as schizophrenia, organization of community mental health services, assertive community treatment and ethics in psychiatry.

**Giovanni de Girolamo**

Giovanni de Girolamo currently works at the Regional Health Care Research Agency in Bologna (Italy). He has a Degree in Medicine and a Postgraduate Degree in Psychiatry (University of Naples). He has worked as a clinical psychiatrist in mental health services in Italy, and has been involved in a variety of national and international research projects. He has received Fellowships as short-term Visiting Fellow at the Institute of Psychiatry in London (with Michael Shepherd), at the Institute of Psychiatric Demography in Aarhus (Denmark), and at the Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic in Pittsburgh, USA.

From 1988 to 1994, he worked at the Division of Mental Health of WHO in Geneva, initially as Associate Professional Officer and then as Medical Officer, under the guidance of Norman Sartorius. From 1998 to 2001 he was the Coordinator of the National Mental Health Project, based at the Italian National Institute of Health in Rome, which involved 47 specific research projects and more than 100 centres throughout Italy. He has set up and directed several multicentre research projects, notably: (i) the Italian site of the WHO Quality of Life Project; (ii) the national survey of psychiatric residential facilities (the largest survey ever done in this area), called PROGRES; (iii) the national survey on all acute inpatient facilities, called PROGRES-Acute (equally the largest survey ever done in this area); and finally (iv) the Italian
site of the European Study on the Epidemiology of Mental Disorders (ESEMeD), which is part of the WHO World Mental Health Survey Initiative, led by Ronald Kessler (Harvard University).

He has had several teaching appointments in Italy, and has organized several national and international meetings. His research focuses on psychiatric epidemiology and health services research; evidence-based mental health; drug-utilization studies; psychiatric rehabilitation and quality of life. He is the author of 270 publications, including 38 volumes or monographs edited or authored, 164 journal articles and 58 book chapters in three languages.

**Stefan Leucht**

Doctor Leucht has been practicing at the Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy of the Technische Universität München, Munich, Germany since 1994. In 2002/2003 he spent a year as a research associate at the Zucker Hillside Hospital, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, in New York. He was appointed assistant professor (‘Privatdozent’) in January 2005 and is an editor to the Cochrane schizophrenia group. Dr Leucht’s research focus is psychopharmacology and evidence-based medicine. He has published a number of meta-analyses on treatments for schizophrenia and also has a research interest in pharmacogenetics, compliance enhancement strategies and medical decision making.

**Kostas Fountoulakis**

Born in Greece on March, 2nd, 1966, Dr Fountoulakis graduated from the Medical School of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in 1989. He qualified as a psychiatrist in 1997 and finished a PhD in 1999. In 2002 he was appointed lecturer and in 2007 assistant professor of Psychiatry at the 3rd Department of Psychiatry, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece. During 2005 he served as research fellow at the Service of Neuropsychiatry, Department of Psychiatry, University of Geneva. Since 2002 Dr Fountoulakis has been deputy editor of the international journal *Annals of General Psychiatry*. In 2005 he became a member of the CINP Advisory Board on the usefulness of antidepressants and has been an author of a significant number of papers published in peer-reviewed journals.