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The Schizophrenia Commission

In November 2011 Rethink Mental Illness marked its own 40th birthday and the 100th anniversary of the coining of the term by setting up an independent Commission on Schizophrenia. This is working under the chairmanship of the internationally known Professor Sir Robin Murray with the support of 12 other experts providing multidisciplinary expertise. The Commission is aiming to take stock of what we know about schizophrenia, and the experiences of those individuals and families affected by it, as well as practitioners involved in supporting people. It will make practical recommendations which could make a difference to peoples' lives. The Schizophrenia Commission will be taking on board evidence via surveys, events and service visits over the next few months and is due to report in autumn 2012. If you would like to follow progress please logon to www.schizophreniacommission.org.uk. Families and their associations who would like to submit views are welcome to complete the online survey at www.surveymonkey.com/s/szcomm.

FEAFES Galicia – new website



The Federation of Associations of Relatives and Persons with Mental Illness in Galicia (FEAFES Galicia) has just launched a new design of their website - www.feafesgalicia.org.

The portal has been fully renovated and now shows an innovative picture, with a more intuitive navigation and content tailored to different audiences for which it is written. The site has different sections such as "about us", "Mental Health", "Services", "Activities", "Documentation" and "News". The site also contains the history of the federation, its structure and all the services offered by the federation. It also can be obtained through a map of the region the contact details of all the associations that make up FEAFES Galicia. It is possible to download a wide range of documents, and access the websites of other organisations related to mental health care and the disabled. You can also read the latest news on FEAFES Galicia and check the upcoming activities.

New book on mental illness for children

UNAFAM, our French member association, has informed us that a new book for children, *Petite- Oursonne et son papa*, written by Claire Frossard has just been published. More information at www.unafam.org/Petite-Oursonne-et-son-papa.html. The author is willing to have it translated into English if there is interest in it.

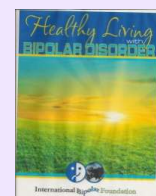


The Brain Prize 2012

The Grete Lundbeck European Brain Research Foundation has announced that The Brain Prize 2012 has been jointly awarded to Christine Petit and Karen Steel for their unique, world-leading contributions to the understanding of the genetic regulation of the development and functioning of the ear, and for elucidating the causes of many of the hundreds of inherited forms of deafness. Christine Petit, Professor at College de France, holding the Chair of Genetics and Cellular Physiology, head of the Genetics and Physiology of Hearing laboratory at the Institut Pasteur in Paris also affiliated to INSERM, is a geneticist and a neurobiologist. Karen Steel is Professor and Principal Investigator for the Genetics of Deafness and founder of the Mouse Genetics Programme at the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, Hinxton, near Cambridge, UK.

Book on Living with Bipolar Disorder

The book is geared to both the person with bipolar disorder and their caregivers. Fourteen chapters, each written by an expert in the field, are included in a 3-ring binder. The Consumer Advisory Board for IBPF felt it was important for people to have an easily accessible "compendium" of information. The binder format allows users to add handouts from their mental health providers and update chapters without having to order a new book. More information is available at www.InternationalBipolarFoundation.org



A new name for schizophrenia?

The debate continues as to whether or not to change name of the illness which is currently classified as schizophrenia. Anoksis (www.anoksis.nl), a Dutch Association of and for people with a susceptibility to psychosis or schizophrenia is advocating having the name changed in the DSM-5 and ICD-11 to "Schizophrenia (Bleuler's Syndrome)". They have written to the American Psychiatric Association and to several leading global psychiatrists who responded with interest and encouragement. Anoksis are seeking support for their campaign.

Movin' On Up Campaign by Hafal, Wales

This summer service users and carers will be scaling Pen y Fan in the Brecon Beacons and Wales' highest peak, Snowdon, as part of a campaign to raise mental health services in Wales to the next level. The "Movin' On Up" campaign, which will be led by service users and carers and is supported by mental health charities Bipolar UK, Hafal and the Mental Health Foundation, will include 22 weekly county events across Wales featuring a campaign camper van, cinema bus and "mobile mountain". An interactive "Movin' On Up" stand will feature at the Royal Welsh Show and a World Mental Health Day event at the National Assembly.



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