

Lancet, March 2, 1974

**BRITISH ACADEMY OF
PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY**

SIR,—For many years the United Kingdom has lagged behind other countries in having no specific organisation dedicated to psychopharmacology. Thus, a number of other countries have established their own national organisations that are affiliated to the Collegium Internationale Neuro-Psychopharmacologicum (C.I.N.P.); one of the best known of these being the American College of Neuro-Psychopharmacology.

In view of the considerable contributions made by our country to psychopharmacology, it appears to us that the present situation is anomalous, and that the time has come to establish a national organisation in this country. To avoid confusion with the Royal colleges, we propose that this organisation be called "The British Academy of Psychopharmacology".

We believe that there is a particular need to focus attention on the importance of drug treatment in psychiatry; in the eyes of both the young clinician and the research scientist. Therefore, the objects of the Academy will be to further research in psychopharmacology; both clinical and experimental; and to improve the quality and standards of psychotropic drug evaluation. This can be accomplished by means of the spoken and written word, through the media of meetings, study groups, and publications.

We propose to call a meeting in the near future of all those members of the profession who may have an active interest in psychopharmacology; for the purpose of determining the constitution of the Academy, to elect officers, and to consider the Academy's policy, particularly in relation to the pharmaceutical industry. To this end, we have drafted some suggestions and would be pleased to forward these to any interested member of the profession. We would like to receive suggestions and comments concerning the establishment of the Academy, and invite those interested to communicate with any one of the undersigned.

SYDNEY BRANDON
Department of Psychiatry,
University of Manchester,
Swinton Grove, Manchester 13.

NORMAN IMLAH
All Saints Hospital,
Birmingham B18 5SD.

ALEC JENNER
Department of Psychiatry,
University of Sheffield,
Middlewood Hospital,
Sheffield S6 1TP.

DAVID SHAW
West Park Hospital,
Epsom, Surrey.

DAVID WHEATLEY
General Practitioner Research
Group,
Twickenham TW2 5AX.

ALEC COPPEN
West Park Hospital,
Epsom, Surrey.

MAX HAMILTON
Department of Psychiatry,
University of Leeds,
15 Hyde Terrace,
Leeds LS2 9LT.

MICHAEL HOLDEN
Middlewood and United
Sheffield Hospitals,
Sheffield.

ANTHONY HORDERN
Department of Psychiatry,
King's College Hospital,
London SE5.

B.M.J. March 2, 1974

British Academy of Psychopharmacology

SIR,—For many years the United Kingdom has lagged behind other countries in having no specific organization dedicated to psychopharmacology. Thus a number of other countries have established their own national organizations that are affiliated to the Collegium Internationale Neuro-Psychopharmacologicum (C.I.N.P.), one of the best known of these being the American College of Neuro-Psychopharmacology.

In view of the considerable contributions made by our country to psychopharmacology it appears to us that the present situation is anomalous and that the time has come to establish a national organization in Britain. To avoid confusion with the royal colleges we propose that this organization be called "The British Academy of Psychopharmacology."

We believe that there is a particular need to focus attention on the importance of drug treatment in psychiatry in the eyes of both the young clinician and the research scientist. Therefore the objects of the academy will be to further research in psychopharmacology, both clinical and experimental, and to improve the quality and standards of psychotropic drug evaluation. This can be accomplished by means of the spoken and written word through the media of meetings, study groups, and publications.

We propose to call a meeting in the near future of all those members of the profession who may have an active interest in psychopharmacology for the purpose of determining the constitution of the academy, to elect officers, and to consider the academy's policy, particularly in relation to the pharmaceutical industry. To this end we have drafted some suggestions and would be pleased to forward these to any interested member of the profession. We would also like to receive suggestions and comments concerning the establishment of the academy, and invite those interested to communicate with any one of the undersigned.—We are, etc.,

SYDNEY BRANDON
University Department of Psychiatry,
Manchester

ALEC COPPEN

West Park Hospital,
Epsom, Surrey

MAX HAMILTON

University Department of Psychiatry,
Leeds

MICHAEL HOLDEN

Middlewood and United Sheffield Hospitals,
Sheffield

ANTHONY HORDERN

Department of Psychiatry,
King's College Hospital,
London S.E.5

NORMAN IMLAH

All Saints Hospital,
Birmingham

ALEX JENNER

University Department of Psychiatry,
Middlewood Hospital,
Sheffield

DAVID SHAW

West Park Hospital,
Epsom, Surrey

DAVID WHEATLEY

General Practitioner Research Group,
Twickenham