

BRITISH ACADEMY OF
PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY

DEAR SIR,

For many years the United Kingdom has lagged behind other countries in having no specific organization dedicated to psychopharmacology. A number of other countries have established their own national organizations, which 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 this country. 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. The objects of the Academy will therefore 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 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 we 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.

SYDNEY BRANDON.

*Department of Psychiatry,
University of Manchester,
Swinton Grove, Manchester 13.*

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, S.E.5.*

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.

*The General Practitioner Research Group,
325 Staines Road, Twickenham, TW2 5AX.*

B.M.J. May 11, 1974

British Academy of Psychopharmacology

SIR,—Further to the letter from the steering committee (2 March, p. 391) the inaugural meeting of the British Academy of Psychopharmacology was held on 22 April and the academy formally constituted.

As a result of the steering committee's letter we received 129 letters supporting the formation of the academy and one letter against its formation. The inaugural meeting was attended by 45 interested individuals, many of whom had travelled considerable distances to attend the meeting. Letters of congratulation and support were received from the presidents of the International, American, German, and Turkish Colleges of Psychopharmacology.

Professor Max Hamilton was elected first president of the academy, and Dr. Alec Coppen president-elect. Other officers and a council of 10 members were also elected. It was decided that one of the main objects of the academy would be to provide a means of integrating the many disciplines involved in psychopharmacological research, though there would be some emphasis on clinical psychopharmacology. To this end applications for membership will be considered from interested individuals, and any of your readers who may like further details are invited to write to me.—I am, etc.,

DAVID WHEATLEY

Honorary Secretary,
British Academy of Psychopharmacology
325 Staines Road,
Twickenham TW2 5AX