

Dear Member,

Herewith the second of our new monthly *HSCNEWS Bulletins*. Each *Bulletin* provides details about the latest activities of the 2,500 members of the Health and Social Campaigners Network International, and gives information about health campaigners' new appointments, campaigns, events, funding, publications, research, and websites. The items in this *Bulletin* cover the period end-July to end-August 2006. All items are selected on the basis that they should be of interest to health campaigners worldwide.

Kind regards,
Louise Oatham
Manager
HSCNews Bulletins

Below, you will find a set of key subject matter mentioned in this Bulletin. If you search for any of these words in the email, you will find the item(s) of news related to that subject matter. Also listed are the countries and regions covered in the Bulletin, which can also be found by searching in the same way.

KEY WORDS

AIDS; AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS; ARTHRITIS; ANTENATAL; ASTHMA; BRAIN CANCER; CARCINOID CANCER; CANCER; CARER; CHILDREN; CHROMOSOME 14; COMMUNICATE WITH PATIENTS; COMMUNITY CARE; COMPLAINTS; COMPLEMENTARY THERAPIES; CONTINENCE; CULTURALLY DIVERSE; DIABETES; DISABILITY; DEPRESSION; DRUG USER; DYING; EPILEPSY; HEALTHCARE; HEART; HURRICANE KATRINA; HYPERTENSION; IMMUNISATION; INTENSIVECARE; KIDNEY FAILURE; MENTAL HEALTH; MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS; OBESITY; ORGAN DONATION; PAIN; PARTNERSHIPS; PATIENT SAFETY; PATIENT PRIORITIES; PHARMA FUNDING; PREGNANCY; RARER CANCERS; RARE DISEASES; PRADER-WILLI SYNDROME; PSA; SCHIZOPHRENIA; SCREENING; STEM CELL; TRANSPARENCY; WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION; WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION; YOUTH.

COUNTRIES AND REGIONS

AUSTRALIA; BELGIUM; CANADA; DENMARK; EUROPE; FRANCE; INTERNATIONAL; ITALY; IRELAND; NETHERLANDS; NORWAY; NEW ZEALAND; PORTUGAL; SCOTLAND; SPAIN; SWITZERLAND; TURKEY; UK; USA; WORLD.

MEMBERS' NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2006, UK

The Canterbury, Kent-based **RARER CANCERS FORUM** is intending to build up a database of information on rarer cancers. The database would be designed to help patients, and—frequently—consultants who have no guidelines for many of the rarer cancers. Any help would be appreciated.

[<http://www.rarercancers.org.uk>]

SEPTEMBER 16, 2006, IRELAND

Ireland's government-funded **DISABILITY EQUALITY SPECIALIST SUPPORT AGENCY (DESSA)** is due to launch an innovative new project with the backing of Dublin-based **INCLUSION IRELAND**. The *Childcare Inclusion Programme* will work with childcare and play services to promote the inclusion of children with disabilities into mainstream settings. At the launch, the DESSA will consult with parents and families who have experience of disability.

[<http://www.dessa.ie>]

AUGUST 28, 2006, BELGIUM

The Brussels-based **EUROPEAN DISABILITY FORUM (EDF)** is publicising a new UN human rights Convention that hopes to protect the rights of 650 million people worldwide who have a disability. The text of the United Nations Convention to Protect and Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities prohibits discrimination against people with a disability in all areas of life, and concentrates on ensuring that they receive access to a full range of human rights. The document pays particular attention to the situation of women and children with a disability. The EDF asks for the Convention to be adopted by the UN General Assembly at its September 2006 session. The organisation also requests EU Member States to agree on a rapid ratification process for the Convention.

[\[http://www.edf-feph.org\]](http://www.edf-feph.org)

AUGUST 24, 2006, BELGIUM

Brussels-based **MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE (MHE)** called for resource mobilisation and engagement opportunities to support the World Health Organization's strategy of establishing independent WHO visiting boards in developing countries. The boards would monitor any human rights violations within the countries' mental health facilities. MHE strongly supports this initiative, and invites other interested parties to disseminate information about the WHO initiative. The WHO plans to establish such boards in at least four developing countries before the end of 2007.

[\[http://www.mhe-sme.org\]](http://www.mhe-sme.org)

AUGUST 17, 2006, NEW ZEALAND

*Christchurch-based **GIVELIFE NZ**, the New Zealand group that lobbies for reform to government policy on organ donation, issued a press release in response to the publication of figures by the Australia and New Zealand Organ Donor Registry. The Registry's statistics show that the number of New Zealand organ donors available in 2006 is set to fall below 2005's already-low threshold. In 2005, New Zealand reported 7 donors per million people—putting the country on a par with Costa Rica and Peru. Equivalent figures for Spain are 35; for the US, 22; and for Canada, 13. The GiveLife press release expressed continued support for the proposed changes in law now under consideration by the Parliament's Health Select Committee. The legislation would ensure that, if a person registers as an organ donor, no one else can veto the decision. GiveLife NZ's submission to the Health Select Committee is available on request from Andy Tookey, GiveLife NZ's director. Contact details: (tel) 00-64-(0)3-3388745; (fax) 00-64-9-4760271; (cellphone) 00-64-(0)21-027-54677; or via the website, below.*

[\[http://www.givelife.org.nz\]](http://www.givelife.org.nz)

AUGUST 2, 2006, USA

The Oklahoma City-based **OKLAHOMA ARTHRITIS NETWORK (OAN)**, a state-wide coalition of professionals, policymakers, insurers, patients, and the public, held a public video conference with representatives from the health departments of four different counties (Major, Muskogee, Pontotoc, and Wagoner). The subject being discussed was how Oklahoma's Aging Partnership Legislative Report would affect ageing issues in the state, and provision of support to people with arthritis. The public attended the conference, and were invited to contribute their views.

[\[http://www.health.ok.gov/program/apep\]](http://www.health.ok.gov/program/apep)

JULY 30, 2006, USA

Anne McGinnis Breen of the Tucson-based **SOUTHERN ARIZONA BRAIN TUMOR SUPPORT GROUP** circulated an email to the world's leading brain cancer patient groups. Ms McGinnis Breen's communication expressed her dismay at President Bush's July 29th 2006 veto of plans to expand federal funding for embryonic stem-cell research. "Who says we are not ready yet for human clinical-trial testing of stem cells in brain-tumour patients? More than one third of the primary brain-tumour patients die within a year or two of diagnosis with current standard treatment, anyway. Do we really need more paperwork, panels, committees,

progress reports, and recommendations?”, she asked. Ms McGinnis Breen is also a supporter of StempAC, an alliance of scientists, politicians, and others, that campaigns for stem-cell research.

[\[http://www.stempac.com\]](http://www.stempac.com)

JULY 28, 2006, AUSTRALIA

Christine Walker of the Victoria-based **CHRONIC ILLNESS ALLIANCE (CIA)** expressed concern that a company manufacturing complementary therapies had a court injunction placed on a report that it had written. At issue are the claims made by the company for one of its products. But, according to Ms Walker, “the wider problem is that there is little information on the efficacy of complementary therapies and over-the-counter drugs in Australia, and such a court injunction acts as a serious barrier to this being developed”.

[\[http://www.chronicillness.org.au\]](http://www.chronicillness.org.au)

JULY 21, 2006, DENMARK

120 people gathered at 7pm in Copenhagen to listen to five short but passionately-conveyed speeches, followed by a one-minute silence. The occasion, organised by Copenhagen-based **BRUGERFORENINGEN** (the Danish Drug Users' Union), was a tribute marking Denmark's drug-related deaths. On the same day, a number of newspapers reported complaints made to the police at their delay in releasing official statistics of the number of Denmark's overdose deaths for 2005. According to Joergen Kjaer, President of BRUGERFORENINGEN, and an ex-user and activist: “In this ‘information age’, it shouldn't be necessary to wait more than eight months before we can get a realistic figure of the current situation. Actually, it should be possible to follow the overdoses month by month, so we could act on the situation—especially if it worsens. In ‘older days’—in fact, just back in the mid-1990s—we got the previous year's statistics from the police in late February (or certainly by March). But that was also while we still had politicians who cared, and who were interested in whether the numbers went up or down.”

[\[http://www.brugerforeningen.dk\]](http://www.brugerforeningen.dk)

CAMPAIGNS AND FUNDING

AUGUST 15, 2006, CANADA

The Ottawa, Ontario-based **ACTIVE LIVING ALLIANCE FOR CANADIANS WITH A DISABILITY** warned that the organisation will cease to exist by mid-October 2006, as the Public Health Agency of Canada of Health Canada is withholding further funding. The Alliance has worked in partnership with the Canadian government for 17 years to break down barriers to full community participation. It has trained physical educators, service providers, and community leaders to be inclusive. The organisation operates six national youth exchanges for teenagers with a disability, has developed a national clearing house that connects people with activities in their community, and it continues to be seen as the Canadian voice dedicated to physical activity and disability. The Alliance has been working hard over the past few years to diversify its funding base (sourcing grants from Heritage Canada, Social Development Canada, Pfizer Canada Inc., and others). However, Health Canada's contribution still forms a major component of the group's revenue. The group is currently looking for support “to make some noise about lack of concern for the area of wellness for Canadians with a disability through healthy active living”, and has launched an online petition.

[\[http://www.petitionspot.com/petitions/alacd\]](http://www.petitionspot.com/petitions/alacd)

AUGUST 13, 2006, CANADA

Billionaire Bill Gates opened the 16th International AIDS Conference (August 13th-18th 2006) in Toronto. On August 9th 2006, Mr Gates had announced that he was donating US\$500 million [Euros 390 million] to the **GLOBAL FUND**, an organisation

which combats AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria around the world. This is the biggest donation received by the GLOBAL FUND since its inauguration in 2002. [http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/media_center/press/pr_060809.asp]

PUBLICATIONS

AUGUST 30, 2006, INTERNATIONAL

Geneva-headquartered **MÉDECINS SANS FRONTIÈRES (MSF)** released a detailed analysis of the effectiveness of the World Trade Organization's (WTO) 2003 decision to allow generic pharmaceutical manufacturers to export life-saving medicines to developing countries. In the Jean Chrétien Pledge to Africa, August 2004, Canada had been the first country to announce that it would embrace the WTO's 2003 announcement. MSF's document, entitled *Nether Expeditious, Nor a Solution*, examines Canada's inability to follow its announcement with action. The report points out that the WTO decision has failed to have any impact upon the issue of affordable pricing for developing countries, as witnessed by the fact that not one pill has been exported, nor one patient has benefited from the Canadian entry into the initiative.

[http://www.msf.ca/aids2006/files/REP_JCPA_en.pdf]

AUGUST 4, 2006, UK

A new study by Douglas Ball, Klara Tisocki, and Andrew Herxheimer, published in *BMC Public Health* 6: 201, looks at transparency, advertising, and the disclosure of pharma funding of 69 UK-based patient organisation websites. The authors conclude that patient organisation websites do not provide enough information for visitors to assess whether a conflict of interest with pharma exists.

[<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2458/6/201>]

JUNE-AUGUST, 2006, PORTUGAL

The **DIABETES EDUCATION STUDY GROUP (DESG)**, part of the Dusseldorf-based **EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF DIABETES (EASD)**, launched a new quarterly newsletter which is emailed to all the group's members. DESG's ambition is to improve the quality of life for patients with diabetes through the development and evaluation of study programmes.

[<http://www.desg.org>]

JUNE, 2006, SCOTLAND

The Inverness-based **HIGHLANDERS USERS GROUP (HUG)** published the results of a survey of 72 of its members. The survey was about complaints procedures in health services, benefits, and council and social services. The survey report concludes: "We see many barriers to making a complaint about the people who provide care for us. We have a strong feeling that we are unlikely to get a positive outcome. We worry that our concerns will be dismissed, either because we have a mental illness (which may affect how we act), or because the system we complain about is protective of its own workers. This means that, although we may want to make complaints, we often do not." A copy of the report is available from HUG.

[<http://www.hug.uk.net/pubs.htm>]

RESEARCH

AUGUST 2006, USA

The New York-based **COMMONWEALTH FUND** published a new ethics report, *Promising Practices for Patient-Centered Communication with Vulnerable Populations: Examples from Eight Hospitals* in collaboration with the American Medical Association. The report looks at several hospitals, and considers how they are trying to communicate with patients (particularly with vulnerable populations).

The report emphasises the importance of patient-professional communication: "Communication between patients and caregivers has implications for enhancing patient safety, reducing racial and ethnic disparities in healthcare, and improving quality in healthcare".

[\[http://www.cmwf.org/publications/publications_show.htm?doc_id=397067\]](http://www.cmwf.org/publications/publications_show.htm?doc_id=397067)

AUGUST 2006, EUROPE

Paris-based **EURORDIS**, in collaboration with Paris-based **ORPHANET**, published the preliminary findings of an ongoing EU-financed bibliographic study, *Rare Diseases in Numbers*, looking at the epidemiology of rare diseases in Europe.

[\[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_threats/non_com/rare_2_en.htm\]](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_threats/non_com/rare_2_en.htm)

AUGUST 30, 2006, SWITZERLAND

The London-based **INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF PATIENTS ORGANIZATIONS (IAPO)** made a speech at the Geneva Forum, 'Towards Global Access to Health', unveiling the results of a new study about patients' priorities in healthcare delivery. The study established that patients' top priorities for improvements in healthcare provision are ensuring timely access to best treatment and to information, and participation in decisions. The study, undertaken by market researcher Consensus Research Group, and financed by Pfizer, examined the attitudes of 1,200 patients (all members of patient organisations) in ten European countries, and in Nigeria and Canada.

[\[http://www.patientsorganizations.org/showarticle.pl?id=721\]](http://www.patientsorganizations.org/showarticle.pl?id=721)

AUGUST 28, 2006, UK

The London-based **BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION (BHF)** issued a press release about the results of research funded by the organisation at the University of Cambridge, and published in 'Vascular Smooth Muscle Cells Undergo Telomere-Based Senescence in Human Atherosclerosis: Effects of Telomerase and Oxidative Stress', Mathews, et al., *Circulation Research*, July 2006. The study found that people suffering from advanced stages of heart disease have arteries that are biologically up to 40 years older than their real age.

[\[http://www.bhf.org.uk/news/index.asp?secID=16&secondlevel=241&thirdlevel=1902\]](http://www.bhf.org.uk/news/index.asp?secID=16&secondlevel=241&thirdlevel=1902)

AUGUST 18, 2006, UK

The London-based **ENGLISH COMMUNITY CARE ASSOCIATION (ECCA)**, the leading representative body for independent care homes in England, published the results of a poll it conducted on the topic of hydration in care homes. Members of ECCA and care home users and their families were asked how fresh drinking water was made available in their care home. According to Martin Green, Chief Executive of ECCA: "Good hydration—particularly in care homes—is vital, as it can help with ulcers, constipation, urinary infections, and incontinence". The survey results were as follows:

~ 32% of care homes make fresh drinking water available throughout all communal rooms.

~ Another 31% of care homes have jugs of fresh water placed throughout the building (including bedrooms).

~ 24% of care homes have fresh drinking water only available upon request.

~ 15% of care homes only provide fresh drinking water at meal times.

[\[http://www.ecca.org.uk/association/\]](http://www.ecca.org.uk/association/)

AUGUST 14, 2006, WORLDWIDE

The London-based **MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION (MSIF)**, together with the World Health Organization, launched a new online *Atlas of MS*. The data was assimilated as a result of a global epidemiological survey by the MSIF and the WHO. The results, which can be analysed and compared at country, regional, and global levels for 64 countries, are available via a link on the MSIF website [<http://www.msif.org>], or on the site below.

[<http://www.atlasofms.org>]

NEW WEBSITES

The California-based **ALS ASSOCIATION (ALSA)** has launched a new international online community designed for individuals who want to discuss amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) advocacy issues. The ALS Virtual Advocacy Community shares advocacy experiences and ideas, and allows participants to arrange to meet other people from around the world who wish to make a difference in the fight against ALS. The site includes 'blogs, discussion boards, online surveys, and tools that enable people to contact others within the ALS community.

[<http://als.clinicahealth.com>]

US grassroots advocacy organisation, the **ASSOCIATION OF DIALYSIS ADVOCATES (ADA)**, has launched its website. The site looks at patient concerns about the safety and quality of care in (kidney failure) haemodialysis facilities. The ADA itself is composed of dialysis patients and their families and supporters who are dedicated to holding Medicare, state health departments, and healthcare facility managements accountable for the quality of dialysis services provided. The group's immediate priorities are in (1) oversight of facilities, and (2) infection-control practices. The ADA makes available on its website selected inspection reports of haemodialysis facilities from 25-plus US states (reports cover the period August 2003-September 2004). According to ADA, "the surveys speak for themselves, and pinpoint areas of needed improvement in delivery of services."

[<http://www.assndialysisadvocates.org>]

The **ASTHMA DRUG FACILITY (ADF)** is the website of the Paris-based **INTERNATIONAL UNION AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS AND LUNG DISEASE (THE UNION)**. The Union is working with several partners, including the World Health Organization, to create a new virtual pharmacy—a mechanism whereby populations can gain access to affordable, good-quality asthma drugs. The steering and technical committee of the website holds doctors and scientists who specialise in the field. The ADF stocks two products: inhaled beclomethasone, and salbutamol, both purchased through a process of competitive tendering.

[<http://www.globaladf.org>]

The Oxford, England-based **DiPEX** [<http://www.dipex.org>] is a web resource that helps people (including medical professionals) understand what the experience of illness is really like for patients, and their carers and family. A simple URL is available for each of the 27 modules/collections of different medical conditions featured on the site:

[www.dipex.org/antenatalscreening; www.dipex.org/arthritis; www.dipex.org/breastcancer; www.dipex.org/breastscreening; www.dipex.org/bowelcancer; www.dipex.org/cervicalcancer; www.dipex.org/cervicalscreening; www.dipex.org/chronicpain; www.dipex.org/congenitalheartdisease; www.dipex.org/depression; www.dipex.org/dementia; www.dipex.org/endingapregnancy; www.dipex.org/epilepsy; www.dipex.org/heartattack; www.dipex.org/heartfailure; www.dipex.org/hypertension; www.dipex.org/immunisation; www.dipex.org/intensivecare; www.dipex.org/livingwithdying; www.dipex.org/lungcancer; www.dipex.org/ovariancancer; www.dipex.org/pregnancy; www.dipex.org/prostatecancer; www.dipex.org/psatesting; www.dipex.org/testicularcancer; www.youthhealthtalk.org/sexualhealth; www.youthhealthtalk.org/teenagecancer]

The one-year-old, London-headquartered **CARERS UK** has launched a new message board on its website, supporting the group's campaigns for carers' rights. Carers UK is making special efforts to lobby government to remove the so-called 'overlapping benefit rule' from applying to allowances paid to carers. The contentious rule reduces a carer's allowance if the person has a pension. According to Carers UK: "It is morally indefensible to strip money from carers who save this country over £57 billion [US\$ 108 billion; Euros 84 billion] a year".

[\[http://www.ukcarers.org.uk\]](http://www.ukcarers.org.uk)

The Niagara Falls, Ontario-based **CHILDHOOD ASTHMA FOUNDATION** re-launched its website, providing more comprehensive information about asthma and its triggers. The site contains a series of educational programmes, and updated news on asthma research. Visitors can view and print samples of a children's colouring book entitled *Living with Asthma*. Colouring books and other educational material can be requested online, and are distributed at no charge across Canada.

[\[http://www.childasthma.com\]](http://www.childasthma.com)

The Louisville, Kentucky-based **FOUNDATION FOR PRADER-WILLI RESEARCH** has launched a new website containing up-to-date information on Prader-Willi Syndrome (PWS) research. The Foundation focuses on funding research that aims to develop treatments (and ultimately a cure) for PWS.

[\[http://www.fpwv.org\]](http://www.fpwv.org)

EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 28-30, 2007

MENTAL HEALTH, TORONTO, **CANADA**

The Toronto-based **WORLD FELLOWSHIP FOR SCHIZOPHRENIA AND ALLIED DISORDERS (WFSAD)** is announcing its world conference, 'Lighting the Path—Carrying the Torch for Mental Illness', scheduled for September 28th-30th 2007 in Toronto.

September 27th 2007 will be a Training College Day at the Delta Chelsea Inn, Toronto. Registration procedures and programme information can be found on the organisation's website.

[\[www.world-schizophrenia.org\]](http://www.world-schizophrenia.org)

MAY 29-JUNE 1, 2007

GLOBAL HEALTH COUNCIL ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, WASHINGTON, **USA**

The Washington DC-headquartered **GLOBAL HEALTH COUNCIL** is calling for abstracts for its 2007 conference, *Partnerships: Working Together for Global Health*. The organisation's website explains the conference subject matter: "Partnerships draw on differing perspectives, differing knowledge and experience, and differing priorities. All of us need to understand better how to mobilise such partnerships, how to make them most effective, and where to turn for experience and help." The Council's 34th Annual International Conference is dedicated to exploring these relationships, and explaining how they are built, what they can deliver, and how they can help people living with poverty and disease. The deadline for submission of abstracts is October 6th-17th 2006 (dependant on the type of submission). The Council is the world's largest membership alliance dedicated to saving lives by improving health throughout the world. Membership comprises healthcare professionals, NGOs, foundations, corporations, government agencies, and academic institutions—in fact, anyone who wishes to work to ensure global health for all.

[\[http://www.globalhealth.org/conference/view_top.php?id=632\]](http://www.globalhealth.org/conference/view_top.php?id=632)

NOVEMBER 27-DECEMBER 1, 2006

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONTINENCE SOCIETY, CHRISTCHURCH, **NEW ZEALAND**

The Bristol, England-based **INTERNATIONAL CONTINENCE SOCIETY (ICS)** will hold its annual conference in Christchurch, New Zealand, from November 27th-December 1st 2006. The occasion will provide a unique opportunity for incontinence support groups in both New Zealand and Australia to profile themselves at home and abroad (Australasian support groups often insist that they feel removed from action in other areas of the world). Further details about the conference can be found at the website below.

[\[www.ics2006.co.nz\]](http://www.ics2006.co.nz)

NOVEMBER 23-26, 2006

PATIENT SAFETY CONFERENCE, BEURS WORLD TRADE CENTER (WTC), ROTTERDAM,

NETHERLANDS

Platformpatientveiligheid.nl, a government-financed organisation that brings together academics, patient groups, and other healthcare stakeholders, is holding a conference on patient safety on November 23rd-26th 2006. The conference will offer an overview on the latest developments in patient safety in the Netherlands.

[\[http://www.platformpatientveiligheid.nl\]](http://www.platformpatientveiligheid.nl)

NOVEMBER 15-17, 2006

WHO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON CHILDHOOD OBESITY, ISTANBUL, **TURKEY**

The World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe is organising a 'Ministerial Conference on Counteracting Obesity', hosted by the Government of Turkey, in partnership with the European Commission. The event will be held on November 15th-17th 2006 in Istanbul. The conference will discuss the idea of a European Charter on Counteracting Obesity, which will be submitted for adoption to EU Member States. An NGO delegation led by the London-based **INTERNATIONAL OBESITY TASK FORCE (IOTF)**, and the Brussels-based groups, **EUROPEAN PUBLIC HEALTH ALLIANCE (EPHA)**, the **EUROPEAN HEART NETWORK (EHN)**, and the **BUREAU EUROPEEN DES UNIONS DE CONSOMMATEURS (BEUC)**, will attend the conference and organise supporting events.

[\[http://www.euro.who.int/features/2006/featureobe06/TopPage\]](http://www.euro.who.int/features/2006/featureobe06/TopPage)

OCTOBER 26-27, 2006

EPPOSI WORKSHOP, MADRID, **SPAIN**

The Brussels-based **EUROPEAN PLATFORM FOR PATIENTS' ORGANISATIONS, SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY (EPPOSI)** is dedicating its 7th workshop to the subject of partnering for the development of rare-disease therapies. This year the subject of the workshop is *Positioning Rare Diseases on the Healthcare Agenda*. The event will be held on October 26th-27th 2006 at the Spanish Ministry of Labour and Social Services (IMSERSO).

[\[http://www.medacad.org/epposi2006/\]](http://www.medacad.org/epposi2006/)

OCTOBER 17-20, 2006

QUALITY HEALTHCARE FOR CULTURALLY-DIVERSE POPULATIONS, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, **USA**

Denver, Colorado-based **DIVERSITY RX** is running its 5th conference on quality healthcare for culturally-diverse populations. To be addressed by over 150 presenters from the US and other countries, the event will examine best practices, policy, research, and advocacy related to improving healthcare services for ethnic minorities, immigrants, and refugees. The conference will include plenary sessions, participatory workshops, and intensive training sessions.

[\[http://www.diversityRx.org/ccconf\]](http://www.diversityRx.org/ccconf)

OCTOBER 17-20, 2006

4th WORLD CONFERENCE ON PROMOTION OF MENTAL HEALTH AND PREVENTION OF MENTAL AND BEHAVIOURAL DISORDERS, OSLO, **NORWAY**

The Springfield, Virginia-based **WORLD FEDERATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH (WFMH)**, in co-sponsorship with the Atlanta, Georgia-based Carter Center, the Stafford, England-based Clifford Beers Foundation, and the Oslo, Norway-based Voksne for Barn (Norway), will present the 4th World Conference on Promotion of Mental Health and Prevention of Mental and Behavioral Disorders, in Oslo, Norway, October 11th-13th 2006. This biennial conference brings together leaders and experts from research, policy, service, education, advocacy, and government to address cutting-edge issues relating to mental health promotion and prevention. The theme for the 2006 Conference is 'Developing Resilience and Strength Across the Lifespan'. Gro Brundtland, former Director-General of the World Health

Organization, and Dr David Satcher, former US Surgeon-General, will speak at the conference. Further information can be obtained from Voksne for Barn, at worldconference@vfb.no, or on the conference website below. [\[www.worldconference2006.no\]](http://www.worldconference2006.no)

OCTOBER 13-24, 2006

FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF RING 14, REGGIO EMILIA, **ITALY**
Reggio Emilia, Italy-based **ASSOCIAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE RING 14 PER LA RICERCA SULLE MALATTIE NEUROGENETICHE RARE—ONLUS (RING 14)**, a support group for the parents and families of children with inherited chromosome-14 deficiency, is organising its first international conference on the clinical and genetic management of children affected with this medical condition. More information can be found on Ring 14's website. [\[http://www.ring14.org/home.php\]](http://www.ring14.org/home.php)

OCTOBER 12, 2006

WORLD ARTHRITIS DAY
London-based **PEOPLE WITH ARTHRITIS / RHEUMATISM IN EUROPE (PARE) MANIFESTO** is encouraging its member organisations to organise national and local events for world Arthritis Day, to be held on October 12th 2006. [\[http://www.worldarthritisday.org\]](http://www.worldarthritisday.org)

SEPTEMBER 28-30, 2006

TWO CARCINOID AND NEURO-ENDOCRINE TUMOURS CONFERENCES, PORTLAND, OREGON, **USA**
Two conferences on carcinoid/neuro-endocrine tumours are being organised in Portland, Oregon, on September 28th-30th 2006. One of the conferences is for patients, the other for physicians. The conferences are being hosted by the Washington and Oregon Chapters of the **PACIFIC NORTHWEST CARCINOID CANCER SUPPORT GROUP**. The organisers point out that even though the event is located in the US, it should be of interest to patients and doctors from other countries. The conference will note some of the activities currently taking place in Scotland and Canada (and which are widely regarded as comprising good role models for the carcinoid community internationally). [\[http://URZebra.net\]](http://URZebra.net)

AUGUST 29, 2006

ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF HURRICANE KATRINA, **USA**
August 29th 2006 marked the first anniversary of Hurricane Katrina's devastating impact on New Orleans and other Gulf Coast communities. Prior to the anniversary, on August 16th 2006, Washington DC-based **CONNECT FOR KIDS (CFK)** and other US organisations hosted online discussions which argued that restoring the Gulf Coast involves more than rebuilding levees, homes, and buildings—it has to include other, equally-tangible necessities such as access to education and health services (particularly for children). [\[http://www.connectforkids.org/node/4651\]](http://www.connectforkids.org/node/4651)

APPOINTMENTS

MEMBERS, EQUALITY 2025, UK

According to Edinburgh-based **CAPABILITY SCOTLAND**, Equality 2025 is an important government initiative that will help disabled people. Equality 2025 will have a direct voice to central government, and will aim to design policies and services that disabled people really want. The UK government's Office for Disability Issues has recently advertised for disabled people to join as members of Equality 2025. Members will need to commit 20-25 days a year, and will be paid for the time they spend working for the initiative. A wide range of people with a disability are required (including disabled people from marginalised groups). Full details of the

role of members, and of the skills and experiences needed, are available by phoning 01256-383-611, text-phoning 0870-609-4219, or through the weblink below.

[\[http://www.equality2025.co.uk\]](http://www.equality2025.co.uk)

AUGUST 18, 2006

NEW CEO, TOGETHER, UK

Liz Felton is to join London-based mental-health charity **TOGETHER** as its new Chief Executive, leaving her current position as Deputy Chief Executive at Rethink, another London-based mental-health group. During her 16 years with Rethink, Ms felton has built up considerable hands-on experience of managing a range of mental-health services. At Together, she will head an organisation that employs 850 staff, and provides support for 3,500 people in over 100 projects across England. At the end of July 2006, Together was awarded a 3-5-year contract to supply independent advocacy at Broadmoor High-Security Hospital (bringing the number of UK high-security hospitals serviced by the organisation to three).

<http://www.together-uk.org/news.asp?id=1265&cachefixer=>

END OF *HSCNews BULLETIN 2*, July-August 2006