

Message from Issue Editor



Community Care of Mental Illness

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The deinstitutionalization movement since the 1950s has changed the locus of treatment for people with mental illness from hospital to the community. Three trends can be identified within the mental health services nowadays – deinstitutionalization, integration of services and emphasis on community mental health. The intervention modalities cover prevention, placement, consultation, education, outreach and planning. It is therefore timely that this issue of the Journal has chosen “Community care of mental illness” as its theme.

Certain community care principles have been identified and confirmed in a number of research studies. These can be summarized as: (1) the focus is on individual strengths rather than pathology; (2) the community is viewed as an oasis with resources for patients’ rehabilitation; (3) patient contacts take place in the community and are not confined to hospital; and (4) the focus of treatments is more on development and change.

In this issue, three types of articles are selected, including discussion papers, research papers and speech of a memorial lecture. The

discussion papers include one exploring the application of recovery model in community rehabilitation and discussion of the preliminary results of a pilot case management service model operated in Kwai Chung Hospital. There are three research papers, covering an employment profile study, an elderly suicide prevention programme and dementia caregiving experience. Last not the least, we summarized the 19 P.M. Yip Memorial Lecture delivered by Professor Gavin Andrews, whose speech on “Internet interventions for anxiety disorders and depression” should prove invaluable for anyone interested in using technology to help people with relevant problems.

The community itself cannot perform therapeutic functions to support psychiatric rehabilitation. Effective community care resources and services must be available to meet the varied needs of people with mental illness. It is hoped that the above articles can arouse attention and discussion among professionals and in the community to bring about comprehensive and sophisticated community care services to enhance the quality of life among people in need.