

Puerperal Psychosis Panel News

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Panel reaches 160 members

Our panel of women who have suffered puerperal psychosis has now grown from an original core of 50 to 160 members from all over the country from Scotland to Cornwall and Wales to East Anglia. There has been a great response to items which appeared in the newsletters of The National Childbirth Trust, The Association for Post-Natal Illness and Meet- A - Mum Association and to articles in The Yorkshire Post and She Magazine. If you know any other mothers who would like to join, please let us know.

Professor Brockington has been treating mothers with puerperal psychosis for the last 20 years. In that period researchers have established that there is a clear link with manic depression and the implication of that is that lithium may be useful for treatment and prevention. There also seems to be a link with menstrual mood disorders. There is a great deal which is still unknown and more research is needed.

Birmingham MBU Annual Review 5th December 1996

The Mother & Baby Psychiatric Unit at the Queen Elizabeth Psychiatric Hospital in Birmingham will be holding its Annual Review from 10 am to 4pm on Thursday, 5th December at The Apollo Hotel , 243 Hagley Road, Birmingham.

The morning will consist of reports on the work of the unit in the past year. There will be a guest speaker from the voluntary sector in the afternoon.

Panel members are cordially invited to attend the meeting. There is no charge for attending , and a buffet lunch will be provided. We regret that there are no creche facilities. If you would like to come along, please return the booking form at the end of this newsletter.

Prophylactic trial in progress

Birmingham University is participating in an international trial of the prophylaxis (prevention)of puerperal psychosis. Mothers who have suffered from puerperal psychosis and are having another baby are given either lithium, haloperidol , or a placebo (vitamin C) for 8 weeks after the birth of their baby. So far 7 women have been entered in the trial at Birmingham. It is too early for there to be any firm results and the trial will continue for 2-3 years.

We are looking for women who have suffered from puerperal psychosis or non- puerperal manic illness and are pregnant again and who may be interested in participating in the trial. If you would like to find out more, please return the tear off slip at the end of this newsletter.