

National Society Reports 2003
"Hans Selye" Hungarian Society of Behavioural Sciences and Medicine
Activities during the period from August 2002 to June 2003

The Society has continued its work by organising meetings and various educational activities with special emphasis on promotion of behavioural sciences among health professionals and students, and on sending regular scientific messages to health policy makers in order to integrate behavioural medicine interventions into routine health care activities. We also try to promote the participation of our members in international research programs and meetings.

New website!

A new independent website has been created for the society, under the name www.selyesociety.org, our webmaster is Gabor Szendi. All updated information and on-line registration forms for the Budapest Satellite Symposium 2004 will be found there. We help also our members visiting the website with useful links to other web pages connected to behavioural medicine, public health and patient information.

Conferences, meetings

- ***Budapest, 20-22 September 2002 "Who and Why is Mentally Ill in East Europe?"*** **Epidemiology, prevention and treatment, trends for common research and professional work.**“ International workshop involving members from the region, organized by the AEP Section Epidemiology and Social Psychiatry Group April 2002 in cooperation with the "Hans Selye" Hungarian Society of Behavioral Sciences and Medicine, supported also by the Institute of Behavioral Sciences of Semmelweis University Budapest.
- ***4th Behavioural Sciences Days – Pécs, 4-5 June 2003.*** - National Meeting of the colleagues working at the Behavioural Sciences Institutes of the four Hungarian Medical Universities. A very active problem focused workshop discussed the potential role of Behavioural Medicine in the New National Program on Health Promotion accepted recently by the Parliament. Besides the leaders of the 4 Institutes of Behavioural Sciences a representative of the Ministry of Health took part in the discussion, as well the leader of a private health insurance company and a marketing specialist representing the “Health Consumers”. As a result of the discussion, the formation of a consortium has been decided that would allow the integrated appearance of behavioural medicine in the Health Care system.

Education

- **“Presence of Mind Film Club”** – second year (4 semesters) of successful two-weekly informal discussions between medical students and health professionals or other invited guests (e.g. movie director) about psychical aspects of illness and healing, professional identity and other topics of interest introduced by a movie film.
- The Society started to sponsor a **“Hans Selye Special Price”** awarded in the frame of the “Annual Scientific Conference for Medical Students” to a student doing outstanding research in the field of behavioural medicine applied
- **Evidence-based Mental Health** course for PhD-students was hold this year again.
- **Behavioural medicine.** 2 semester course for graduate and postgraduate students.
- A new textbook ”Medical Psychology” is in press.

Ongoing research and health promotion programmes

- The database of the HUNGAROSTUDY2002 national representative survey realised in the framework of the project **“Biological and psychosocial factors of premature health deterioration and mortality in the middle-aged Hungarian population and the possibilities of prevention”** is now available, most members of our Society are involved in this data analysis. A series of health promotion and intervention programs will be started within this program, too.
- Homestart Program – health education for big families.
- Peer-helpers training, student counselling.

Planned activities:

31 August-2 September 2004, Budapest:, with the main topic: **“The role of behavioural medicine in understanding and preventing the mortality and morbidity crisis in the central-eastern european societies.”** A satellite conference of ICBM2004, Mainz. For more details please check the ‘‘1st announcement, call for proposals’’ document.

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