

There are four races (ethnicities) according to anthropologists: Caucasians (whites), Asiatics (Asians from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka), Black people (Africans and Caribbeans) and Orientals (from China, Japan and SE Asia).

It is widely known that cystic fibrosis is more common among whites and sickle cell disease is more prevalent among blacks. Whereas European doctors may have less expertise in prescribing appropriate methods of contraception for women with sickle cell disease, many overseas-trained doctors may have less expertise in prescribing suitable contraception for young European women with cystic fibrosis. Expecting that knowledge may be lacking in these groups of doctors and nurses, and providing appropriate training, can successfully narrow the education-gap.

To deny transcultural, religious and ethnic needs and their diversity is akin to denying the law of gravity. Where a health professional of one ethnic group is dealing with a patient from another, it is vital to understand each other's background and to be prepared to negotiate. After all, the patient is the most important person in medicine.

Bashir Qureshi, FRCGP, MFFP, DCH, AFOM, *GP in West London, author of 'Transcultural Medicine', and an expert witness, Tel/Fax: 020 8570 4008*

References

- 1 Leckie D, Pinkersgill D. The 1998 Human Rights Act explained. London: The Stationery Office, 1999: 66–67.
- 2 Qureshi B. Transcultural medicine: dealing with patients from different cultures. Newbury: Librapharm (formerly Kluwer) Publishers, 2nd edition 1994: Preface ix.

Further reading

Russel A, Thompson MS. Introduction: Contraception across cultures. In: Russel A, Sobo EJ, Thompson MS (eds) *Contraception across cultures*. Oxford: Berg, 2000: 3.

What's in a name?

2001 brings a new title for the Journal; a name that acknowledges the increasing international readership and the broader remit of reproductive health care. The words 'family planning' have been retained in keeping with the title of the Faculty. However, at every meeting I have attended recently I have noted a growing groundswell of dissent to the use of this term. Is it an outmoded concept, inappropriate for the 21st century? If we drop the concept of planning families, are we colluding with irresponsible attitudes that deny the possibility that recreational heterosexual penetrative sex still carries procreational potential, despite contraception? Is the best method of

contraception is still to say 'no'? Do young people understand the word contraception? Is the older generation ready to enter the portals of a 'sexual health' service without embarrassment? What will this emerging specialty be called in 10 years time? How will it evolve over the next 10 years, and how important will the name be in shaping that evolution? Please join the debate and send your thoughts to journal@ffprhc.org.uk

Fran Reader

Honorary Editor

Journal of Family Planning and Reproductive Health Care

The Journal of Family Planning and Reproductive Health Care – Peer Reviewers 2000

Dr Lesley Bacon, Dr Urszula Bankowska, Dr Deborah Beere, Dr Anne Bennett, Dr Sharon Bodard, Mrs Walli Bounds, Mr Peter Bowen-Simpkin, Dr Nanas Callander, Dr Jane Campbell, Dr Elizabeth Carlin, Dr Susan Carr, Dr Ruth Clancy, Dr Michael L Cox, Dr Margaret Curtis, Dr Elizabeth Devonald, Prof. Lindsay Edouard, Mr Hani W Fawzi, Mr Babatunde A Gbolade, Dr Suanda Gupta, Dr Kate Guthrie, Prof. Phil Hannaford, Mr Guy Hartfall, Dr David Hicks, Dr Rebecca Hobbs, Dr Barbara Hollingworth, Dr Jennifer Hopwood, Dr Rachel Joce, Dr Louise Kane, Dr Brian Kebble, Dr Rosemary Kirkman, Dr Kate Kirkwood, Dr Meera Kishen, Dr Ali Kubba, Dr Katie Law, Dr Emma Manson, Dr Diana Mansour, Dr Asun de Margaiegui, Dr Caroline Marfleet, Dr Martin Marshall, Dr John McEwan, Miss Heather Mellows, Miss Angela Mills, Dr Judy Murty, Dr Kate Nash, Dr Robert Nightgale, Dr Paul O'Brien, Mr Anthony Parsons, Dr Mary Poulton, Dr Catriona Reid, Dr Helen Ribbans, Dr Sam Rowlands, Dr Caroline Sadler, Dr Mary Scott, Dr Stephen Searle, Dr Jacqueline Sherrard, Dr Connie Smith, Dr Lindsay Smith, Dr Sue Smith, Dr Karen Stein, Dr Imogen Stephens, Mr Peter Stewart, Dr Petrus Steyn, Dr Anne Szarewski, Dr K Joo Thong, Dr Catherine Tupper, Dr Gillian Vanhegan, Dr Martyn Walling, Dr Gillian Wandless, Dr Ann Webb, Dr Chris Wilkinson.