# Improving recruitment in psychiatry

Improving recruitment to psychiatry concerns all of us who have an interest in the future of the profession. Turning things around requires action on many fronts, and it is certainly taking up a lot of my time. For example, I am continuing my World Tour (OK, it's only a UK tour, but World Tour sounds better) of every medical school to talk to the students/Psych Socs – if I haven’t darkened the doors of your local medical school yet, [please let me know](email:lheyward@rcpsych.ac.uk).

We are actively working to counter the various misperceptions about psychiatry that deter people from pursuing a career – such as that our patients never get better, or that psychiatry isn’t scientific. Our patients do get better, and we are as scientific as any other discipline (people confuse being technological, which generally is not a strength of psychiatry, with being scientific – they are not the same).

And I know I go on about this, but definitely don’t look away now, but the single most important thing happening, that if managed well, will indeed turn around recruitment, remains the huge changes in the Foundation Year programme, as we move from a situation in which no Foundation Year doctors do psychiatry, to one in which half will.

Anyway, here is a [little aide memoire from Tom Brown](http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/discoverpsychiatry/prip-promotingpsychiatry/whatcanido.aspx), who has been flying the flag of improving recruitment for us, which lists the various things that all of us can do, wherever we are, and whatever our role in psychiatry is.

Take a read. And if you are not doing any of these, well, you should be. There is still time to make a difference!

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