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Professor Dinesh Bhugra, whose illustrious career in psychiatry spans nearly 5 decades, continues to collaborate with healthcare professionals, policymakers, patients, and caregiver groups worldwide, assuming multifaceted roles with unparalleled dedication (Mohammadi, 2017). As a distinguished educator, researcher, writer, and mentor, he bridges diverse disciplines with a profound impact. His academic credentials, earned from globally renowned institutions, stand as a testament to his intellectual eminence. In recognition of his monumental contributions, he was awarded the prestigious Commander of the British Empire (CBE) in Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II New Year Honours in 2012.

Professor Bhugra is universally acclaimed as a preeminent psychiatrist and a venerated advocate for social justice and equal rights, particularly in underserved and low-income nations. His global stature is exemplified through his presidency of the Royal College of Psychiatrists (RCPsych) from 2008 to 2011, during which he became the first person of Asian heritage to hold the office. He subsequently was elected as President of the World Psychiatric Association (WPA) from 2014 to 2017 and the British Medical Association (BMA) from 2018 to 2019.

As RCPsych President, Professor Bhugra represented over 15,000 psychiatrists worldwide, chairing the College Council, the International Advisory Committee, and numerous other key organisations to develop and implement policy. His leadership fostered collaborations with government ministers, senior hospital executives, and medical directors, addressing critical issues such as service planning and workforce training. His tenure was marked by the production of influential policy documents, including *The Role of the Consultant Psychiatrist*, *Managing Self-Harm*, *Impact of Economic Downturn on Services*, and *No Public Health Without Mental Health*.

During his presidency of the WPA, Professor Bhugra's visionary leadership drove transformative campaigns addressing discrimination against individuals with mental illnesses (Ventriglio & Bhugra, 2015). His research revealed that despite being signatories to the UN Charter, only 40% of nations ensured equal legal rights for individuals with mental illnesses in areas such as voting, property inheritance, marriage, and employment. In response, he authored and launched a Bill of Rights in the UK House of Lords, endorsed by 60 national and international organizations (Bhugra, 2016). He spearheaded the "Blue Butterfly" campaign for social justice and health equity and introduced rights charters for individuals with intellectual disabilities and for children and young people.

Professor Bhugra also led efforts to combat anti-LGBTQ+ discrimination. He was instrumental in drafting anti-conversion therapy statements and provided expert testimony in Kenyan and Singaporean courts to advocate for the decriminalization of same-sex relationships. In India, he supported legal efforts to repeal Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, a law that criminalized same-sex relationships. His commitment to human rights, equity, and social justice has left a profound global legacy.

As BMA President, Professor Bhugra championed mental health equity, launching campaigns to bridge the gap between mental and physical health care. He led groundbreaking surveys on burnout and mental well-being among UK doctors and medical students, with over 4,300 responses revealing alarmingly high rates of burnout (Molodynski et al., 2019). Building on this, he directed an international survey across 25 countries, highlighting significant

challenges faced by medical students, including reliance on drugs and alcohol as coping mechanisms. These findings informed the development of a charter encouraging medical schools worldwide to prioritize mental health support.

Professor Bhugra is a founding trustee and patron of The Center for Applied Research and Evaluation – International Foundation (CARE-IF), established in 2006. Through CAREIF, he has shaped numerous mental health initiatives, including the seminal CAREIF/WPA Global Survey on Mental Health Well-being, launched in the UK House of Lords in 2016, and the 2022 report on improving the mental health of South Asians in the UK. He is currently spearheading research into the mental health needs of Indo-Caribbean communities in the UK.

A pioneer in Geopsychiatry, Professor Bhugra has established this interdisciplinary field, which examines the nexus of geopolitical events and psychiatric practice across ages and subspecialties. He has founded Geopsychiatry Centers in Brazil, Egypt, India, Pakistan, Paraguay, Switzerland, and the Philippines to advance research, policy, and clinical applications. As the inaugural editor of the *Journal of Geopsychiatry*, set to launch in January 2025, he is overseeing the publication of two definitive textbooks, *Principles of Geopsychiatry* and *Geopolitical Determinants of Mental Health*, under the auspices of leading academic publishers.

A prolific writer, Professor Bhugra has authored or co-authored over 500 scientific papers, chapters, and editorials, alongside 47 books, three of which have been translated into Mandarin and Japanese. He has generously donated the royalties from his most recent books to health charities, including the Patients Association, the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund, and CAREIF. As esteemed editor of the *International Journal of Social Psychiatry* (a role he held until December 2024) and the *International Review of Psychiatry*, he has ensured global representation on editorial boards and within published works. His editorial projects also include the 12-volume Oxford Series on Cultural Psychiatry and the *Oxford Textbook of Migrant Psychiatry*, which features contributions from 134 authors across 24 countries. In 2022, he co-edited the *Oxford Textbook of Social Psychiatry* and served as senior editor of the award-winning *Oxford Textbook of Public Mental Health*, recognized as Psychiatry Book of the Year in the BMA Awards in 2019. His thematic issue on the mental health impact of COVID-19, co-edited with colleagues from Sweden, Italy, and Germany for *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, featured over 40 papers.

Beyond academia, Professor Bhugra is a tireless advocate for mental health awareness through media and the arts. As patron of the UK South Asian Film Festival, he has fostered collaborations showcasing the intersection of mental illness and urban violence in cinema. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he developed resources to support the mental health needs of artists in the film industry.

Professor Bhugra's contributions have been recognized through numerous accolades, including honors from the American Psychiatric Association, the American College of Psychiatrists, the Hong Kong College of Psychiatrists and named "Doctor Honoris Causa" by the Universidad Nacional de Asunción, Paraguay, in recognition of his remarkable contribution to the development of psychiatry in South America. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame of the Armed Forces Medical College, Pune, and has his name associated with mental health care facilities.

A regular contributor to mainstream and ethnic media, Professor Bhugra has been featured in *The New York Times*, *The New Statesman*, *Asian Voice*, and *Eastern Eye*. His enduring commitment to mentoring the next generation of mental health professionals, particularly from low-income countries, ensures his legacy will resonate for years to come. Professor Dinesh Bhugra remains an extraordinary icon in the field of psychiatry in this 21st century, his influence continues to inspire and shape the future of mental health across the globe.

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