F2.5
Teaching Psychosis Using The Web
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There are limited opportunities for medical and other health profession students to observe and examine (to learn from) patients with pathological conditions. In all cases the patient must agree to participate, and can only do so if they have the ‘capacity to make decisions’.

Teachers have attempted to overcome this problem by making images or some other form of recording is made to be re-used at a later time. However, while the patient may agree at time A (when the image is made) at a later time B (when students are to study these images), the patient will not be present, and it will not be clear as to whether they would still be in agreement for this material to be used.

We are of the opinion that information which is widely available on the internet can be used for teaching purposes, without concerns about privacy and permission.

We draw attention to two cases which will be of interest to teachers of psychosis.

One concerns a woman who is psychotic and whose story is available at:

The other concerns a man with bipolar disorder, who had a movie made of one of his psychotic episodes. This was called "A Bipolar Expedition" - it can be found and watched (free of charge) using a search engine.

The presentation will take the form of a commentary of these cases, and the suggestion that they may be used for teaching purposes.

Theme: Disaster Mental Health

F2.6
Disappearance of Flight MH370: Lessons Learned on Psychosocial Response to an Unprecedented Disaster

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A disaster is defined as a sudden accident or a natural catastrophe that causes great damage or loss of life. The recent disappearance of flight MH370 can be included in this definition. The event was unprecedented, similar to the unprecedented natural events. However, this catastrophe was probably linked to human or technical causes. In contrast to other disaster responses, this event required mental health experts to become first-line respondents when often, they are usually second or third line response personnel.

This event was unique in a number of ways. The first was how quickly the news disseminated through new media such as Twitter and Facebook causing confusion. The victims were also mainly foreigners, and these too were mainly the next of kin. The aircraft was also considered to have disappeared, resulting in grieving which was “ambiguous”. However, despite this a number of lessons were learnt from this event including (1) the need to co-ordinate effort efficiently from various agencies to cater for various demands in the chaotic environment (2) have effective authorized leaders with supportive multi-agency team members (3) provide accurate and consistent disaster response information at regular intervals.