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## 1st Quarter 1998

### GREETINGS

A moment of reflection is called for as we approach the midpoint of the WPA 1996-1999 period; reflection on the walk already walked and reflection on the emerging challenges ahead of us. Many of our initial endeavors have been aimed at strengthening the institutional bases of the World Psychiatric Association, a task still in progress. The General Assembly of 25 August 1996 furnished us with renovated Statutes and By-Laws, prepared under the leadership of the current WPA President Professor Norman Sartorius. They highlighted eighteen organizational zones across five world regions as well as new programmatic emphases on educational matters and consensus statements, in addition to long standing commitments to ethical standards, scientific efforts, meetings and publications.

Recognizing that the life of WPA, as an Association of Associations, fundamentally depends on fluid communication, steps were completed to produce the first edition of the Directory of WPA Components (Executive Committee, Council, Zonal Representatives, Standing Committees, Task Forces, Scientific Sections and Members Societies), to print an Informational Folder outlining the history, structure and activities of WPA, to edit WPA News as a quarterly bulletin presently in its fourth issue (which we hope Zonal Representatives and Member Societies will consider disseminating locally as much as possible) and to establish the presence of our organization in the World Wide Web as a vehicle for information and interactive communication. Ongoing infrastructural developments include the processing of the WPA General Survey, which has attained a 93% response rate, and the preparation of the Manual of Procedures, currently a draft under review.

Substantial achievements have been attained in the areas of ethical standards (through the dissemination and implementation of the Madrid Declaration), education (rejuvenation of our Association's educational enterprise and building an educational liaison network for identifying local needs and facilitating program implementation), meetings (organization of six Regional Meetings and Thematic Conferences since 1997 and ongoing preparation of World Congresses in Hamburg in 1999 and Yokohama in 2002, which will follow the award-winning 1996 World Congress in Madrid), Scientific Sections (growth in productivity and number, currently 48, of these fundamental units, and the promotion of collaboration through cross-Sectional workgroups), publications (launching of two series of books and of a series of Forums in Current Opinion in Psychiatry, WPA's official journal) and finances (systematization of WPA accounting and allocation of resources to support the work of Zonal Representatives and Scientific Sections). A full mid-period report of the Executive Committee to Member Societies and other WPA Components is under preparation.

Nevertheless, major challenges lie ahead concerning productivity and quality in each one of the areas outlined above in order to bring the potential of the World Psychiatric Association to fruition. Among other efforts, we need to improve communication at every level, to make the financial status of the WPA and its various programs fully transparent, and to engage more actively in international developments to advance the cause of mental health across the world. Crucial in this regard will be an increasingly dynamic and effective participation of Member Societies and Zonal Representatives in the life of our organization. Together we shall succeed!

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## **New Arrivals in the WPA Family**

The Azerbaijanian Psychiatric Association, presided by Professor Nadir Ismailov, recently completed all admission requirements and became the 108th Member Society of the World Psychiatric Association and part of our Eastern European Zone. Warmest welcome to our colleagues from Azerbaijan! With them, our family of Full Members now spans 90 countries across all world regions.

Currently in process is the application to Member Society status submitted by the Armenian Psychiatric Association. At a recent meeting in Jaipur, India, the Executive Committee reviewed the results of statutory consultations on this application and agreed for ad-hoc admission to become effective upon receipt of pending documentation by the Secretary General.

Concerning the new category of Affiliated Association, the Executive Committee considered in Jaipur the positive results of statutory consultations on the fully completed application of the Danubian Psychiatric Association, and agreed to its admission on an ad-hoc basis. This regional organization joins the Romanian League for Mental Health, admitted in 1997, as the first two establishing this form of affiliation with the World Psychiatric Association.

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## **Recent Regional Meetings and Thematic Conferences**

On November 16-21, 1997 a WPA Thematic Conference took place in Jerusalem organized by the Israeli Psychiatric Association. With "Integration of Pharmaco- and Psycho-Therapies" as overall theme, it offered a rich program of plenary lectures, symposia and free communications in addition to a delightful cultural program. One of its highlights was a stimulating roundtable on the "Identity of the Psychiatrist and the Synthesis of Psycho- and Pharmacotherapies", with the participation of representatives from Belgium, Byelorussia, Croatia, France, Hungary, India, Italy, Israel, Korea, Lithuania, Russia, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States. Additionally, the WPA President and Secretary General held an information exchange meeting with Member Society representatives and Section officers attending the Conference.

Inaugurating the New Year, on January 4-8, 1998, the Indian Psychiatric Society hosted a WPA Regional Meeting and celebrated its 50th year Jubilee in the colorful Jaipur, capital of the state of Rajasthan. The main topic was "Free the Society from the Stigma of Mental Illness", covered through a variety of educational formats, including a teleconference by satellite with colleagues in the United States. Particularly well attended was a presentation of WPA Educational Programs by members of the Executive Committee, who also held a business meeting around the days of this Regional event.

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## **New Developments on Educational Activities**

The Overview Module of the WPA/PTD Educational Program on Depressive Disorders has been recently distributed to about 70 institutions selected by our Member Societies. These institutions have submitted plans for using the program to the Secretary for Education, Professor

Roger Montenegro, and agreed to report in due course on the results they obtain. Also, the Program on Core Curriculum in Psychiatry for Medical Students is being distributed to Member Societies. They are invited to translate the booklet to their local language; some have already responded positively. The Core Curriculum program is being posted on the WPA Website ([www.wpanet.org](http://www.wpanet.org)).

The Members of the WPA Network for Educational Activities have received their first communication from the Secretary for Education, explaining what is expected of them. Some have already submitted their work plan for 1998.

Last but not least, the Standing Committee on Education will meet this April to work on several issues, including curriculum, credits and WPA settings for continuing medical education, development of a standard format for evaluation and monitoring of the use of Educational Programs, and exploration of additional educational opportunities through the internet.

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### **Special Projects Generated by Our Scientific Sections**

At the recent meeting of the Executive Committee in Jaipur, the Secretary for Sections, Professor Ahmed Okasha, presented proposals for support from funds approved in October of 1997. One concerned the formation of a Cross-Sectional Work Group on Violence organized by Dr. Eliot Sorel, chair of the Section on Conflict Management and Resolution, for which \$ 5,000 was allocated. Another involved the completion of an Educational Program on International Guidelines for Diagnostic Assessment proposed by Professor R. Srinivasa Murthy, co-chair of the Section on Classification and Diagnostic Assessment, for which \$ 10,000 was allocated. The Section on Women's Mental Health, chaired by Professor Ian Brockington, requested and obtained modest support to hold a Section teleconference to prepare educational activities in its field of competence. More broadly, the Secretary for Education, Professor Roger Montenegro, in collaboration with Professor Okasha, is communicating with our 48 Scientific Sections to encourage them to consider developing projects which could become WPA Educational Programs in due course. Several Section chairs have already responded enthusiastically.

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### **WPA Interactions with International Organizations**

The World Psychiatric Association maintains official relations with the United Nations and several of its agencies. Within this framework, WPA will officially participate in the United National General Assembly Special Session on Narcotic Drugs to take place in New York on 8-10 June, 1998. Public health, social development and human rights issues will be discussed and a Draft Declaration on Guiding Principles for Drug Demand Reduction will be considered for adoption.

Close relations are maintained with the World Health Organization, in particular with its Division of Mental Health and Prevention of Substance Abuse. In collaboration with them and with various Russian organizations, a WHO-WPA event is being planned to take place in Moscow at a date to be announced.

Another UN agency with which WPA has been communicating is the United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organization (UNESCO) based in Paris. We will be exploring their interest in our recently completed Educational Program on Core Curriculum in Psychiatry for Medical Students.

Among non-governmental organizations, long-standing relations based on thematic commonalities have been kept with the World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH). The pace of these interactions is likely to increase through cooperation in conferences and projects, such as an upcoming WFMH Symposium "From Research to Advocacy: Partners in Mental Health Overcoming Barriers in Collaboration" to take place in Maastricht, the Netherlands, on 4-8 March 1998.

In recent months, WPA received a request from the Ukrainian Ministry of Health to provide scientific consultation on an issue involving therapeutic modalities for mental health. The Executive Committee appointed Professor János Füredi of Budapest to conduct this consultation.

Also of interest are the prizes awarded by the International Association of Professional Congress Organizers to the Organizing Committee (chaired by WPA President-Elect, Professor Juan José Lopez-Ibor, Jr.) and the PCO (TILESA) of the successful X World Congress of Psychiatry in Madrid.

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### **Evaluation of WPA Financial Performance in Progress**

WPA Secretary for Finance, Professor Marianne Kastrup, is in the process of evaluating the status of the 1997 budget, which includes as major income categories membership dues, service to WPA Congresses, and Educational Programs overhead, and as major expense categories the Secretariat, the Executive Committee, and other WPA components. She plans to present a report on this budget and the various WPA accounts at the April Meeting of the Executive Committee, to be followed by a report to Member Societies and other components of WPA.

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### **Recent Communicational and Structural Efforts at the WPA Secretariat**

Work with Zonal Representatives has focused mainly on the formulation of individualized zonal work plans, four fifths of which have been completed at this time (the few remaining ones are in the process of being completed). The modest funding accorded by the Executive Committee in 1997 to support properly planned zonal work is being disbursed to Zonal Representatives at levels dependent on type of zone, i.e. US \$250 for a one-country zone, \$ 1,000 for a regular multi-country zone, and \$ 2,000 for a low-income multi-country zone.

Work on the WPA Website, initially established during the second half of 1997, has continued in a step wise manner. At present, it includes a summary statement on the WPA, the latest and all previous issues of WPA News, information on the services, activities and structure of WPA, with an emphasis on Educational Activities and the upcoming XI World Congress of Psychiatry.

Preparation of the Manual of Procedures has been a major focus of work during the past six months. This is an instrument to enhance the systematization, effectiveness and transparency of WPA operations, which complements and is consistent with the Statutes and By-Laws. The Secretary General obtained contributions from virtually all Executive Committee members in their respective areas of responsibility, wrote the remaining sections and chapters, and edited the whole manuscript for administrative coherence and stylistic consistency. The

first full draft was presented at the Executive Committee (EC) meeting this January and is currently under review by EC members themselves, the Council, Zonal Representatives and two technical consultants. A revised draft is expected to be thoroughly reviewed by the EC this April.

Another major effort of the Secretariat in recent months has been conducting of a WPA General Survey, intended to obtain the views of all Member Societies, Sections and other WPA components on the extent to which the goals and principal tasks of WPA are being accomplished as well as to elicit suggestions for improvement, all to guide the formulation of policies and strategies for the next 1999-2002 WPA period. At press time, 93% of the approximately 200 questionnaires distributed have been completed. They are being analyzed for a report to be presented to the EC this April, and then disseminated widely.

Finally, the Secretariat prepared recently a plan for a short Annual Report from Member Societies and Zonal Representatives, covering, within one page, address updates and information on organizational status and activities. The plan was approved at the latest Executive Committee meeting and the report form is now being distributed for completion.

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### **Publication of Ethics Debates Arousing Keen Interest**

Under the leadership of Professor Mario Maj, WPA Secretary for Publications, a recent issue of Current Opinion in Psychiatry published a special forum on "Psychiatrists and the Death Penalty" connected to the Madrid Declaration on Ethical Standards for Psychiatric Practice. It included an introduction by Professor Ahmed Okasha, chair of the Ethics Committee that developed the Madrid Declaration, a keynote article entitled "A crisis in the ethical and moral behavior of psychiatrists" by Professors Alfred Freedman and Abraham Halpern, several commentary articles by Professors J. Gunn, L. Hartmann, E.D. Pellegrino, R.J. Bonnie, M.G. Bloche, P.S. Appelbaum, M.C. Kastrup, A. Okasha and J.J. Lopez-Ibor, and a response by Professors Freedman and Halpern. Stimulated by the interest generated by this forum, the Secretary for Publications is planning a new one to focus on the views of psychiatric patients or consumers on the Madrid Declaration.

On another publication line, the preparation of the first two volumes of the WPA Expert Series on Clinical Psychiatry is proceeding well. A list of prospective contributors to these volumes, which will deal with schizophrenia and depressive disorders, has been recently compiled.

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### **UNESCO on Bioethics and Human Dignity**

Few scientific developments relevant to psychiatry and mental health are as fascinating and challenging as those involving genetics. In this connection it is of interest to note that UNESCO's International Bioethics Committee presented a draft Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights at the 29th Session of the Organization's General Conference on October 21- November 12, 1997. It attempts to respond to the need to protect the dignity of every individual from dangers inherent in the striking progress being made in the field of genetics, and to ensure a just distribution of the benefits.

With this Declaration, researchers, clinicians, politicians, opinion leaders, and ordinary citizens will be able to refer to an international line of bioethical conduct and to a more thoughtful consideration of the promised progress and potential risks of genetics research. The draft

Declaration emphasizes that the human genome is part of humanity's heritage and that any research, diagnostics or treatment involving the genome shall be undertaken only after rigorous assessment of risks and benefits. Furthermore, the right of every individual to decide whether or not to be informed on the results and consequences of genetic examination should be respected.

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### **Proposed WHO's World Health Declaration**

An especially important meeting of the WHO Executive Board took place in Geneva on 19-28 January 1998, at which WPA was formally represented. Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, former Prime Minister of Norway, was nominated to become the fifth WHO Director General in the 50 years of the Organization's existence. The Board also considered a new global health policy, Health for All in the 21st Century, and on the basis of this a World Health Declaration, both proposed for adoption by the World Health Assembly this May. The draft Declaration starts as follows:

*We, the Member States of the World Health Organization (WHO), reaffirm our commitment to the principle enunciated in its Constitution that the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being; in doing so, we affirm the dignity and worth of every person, and the equal rights, equal duties and shared responsibilities of all for health. We recognize that people's health and well-being are the ultimate aim of social and economic development. We are committed to the ethical concepts of equity, solidarity and social justice and to the incorporation of a gender perspective into our strategies. It is imperative to pay the greatest attention to those most in need, burden by ill-health, receiving inadequate services for health or affected by poverty. We emphasize that health improves when social and economic inequities are reduced*

Later it states: *We recommit ourselves to ensure universal access to health services that are based on scientific evidence, of good quality and affordable. And further: We recognize that in working towards health for all, all nations, communities, families and individuals are interdependent. As a community of nations, we will act together to meet common threats to health and to promote universal well-being.*

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### **The 1998 Lilly Schizophrenia Reintegration Awards**

The Lilly Schizophrenia Reintegration Awards are designed to recognize and reward outstanding achievement in helping patients with schizophrenia reintegrate back into society.

The Award Scheme is conducted in three regions: Eastern Mediterranean, Latin America and Europe.

Entries are invited in the following categories: Professional/Public (including clinical medicine, nursing, social work and community action), Journalism (including print and broadcast).

The winners selected from each category will be invited to one of this year's WPA meetings: Eastern Mediterranean - Kaslik, Lebanon (15-17th April 1998), Europe - Geneva, Switzerland (7th-10th October 1998), Latin America - Guadalajara, Mexico (28th-30th October 1998).

Award winners will receive a Certificate of Excellence, a commemorative trophy and an educational grant to include travel, hotel and congress registration expenses for one person to attend the relevant WPA regional meeting to receive their award. Winners of the Clinical Medicine and Community Action categories will also be awarded US \$5,000 to be contributed to a charity or not-for-profit institution of the winner's choice.

For further information please contact the Lilly Schizophrenia Reintegration Awards, 3rd fl. , Communications Building, 48 Leicester Square London, WC2H 7LJ, UK Tel. 44 171 331 5300, Fax 44 171 331 9083.

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### **UPCOMING WPA CONGRESSES AND MEETINGS**

Secretary for Meetings, Professor Driss Moussaoui,  
coordinates these events and welcomes initiatives for new ones.  
Fax: (212-2) 294-707, E-mail: psych@casanet.net.ma

March 27th – 28th, 1998, WPA Co-Sponsored Meeting in Barcelona, Spain, Hypochondriasis.

Contact: Professor C. Diez-Quevedo, Fax: (34-3) 395-4206.

April 1st – 4th, 1998, WPA Co-Sponsored XII Central American Congress of Psychiatry in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

Contact: Dr. J. Américo Reyes, Fax: (504) 372-192.

April 15th – 17th , 1998, WPA Thematic Conference in Kaslik, Lebanon, Impact of New Knowledge on the Practice of Psychiatry.

Contact: Professor F. Antun, Fax: (961-9) 211-734.

May 9th-10th,1988, Meeting of the WPA Section on Psychiatry, Law and Ethics, in collaboration with the German Academy of Psychoanalysis, in Berlin, Germany, Legal and Ethical Aspects of Medical Experimentation.

Contact: Professor A. Carmi, Fax: (972-4) 838-1587,(49-30) 313-6959.

June 1998, WPA Co-Sponsored Meeting in Madrid, Spain, Alzheimer's Disease and Public Health: A Challenge for the Next Century.

Contact: Dr. J and M. Antoine Selmes, Fax: (34-1) 4579-5442.

August 17th-21st, 1998.WPA Co-Sponsored XVI Congress of the World Association for Social Psychiatry in Vancouver, Canada, The Global Information Network and the Future of Psychiatry and Medicine.

Contact: Prof. E. Sorel Fax:(1-202) 785-9328

September 8th-11th, 1998, WPA Regional Meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa, (in conjunction with the Biennial Congress of the Society of Psychiatrists of South Africa/Association of Psychiatrists in Africa).

Contact: Dr. M. Vorster Fax: (27-11) 956-6941 E-mail:sapsych@jhb.lia.net

September 29th-October 3rd,1998, WPA Co-Sponsored 34th Turkish National Psychiatry Congress and International Symposium in Izmir, Turkey, Culture and Diagnosis Across the World.

Contact:Dr. L. Küey Fax:(90-232) 422-3805

October 8th-10th, 1998, WPA Thematic Conference in Geneva, Switzerland, Manage or Perish?

Contact: Prof. J. Guimon Fax: (41-22) 305-5799

October 15th-17th, 1998, WPA Co-Sponsored IV Congress of the International Wernicke-Kleist-Leonhard Society in Göttingen,

Germany.

Contact: Prof. H. Beckman Fax: (49-931) 203-427

October 15th-17th, 1998, WPA Co-Sponsored V World Congress of the International Association for Emergency Psychiatry in Brussels, Belgium, Emergency Psychiatry in a Changing Society.

Contact: Prof. M. De Clercq Fax: (32-2)764-8921

October 19th-23rd, 1998, WPA Co-Sponsored XX Congress of the Latin American Psychiatric Association in La Habana, Cuba, Humanism, Integrity and Equity.

Contact: Prof. R. Montenegro Fax: (54-1) 821-4540

October 28th-31st, 1998, WPA Regional Meeting in Guadalajara, Mexico, New Foci in Psychiatry.

Contact: Dr. L. Ruiz-Flores Fax: (525) 652 5516

November 6th-8th, 1998, WPA Co-Sponsored Annual Conference of the Bulgarian Psychiatric Association in Sofia, Bulgaria, Economics and Mental Health.

Contact: Dr. B. Boyadjiev Fax: (35-92) 591-119

November 19th-21st, 1998, Co-Sponsored Meeting in Bratislava, Slovakia, Reintegration of Psychosocial Disabled People: Present State and Perspectives.

Contact: Dr. P. Nawka, Psychiatricka nemocnica, SK-07101 Michalovce, Slovakia.

November 27th-28th, 1998, WPA Co-Sponsored Meeting in Madrid, Spain, Alzheimer's Disease and Public Health: A Challenge for the Next Century.

Contact: Dr. J. and M. Antoine Selmes Fax: (34-91) 4579-5442. E-mail: alzheuro@lander.es

December 12th, 1998, WPA Co-Sponsored XX Annual Meeting of the Casablanca League for Mental Health in Casablanca, Morocco, Challenges of Mental Health for the XXI Century.

Contact: Prof. D. Moussaoui Fax: (212-2) 294-707 E-mail: psych@casanet.net.ma

March 27th – 28th, 1998, WPA Co-Sponsored Meeting in Barcelona, Spain, Hypochondriasis.

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Contact: Dr. J and M. Antoine Selmes, Fax: (34-1) 4579-5442.

January 22, 1999, WPA International Symposium on The City and Mental Health, New York, USA.

Contact: Prof. Juan E. Mezzich, Fax: (1-212) 426-0437, E-mail: wpa@dti.net

February 24-27, 1999, WPA Regional Congress, Athens, Greece, Preventive Psychiatry.

Contact: Pr. G. Christodoulou, Fax: (301) 724-2032. E-mail: gnchrist@compulink.gr

March 15-17, 1999, WPA Thematic Conference, Granada, Spain, The Community Care of the Long Term Mentally Ill Patients.

Contact: Pr. F. Torres-González, Fax: (34-958) 275-214. E-mail: ftorres@goliat.ugr.es

March 17-21, 1999, WPA Co-Sponsored 12th World Congress of the World Association for Dynamic Psychiatry, Berlin, Germany, Schizophrenia and Borderline Disorders, a Challenge for Science and Society.

Contact: Pr. M.M. Kabanov, Fax: (49-30) 313-6959.

March 20, 1999, WPA Co-Sponsored Symposium in Honor of Dr. Rodrigo Muñoz-Barragán, Santa Fé de Bogota, Colombia.



Contact: Pr. R. Muñoz-Tamayo, Fax: (57-1) 616-2706. E-mail: aokasha@internetegypt.com  
March 26-27, 1999, WPA Co-Sponsored 6th International Symposium about Controversies in Psychiatry, Dissociative States, Barcelona, Spain.

Contact: Dr. L. Sánchez Planell & Dr. C. Diez-Quevedo, Fax: (34-93) 395-4206, E-mail: crisanto.diez@uab.es  
April 16-20, 1999, WPA Co-Sponsored 15th World Congress of Psychosomatic Medicine, Athens, Greece.

Contact: Pr. G. Christodoulou, Fax: (30-1) 724-2032. E-mail: easytravel@hol.gr  
August 1-4, 1999, Meeting of the WPA Section of Epidemiology and Public Health, Turku, Finland, From Epidemiology to Clinical Practice, Satellite meeting of the XIth World Congress of Psychiatry.

Contact: Pr. V. Lehtinen, Stakes, Fax: (358-9) 3967-2155. E-mail: lehtinen@stakes.fi  
August 6-11, 1999, XI World Congress of Psychiatry, Hamburg, Germany, Psychiatry on New Thresholds.

Contact: Pr. W. Gaebel. Fax: (49-40) 670-3283. E-mail: cpo@wpa-hamburg.de <http://www.wpa-hamburg.de>  
November 2000, WPA Regional Meeting in Paris, France, From Clinical Practice to Research.

Contact: Dr. J. Garrabé, Fax: (33-1) 4278-3512.

2001, WPA Regional Meeting in Madrid, Spain, (specific date and theme to be announced).

Contact Professor J.J. Lopez-Ibor, Fax: (34-1) 316-2749.

August 24th -29th, 2002, XII World Congress of Psychiatry in Yokohama, Japan.

Contact: Professor Jiro Suzuki, Fax: (81-3) 3814-2991.