
3rd Quarter 1997

GREETINGS

The activation of the range of components making up the World Psychiatric Association (WPA) has been a major effort of the present trimester. The Zonal structure of WPA, critical to the full engagement of Member Societies, has been eregized by the appointment of pending Zonal Representatives and the preparation of Zonal work plans. A general survey of WPA components is in progress, aimed at appraising the functioning of the organization and eliciting recommendations to inform the development of new strategies and policies. For the first time in WPA history, its budget will not only cover central executive functions but also support activities of other crucial components such as our Scientific Sections and Zonal Representatives. Moreover the participation of the Executive Committee in Regional Meetings held in countries such as China, India and South Africa will be partially supported with central funds.

Illustrating the diversity of WPA activities, two import regional congresses recently took place, one in Geneva this April organized by President Normal Sartorius and the Université de Genève and another in Rome this June organized by major Italian institutions. Four new Sections have been established: Immunology and Psychiatry, Informatics and Telecommunications, Interdisciplinary Collaboration and Private Psychiatry; new Educational programs (Core Undergraduate Curriculum, International Guidelines for Diagnostic Assessment, among others) are being designed; and a major Consensus Statement on guidelines for geriatric psychiatric care has been recently completed.

Further worth noting are the steps deliberately taken to strengthen the functional infrastructure of WPA. The establishment of a WPA web site is expanding our communicational and informational capabilities. The Manual of Procedures, a long ambioned project to enhance the transparency and effectiveness of our operations, is finally in the works. Greater opportunities for stimulating exchanges and collaborative endeavors are ahead of us!

Azerbaijani, Bosnian and Cuban Societies Apply for Membership

Reflecting interest in WPA Membership emerging in various parts of the world, applications from the Azerbaijani, Bosnian and Cuban psychiatric societies have been received. They were reviewed favorably at recent meetings of the Executive Committee, and, in accordance to the new Statutes and By-Laws, have been sent for consultation to the Council, Zonal Representatives and Member Societies. The applicant Societies are also being asked to indicate if they endorse the Madrid Declaration on Ethical Standards.

The Roumanian League for Mental Health has applied for admission to the new category of Affiliated Association. After a favorable opinion of the Executive Committee, this application, as the ones noted above, is being discussed with Member Societies, Zonal Representatives and the Council of WPA.

Sections: Beginnings and Endings

The newest four Sections established by the Executive Committee this April at the recommendation of the Secretary for Sections Ahmed Okasha follow: Immunology in Psychiatry (chaired by Prof. Manfred Ackenheil from Germany), Informatics and Telecommunications (chaired by Prof. Pier Maria Furlan from Italy), Interdisciplinary Collaboration (chaired by Prof. Uriel Halbreich from the United States) and Private Psychiatry (chaired by Prof. Theodore Hovaguimian from Switzerland) Their ad-hoc admission will be up for confirmation at the next General Assembly in 1999.

Professor Montenegro can be contacted by fax at (54-1) 821-4540 and by Email:rogermontenegro@wpanet.org

WPA Engagement In Africa

The advancement of African Psychiatry is one of the commitments of the World Psychiatric Association. The achievement of this objective is largely based on the efforts of the Zonal Representatives for Northern Africa (Prof. Said Abdul Azim, Egypt), Western and Central Africa (Prof. Michael Olatawura, Nigeria), and Southern and Eastern Africa (Prof. Clifford Allwood, South Africa). Among the prospective activities on this continent, are a WPA Regional Congress in South Africa in late 1998 (to be partially supported by WPA), and the possible affiliation to WPA of the African Association of Psychiatrists. WPA central funds, as proposed by Secretary of Finance Marianne Kastrup, will be used to support in part the work plans being submitted by Zonal Representatives from this as well as other areas of the world.

WPA Survey In Progress

The questionnaire of a General Survey of WPA Components is being presently distributed. The purpose of this Survey is to obtain views, positive and negative, on the performance of WPA in general and for each of its activities. Its results shall decisively inform the development of strategies and policies to be approved by the next General Assembly in Hamburg, 1999. The Survey questionnaire is being sent to Members Society Presidents, Zonal Representatives, Section Officers, Standing Committee and Task Force Members, Council Members and the Executive Committee. Given its crucial importance, it is hoped that the questionnaire will be completed and faxed back promptly to the Secretariat. The Executive Committee thanks respondents in advance for their collaboration.

Publications In Development

Under the leadership of Secretary for Publications Mario Maj, a number of publishing ventures are being advanced. Current Opinion, the official journal of the World Psychiatric Association since January 1997, is publishing in each issue a WPA Page on current activities and plans. A new volume in the series Images of Psychiatry, dedicated to Japan, is in an advanced production stage. Two volumes centrally produced for the X World Congress of Psychiatry are in the works: one containing plenary lectures and another on selected contributions on schizophrenia. Also noteworthy is the ongoing preparation of guidelines to stimulate and systematize the development of publications originating from WPA World Congresses and Regional Meetings.

Recent WPA Regional Congresses

On April 23-26, 1997, a well attended WPA European Congress was held in Geneva, organized by Professor Norman Sartorius and the Université de Genève. Its thematic range, from Research to Practice, allowed for a variety of contributions from all corners of Europe. During its course, a meeting of Executive Committee members with the WPA Council (see special report) and another with Member Society Presidents, Section officers and other international leaders took place.

Two months later, on June 16-19, a Mediterranean Regional Meeting of WPA was held in Rome organized by the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, under the title "Psychiatry in the Three Ages of Man". A major theme involved evolutionary and developmental issues. One of its highlights was the presentation on Morphology and Mind by Nobel Prize Winner George Edelman from the United States.

Of related interest, a congress of the Latin American Psychiatric Association was held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, April 9-13, 1997. Under the title "Identity in Globalization", it was attended by 3,500 psychiatrists and other mental health professionals. It also offered an opportunity for a meeting of WPA Executive Committee members with the WPA Zonal Representatives for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean, for Northern South America and for Southern South America as well as with virtually all presidents of WPA Member Societies in Latin America.

WPA Presence at the APA Meeting in San Diego

On May 17 - 22, 1997 the American Psychiatric Association held its traditionally well attended Annual Meeting. During this event, Professor Herbert Sacks took over the presidency from Professor Harold Eist, who remains a member of the WPA Board of Zonal Representatives. Among other WPA activities in this meeting, WPA President Norman Sartorius was received by the APA Board of Trustees and then he and Secretary General Juan Mezzich met with the APA Council of International Affairs. Among the topics discussed were the possible organization of a WPA Regional Meeting in the United States and collaboration on scientific events in Africa and the Middle East as well as on consensus statements and educational programs. As part of the San Diego event, Professor Mezzich received the Simon Bolívar Award from APA President -Elect Rodrigo Muñoz.

The Zonal Structure: A Critical Feature of the WPA

The new zonal structure of our Association, adopted at the 1996 General Assembly, is a fundamental organizational tool to interconnect Member Societies and potentiate their activities with the Executive Committee and other WPA Components.

The Secretary General is coordinating with Zonal Representatives the elaboration of specific work plans to involve the participation of Member Societies in each Zone. Ensuring Zonal communication at all levels, face to face interactions and identification of professional needs and opportunities are important aspects of these workplans.

The Executive Committee is holding regular meetings with Zonal Representatives and Member Society leaders present at WPA regional

events. Also, it has introduced in the annual budget funds to support the work of Zonal Representatives in a step-wise manner.

The request of several Member Societies for zonal reassignment has been agreed to by the Executive Committee following statutory provisions. This way, the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Psychiatric Societies have been reassigned to the Northern European Zone, the Bulgarian and Roumanian to the Central European Zone, the Albanian to the Southern European Zone, and the Lebanese to the Middle East Zone. The Executive Committee has also, fulfilling statutory responsibilities, appointed Professors Salvador Cervera (Spain) and Igor Kutko (Ukraine) Zonal Representatives for Southern Europe and Eastern Europe, respectively.

Interactions with United Nations and its Agencies

Interactions with United Nations and its Agencies WPA maintains official relations with the United Nations and has representatives at UN sites in New York, Geneva and Vienna. The emphasis of these interactions is on mental health and human rights. Of particular importance are the relationships of WPA with the WHO Division of Mental Health and Prevention of Substance Abuse and with UNESCO, with both of which there is a long history of collaboration.

Council Met to Advise the Executive Committee

The WPA Council, consisting of all past Presidents and Secretaries General and members of the immediately preceding Executive Committee, met in Geneva on April 23, 1997 with current Executive Committee Members. Current officers presented reports on their respective areas of responsibility.

Council members commented and offered advice on several topics , particularly on the just initiated development of the Manual of Procedures, a project that had been in discussion for over a decade. Also commented on, in an encouraging way, was the greater involvement of the Sections in the life of WPA. Further attracting attention was the selection of the site for the XII World Congress of Psychiatry scheduled for 2,002, candidates for which include Cairo, Hong Kong, Jerusalem, New Delhi, Tokyo, Sydney and Vancouver.

Preparation of the XI World Congress of Psychiatry Moves Forward

The second announcement of the XI World Congress of Psychiatry is being widely distributed as a number of preparatory efforts continue vigorously. A summary of the announcement may be published in multiple languages. Member Societies, Zonal Representatives, the Council and the Sections are being asked to offer recommendations in order to finalize the listing and structure of scientific sessions and social activities. The financial plans in progress range from budget preparation and its discussion with the WPA Executive Committee to scheduling the availability of economical lodging. For further information, suggestions and prospective contributions, please contact Professor Wolfgang Gaebel (Organizing Committee chair). Prof. Juan J. Lopez-Ibor (Scientific Committee chair), or Prof. Juan E. Mezzich

(Fellowship Committee chair) at the Congress Secretariat, Fax: (49-40) 670-3283.

WPA In The Internet

The technological advances in world-wide communication and information represented by the Internet and its growing utilization in the various domains of human activity make its use compelling by the World Psychiatric Association. This may contribute to the effective integration of the various components of WPA and to enhance WPA's image across the world.

A first phase of the establishment of the WPA Web Site will present central features of the Association's organizational structure and major activities. A second phase will further develop the above and will attempt to integrate all Member Societies and other components in the net. The Secretariat will support Member Societies in the preparation of their distinctive presence in the Web Site. Member Societies which have their own home page, may be linked with through the WPA net. Other major aspects of the Web Site will be sections on WPA educational programs, Section activities, upcoming meetings and publications. Among the latter, the Madrid Declaration on Ethical Standards will be highlighted.

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

October 7-10, 1997 - WPA Regional Meeting in Beijing, "Schizophrenia, Dementia and Depression",
Contact: Professor Yu-Cun Shen, Institute of Mental Health, Beijing Medical University, Fax: (86-10) 6202-7314.

October 22-25, 1997 - WPA Regional Meeting in Santiago de Chile, "Anxiety and Depression Across the World",
Contact: Professor Andrés Heerlein, Fax: (56-2) 231-9287.

November 16-21, 1997 - WPA Thematic Conference in Jerusalem, "Synthesis Between Psychopharmacology and Psychotherapy",
Contact: Professor Sam Tyano, Fax: (972-3) 517-5674.

January 4th – 8th, 1998, WPA Regional Meeting in Jaipur, India, Free the Society from Stigma of Mental Illness (in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary of the Indian Psychiatric Society).

Contact: Professor S. Gautam, Fax: (91-14) 151-4072.

February 3rd – 5th, 1998, WPA Section Meeting in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, WPA Section on Mass Media and Mental Health.
Contact: Professor M.A. Materazzi, Fax: (54-1) 658-0430.

February 20th – 21st, 1998, WPA Section Meeting in Boston, USA, WPA Section on Interdisciplinary Cooperation.
Contact: U. Halbreich, Fax: (1-716) 892-0431, 1-617) 734-7915.

February 23rd – 25th, 1998, WPA Co-Sponsored Meeting in Tokyo, Japan, Rethinking Somatoform Disorders.

Contact: Professor Y. Ono, Department of Neuropsychiatry, Keio University School of Medicine, 35 Shinanomachi, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160, Japan.

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

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

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.

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

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