
3rd Quarter 1998

GREETINGS

A highlight of this Quarter was the WPA Regional Meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa on September 8-11, 1998. This was the first WPA Regional event in Sub-Saharan Africa, which symbolizes the emerging priority at WPA for the development of psychiatry in the African continent.

There are few parts of the world as challenging as Africa, the second largest continent, and the house of ancient civilizations of the highest order, from Pharaonic Egypt to Great Zimbabwe. Its 30 million square kilometers are populated by a variety of ethnic groups, most of them indigenous, with relatively small contingents from other lands (mainly European and Asian). Linguistic diversity is remarkable; eleven languages are spoken in the Republic of South Africa alone. Inscribed within this historical and cultural framework, and challenging African human resources to the maximum, huge social and health problems exist, exemplified by the highest rates of poverty and AIDS anywhere in the world. At the same time, health care resources are, in most of the continent, patently inadequate. There are fewer psychiatrists in the whole Sub-Saharan Africa than in some university departments of psychiatry in North America.

A second major infrastructural development, conducted by the Executive Committee, has been the preparation of the WPA Manual of Procedures. It is aimed at enhancing the effectiveness and transparency of all our operations. A second draft was presented this April in Beirut to the Executive Committee, which adopted it as a working draft. Upon its finalization in coming months, the Manual will be widely distributed.

Of relevance to these challenges, the origins and trajectory of the World Psychiatric Association denote the conviction that advancing psychiatry and mental health cannot be restricted to national boundaries. Attaining such objectives requires the collegial work of psychiatric organizations across the world, not only respecting cultural diversity, but also building on it. In line with this, WPA has held Regional or Thematic Conferences in China, India and Lebanon, in addition to South Africa, over the past year, as well as special encounters in Malaysia, Argentina and Kyrgyzstan in recent months. Our institutional eagerness to reach out widely is also expressed in the plurinational and multicultural composition of our Scientific Sections and the Educational Liaison Networks we have constructed with senior psychiatrists, young psychiatrists and psychiatrists-in-training representing our Member Societies from every corner of the world. Furthermore, one of our highest priorities is to strengthen WPA infrastructure and communications as reflected by our increasingly active Zonal Representatives, the unprecedented response rate obtained by the WPA General Survey earlier this year, and the action plan being prepared by the Executive Committee in response to it.

All of the above is to say that the concern of WPA to contribute to the building of African psychiatry is not incidental, but anchored in our institutional history, constitution, and pattern of activities. And we are starting to do it by building partnerships and working pointedly with our own components in the continent, namely with our Zonal Representatives and growing number of Member Societies in the Northern, Western and Central, and Southern and Eastern African Zones. Responding to this challenge reaffirms the vitality of our foundational spirit

and our highest ethical commitments. After all, in the words of the Peruvian poet César Vallejo, “there is, brothers, much to be done”.

KYRGYZIAN PSYCHIATRIC SOCIETY JOINS WPA

At its September meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa, the WPA Executive Committee admitted as a Member Society, on an ad-hoc basis, the Kyrgyz Scientific and Practical Society of Psychiatrists, Narcologists, Psychotherapists and Medical Psychologists, presided by Prof. Valery V. Solojenkin. We warmly welcome our newest Member Society!

Applications recently received and preliminarily reviewed by the Executive Committee in Johannesburg include those from the Chechen Republic Psychiatric Association, for Member Society, and from the Francophone International Federation of Psychiatry and the International Association of Ethnopsychologists and Ethnopsychiatrists, for Affiliated Association. Statutory consultations are now being conducted on these applications. During the Johannesburg Regional Meeting, a number of colleagues representing national psychiatric groups throughout Africa expressed interest in joining WPA. Several other applications are currently in progress as the WPA family continues to grow.

ZONAL REPRESENTATIVES' WORK AFFIRM THEIR ROLE WITHIN WPA

Zonal Representatives from all Zones, without exception, have submitted their Annual Reports for the preceding year to the Executive Committee. This process, in content and form, confirms the emerging importance of Zonal work for the World Psychiatric Association.

It is becoming clear that there are few things more crucial for the institutional future of WPA than the activating and coordinating role of Zonal Representatives. Furthermore, the reports enunciate the particular ways through which Zonal Representatives are assuming their responsibilities and delineating their roles within our Association.

The Zonal Work Plans have been gradually refined through interactions of the Zonal Representatives with Member Societies and Executive Committee members. These interactions have taken place through a diversity of contacts, particularly Zonal Meetings.

The WPA Secretariat has on file all Zonal Work Plans as well as the minutes of Zonal Meetings. From an aggregate analysis of these reports, the following points can be highlighted:

It is very encouraging to appreciate the list of 20 Zonal Meetings to date, the sites of which follow: 1) Lima, Peru, 2) Singapore, 3) Guatemala, 4) Mar del Plata, Argentina 5) Trondheim, Norway, 6) Kharkov, Ukraine, 7) Beijing, China 8) Visby, Sweden, 9) Santiago de Chile, Chile, 10) El Salvador, 11) Jerusalem, Israel, 12) Santiago de Compostela, Spain, 13) Port Moresby, Papua-New Guinea, 14) Tegucigalpa, Honduras, 15) Beirut, Lebanon, 16) Copenhagen, Denmark, 17) Toronto, Canada, 18) Petaling Jaya, Malaysia, 19) Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, and 20) Johannesburg, South Africa. Only three of them were based on EC/Regional Meetings (Beijing, Beirut and Johannesburg), which attests to the vitality and operational resourcefulness of our Zonal Representatives. They had to create

opportunities or take advantage of emerging ones.

The Zonal Representatives are adopting firm awareness and attitudes on what they can do institutionally, and this in turn is informing the development of the WPA Manual of Procedures.

They interact with the Presidents and other leaders of the Member Societies in their zones, at various levels of activity depending on the organization of the Societies and of the corresponding Zones.

Zonal Representatives feel they are enthusiastically supported by the Executive Committee, although the level of financial support is perceived as rather modest.

The Executive Committee in Johannesburg received with satisfaction a summary of this report, and agreed to organize a teleconference with Zonal Representatives towards the end of the year. A full analytic review of the Zonal Representatives Annual Reports, along with that of Member Societies, is being compiled, and will be soon printed and distributed to all WPA components.

WPA PREPARES ITSELF TO ELECT NEW LEADERS

The countdown for General Assembly to meet on August 8, 1999 at the XI World Congress of Psychiatry in Hamburg has already begun. One of the crucial tasks of the General Assembly is to elect new Executive Committee members and Zonal Representatives. The following Executive Committee posts will become vacant in August 1999: 1) President-Elect, 2) Secretary for Education, 3) Secretary for Publications and 4) Secretary for Sections. In addition, the posts of Zonal Representatives for Zones 1 (Canada), 5 (South America-Southern Zone), 6 (Western Europe), 8 (Southern Europe), 9 (Central Europe), 10 (Eastern Europe), 12 (Middle East and Arabic States), 13 (Central and Western Africa), 16 (Southern Asia), and 17 (Eastern Asia) will also be up for elections.

In accordance with our Statutes and By-laws, only full Member Societies can nominate candidates. Ad hoc Member Societies will be able to vote in Hamburg if formally admitted by the General Assembly before the electoral voting takes place. Also to be noted is that a candidate can be nominated for only one elective post. Electoral guidelines, including detailed requirements for each post and nomination forms, carefully designed by the Nominations Committee chaired by Prof. Norman Sartorius and incorporated into the WPA Manual of Procedures, have been already distributed to Member Societies. Additional copies are available from the Secretariat by request.

We encourage all Member Societies to take an active stand in the nominations and elections procedures. It is their choice on which the future of our Association relies. Please note that the nominations must reach the Secretary General no later than February 8, 1999.

NEW PERSPECTIVES FOR WPA EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

One of the core activities of Prof. Roger Montenegro, the WPA Secretary for Education, has been the creation of the WPA Educational Coordination Center. Its role is to facilitate and expedite exchanges of information and to harmonize various activities of WPA components in the field of psychiatric education.

The Educational Coordination Center has already developed several important projects, including the WPA Educational Liaison Network

(WPA ELN). WPA ELN members are expected to play a key role in the distribution, implementation and evaluation of WPA educational programs. Those WPA Member Societies which are not yet represented in this network are encouraged to nominate liaison persons from each of the three categories: Psychiatrists in Training, Young Psychiatrists, and Senior Psychiatrists.

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PIERRE DENIKER, PSYCHIATRIC PIONEER, DIESONCERN

On the 17th of August 1998, the eminent psychiatrist and psychopharmacologist Pierre Deniker completed in Paris a fulfilled life. Along with Jean Delay (first WPA President), he entered psychiatric history in 1952, when they discovered the antipsychotic effect of chlorpromazine. In connection with this finding, which profoundly influenced the course of psychiatry, Deniker and Laborit received in 1957 the coveted Lasker Prize.

Deniker, who experienced part of his childhood in China as a diplomat's son, later studied medicine and psychiatry, and in 1940 had the opportunity to work in Paris with Henry Ey, the first WPA Secretary General of WPA. He earned the Croix de Guerre for his active participation in the resistance against Nazism in France.

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XI WCP FELLOWSHIP NOMINATIONS BEING RECEIVED

XI WCP FELLOWSHIP NOMINATIONS BEING RECEIVED For the next World Congress of Psychiatry in Hamburg in August 1999, a Fellowship Committee, chaired by the Secretary General, has been working to design a financially and institutionally supported program for promising young psychiatrists from around the world. Primary nominators are Member Societies presidents, Zonal Representatives and heads of the

candidates' institutions. In addition to having superior educational and professional records and collaborative future perspectives, candidates must be under 35 years of age. We encourage all WPA leaders, particularly Presidents of Member Societies, to consider naming two or three worthy candidates. All Nominations and accompanying documents must be received by February 1, 1999. They should be addressed to the Chairman of the Fellowship Committee, Secretariat of the XI World Congress of Psychiatry, CPO Hanser Service, P.O. Box 1221 D-22882, Barsbüttel, Germany, fax: (49-40) 670-3283, E-mail: cpo@wpa-hamburg.de.

The Fellowship Program is a component of a wider WPA effort to support the development of our younger colleagues, which currently includes a special track at the XI WCP, a WPA Educational Program for Eastern Europe, and a WPA Educational Network involving young psychiatrists and psychiatrists in training.

UPDATE ON WPA PUBLICATIONS

WPA Secretary for Publications, Prof. Mario Maj, is planning a new series of fora to be published in the official journal of our Association, Current Opinion in Psychiatry.

In its September issue, a debate on Psychiatry and Medical education shall appear. A forum on views on the Madrid Declaration is planned for the January issue. Proposals for new fora include such topics as psychiatry and neuroscience, practicality of guidelines for psychiatric care, psychiatry and managed care, identity of a psychiatrist, and sexual disorders. All WPA colleagues are encouraged to send Prof. Maj their opinions on these proposals as well as new suggestions.

Prof. Maj is also continuing work on the publication of a WPA book series on Evidence and Experience in Psychiatry. A list of contributors for the first two volumes, on Depressive Disorders and on Schizophrenia, has been recently finalized. New volumes proposed would cover dementia and obsessive-compulsive disorder.

The WPA project on Images of Psychiatry is also progressing well. A volume on Japan is ready; another on German-speaking countries is due to come out soon. Next volumes planned are dedicated to Spain and to Latin America.

RECENT UPDATES TO THE WPA WEBSITE

Have you visited the WPA Website lately? If not, we invite you to take a look (<http://www.wpanet.org>). Our Website has just been rejuvenated: the overall design is now more elegant and consistent, the images are sharper and the site easier to navigate around. The lists of Member Societies and Scientific Sections have been updated to reflect the growth of our Association. More practical information, such as contact addresses for EC members and a more comprehensive list of WPA meetings, has been added.

The Educational chapter of the WPA Website, to which Professor Roger Montenegro, WPA Secretary for Education, has been continuously giving a special effort, deserves particular attention. There, you will find comprehensive information, including descriptions or, in some instances, full texts of WPA Educational Programs. More updates are planned to be implemented in the immediate future.

The next major step under consideration is to introduce WPA Member Societies and Sections on the Web, starting with a list of links and gradually expanding to provide each Member Society and Section with its own mini-Home page within the WPA Website. We would be grateful for any suggestions you may have on this project.

ONGOING SECTION DEVELOPMENTS

At the latest Executive Committee in Johannesburg, a new Section on Psychiatry and Human Sexuality was established on an ad-hoc basis. Its officers are: Chair, Prof. Rubén Hernández-Serrano (Venezuela); Co-chair, Prof. Said Abdel Azim (Egypt), and Secretary, Prof. Antonio Pacheco Palha (Portugal).

Due to the efforts of Prof. Ahmed Okasha, the WPA Secretary for Sections, the two years since the Madrid Congress of 1996 have witnessed an increase in the number of WPA Scientific Sections and in their participation in WPA events.

Cross-Sectional Task Forces constitute one of the recent developments at WPA. The Task Force on Violence, chaired by Prof. Eliot Sorel, held a productive meeting in Vancouver this August, during which eight functional clusters, such as populations at risk, violence and the mentally ill, mass media and informatics, and policy, law and ethics, were formed. The Task Force on Psychosocial Interventions, chaired by Prof. Robert Cancro, presented a cogent work plan in Johannesburg that was approved and funded by the Executive Committee.

WPA FINANCIAL REPORT IN PREPARATION

In addition to the WPA Executive Committee's Report to Member Societies, which was distributed a few months ago, the Secretary for Finance is preparing a separate Financial Report to the Member Societies, which will be distributed before this year expires. This report will be the result of extensive work performed by Dr. Marianne Kastrup in connection with completing the transfer of financial operations and funds from the WPA Secretariat in Madrid to the WPA Secretariat in New York and the establishment of improved financial procedures covering the annual budget, overall and day-to-day financial operations, accounting an auditing, general and special accounts, and administration of grants.

The 1998 Annual budget has membership dues, WPA Congresses and Meetings, external grants and the WPA Educational Foundation as main sources of income. Main expenditures cover the functioning of the WPA Secretariat, Executive Committee and Standing Committees. It is noteworthy that in 1998, in spite of a somewhat strained financial situation, the Executive Committee managed to continue providing some financial support for the work of the Zonal Representatives, for several projects submitted by WPA Sections, and for the Educational Coordination Center.

WHO AND THE CONTINUING FORMULATION OF HEALTH FOR ALL

The structural reorganization of the World Health Organization, under the energetic stewardship of its new Director General, Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, is still in the process of being completed, a situation not devoid of anxieties for all involved. At the same time, a conceptual river concerning a strategic vision of public health and the fundamental mission of WHO seems to continue flowing. Its course appears to be most distinctly associated with such policy statements as Health for All and its updating for the XXI Century. To this, Dr. Brundtland and colleagues are adding their own, largely synergistic perspectives. Among the issues and views salient in publications and press releases are the following.

Globalization may bring opportunities for development but also the risk of greater inequities in health care.

People's health is essential for the sustainable development of all countries, and poverty is the main obstacle to public health.

WHO must interact fluently with financial agencies of the United Nations in order to improve the allocation and management of economic resources for health.

WHO must work in a more coordinated way with governmental and non-governmental organizations in order to attain its highest goals.

Key words prominently appearing in WHO evolving policy statements, added to the more traditional concepts of health, are ethics, equity, and human rights.

For us in the international psychiatric community it is also interesting to note the placement of WHO mental health programs within a cluster entitled "Social Change and Mental Health", which in turn is placed within a higher organizational category termed "Building Healthy Populations and Communities". We will remain attentive to all developments at WHO, as they are relevant to the fulfillment of our responsibilities as psychiatrists and mental health professionals.

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 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
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: asocopsi@coll.telecom.com.co
March 24-26, 1999, WPA Co-Sponsored Meeting on Psychiatry and Neuroscience in the Next Millennium, Cairo, Egypt.

Contact: Pr. A. Okasha, Fax: (20-2) 348-1786; 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>
September 5-10, 1999, WPA Co-Sponsored World Congress of the World Federation for Mental Health, Interfaces in Mental Health: Poverty, Quality of Life and Society, Santiago de Chile, Chile.

Contact: Pr. Benjamin Vicente, Fax: (56-41) 312-799.
October 20-23, 1999, WPA Co-Sponsored Second Conference on the Synthesis between Psychopharmacology and Psychotherapy, Geneva, Switzerland.

Contact: Pr. S. Tyano, Fax: (972-3) 925-8361. E-mail: styano@post.tau.ac.il
November 6-10, 1999, WPA Co-Sponsored XX Congress of the International Association for Suicide Prevention, Preventing Suicide at the Dawn of the New Century, Athens, Greece.

Contact: Pr. C. N. Stefanis, Fax: (30-1) 362-5572. E-mail: easytravel@hol.gr
April 5-7, 2000, WPA Co-Sponsored Central American Congress of Psychiatry, Panama.

Contact: Dr. Gloria Grimaldo. Fax: (507) 223-1462.
May 24-27, 2000, WPA Thematic Conference, Madrid, Spain, Forensic and Legal Psychiatry.

Contact: Pr. A. Calcedo Ordoñez, Fax: (34-91) 394 1506.

June 26-30, 2000, WPA Jubilee Meeting, Paris France, From Clinical Practice to Research: Rethinking Psychiatry.

Contact: Dr. J. Garrabé, Fax: (33-1) 4278-3512. E-mail: jmthurin@pratique.fr

September 30-October 3, 2001, WPA Regional Meeting, Madrid, Spain.

Contact: Pr. J.J. Lopez-Ibor, Fax: (34-91) 316-2749.

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

Contact: Pr. J. Suzuki, Fax: (81-3) 3814-2991.