
4th Quarter 1999

GREETINGS

As we reach and celebrate the end of a millennium and the beginning of a new one, we can take pride on our institutional achievements and indeed look forward to the high challenges ahead. The World Psychiatric Association emerged strengthened from its August 1999 General Assembly, the most participative in its history. Its enhanced normative instruments, structures and action plans are aimed at upgrading democratic governance, transparency, operational effectiveness, and involvement of all members in the life of WPA. The renewed vitality of WPA was displayed strikingly in a recent WPA Regional Meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

It was attended by 4,153 psychiatrists and mental health professionals from throughout Latin America and beyond (see photo from a leadership forum below). Also recently, the World Health Organization made a major statement on Global Strategies for Mental Health (see page 2), pointing out the need for new action lines to deal with the emergent prominence of neuropsychiatric disorders throughout the world. About the same time, the President of the World Psychiatric Association, Prof. Juan José Lopez Ibor, Jr., visited with WHO mental health leaders to discuss an expansion of our inter-institutional collaboration. Global partnership, which happens to be the theme of the next XII World Congress of Psychiatry, is increasingly perceived as a fundamental strategy to address stigmatization of psychiatry and inadequate access to health care across the world. May you enjoy heart-warming Holidays and a healthy and fulfilling New Year.



WPA Executive Committee Members, Congress Organizers, WPA Section Officers, and Latin American Member Society Leaders at the WPA Regional Meeting, Buenos Aires, October 1999

WHO Launching New Global Strategies for Mental Health

In Beijing, China, on November 12, 1999 the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, launched WHO's new Global Strategies for Mental Health. The strategies are aimed at improving the population coverage and quality of psychiatric and neurological care throughout the world, particularly in developing countries.

Measuring Global Burden of Disease

A critical methodological problem is that the traditional methods of prioritizing health problems, based normally on the mortality and prevalence of an illness, had important limitations. The numbers of deaths did not take into consideration the non-fatal outcomes of illness, while prevalence rates did not take into account the severity and duration of disability produced by diseases. As a result, for many years the burden of psychiatric and neurological conditions has been underestimated and had obvious consequences on budget allocation and policy planning. This burden has recently been clarified using a new measure —the "Disability-Adjusted Life Years" (DALY)- jointly developed by the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank and Harvard University. The DALY measures the overall burden of a disease by combining, on the one hand, the years of potential life lost due to premature death from the disease and, on the other, the years of productive life lost due to the disability produced by the condition. One DALY is one lost year of healthy life. Using this new methodology, Table 1 shows that neuropsychiatric disorders were placed second in the 1998 global burden of disease list.

New WHO Proposals

To monitor the presence of mental and physical disorders, disability and use of services, WPA is in the final planning stage of its Mental Health Survey 2000, to be conducted in 19 countries. In order to improve rates of treatment for mental disorders, WHO is formulating a number of measures which are summarized in Table 2. Special campaigns are being planned concerning schizophrenia, depression and epilepsy. Another important prospect is the development of an International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Mental Disorders.

WPA Cooperation with WHO

WPA has an established record of collaboration with WHO, and much of its work has been consistent with WHO mental health endeavors. To be noted as recent pertinent endeavors are the WPA Madrid Declaration on Ethical Standards for Psychiatric Practice, the WPA Global Anti-Stigma Program, WPA Sections work, and the involvement of WPA Member Societies in the development and implementation of national mental health policies. New lines of WPA-WHO cooperation are being actively discussed.

Table 1.-Seven Leading Global Health Problems by Estimated DALY' S Lost, 1998

Health Problems	% DALY's Lost
Infectious and parasitic diseases	23.4
Neuropsychiatric disorders*	11.5
Unintentional injuries	11.3

Cardiovascular diseases	10.3
Respiratory infections	6.2
Perinatal conditions	5.8
Malignant neoplasms	5.8
* Neuropsychiatric disorders include unipolar and bipolar affective disorders, psychosis, epilepsy, dementia, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, drug and alcohol dependence, post-traumatic stress disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder, panic disorder and other neurological and psychiatric diseases.	

abstracted from WHO World Health Report

Table 2. WHO Global Strategies to Improve Neuropsychiatric

1. Raising the profile of mental health on the political, health and development agenda of governments, international and national organizations and NGOs
2. Fighting social stigma, misconceptions and discrimination associated with neuropsychiatric conditions, as well as promoting human rights of the mentally ill through adequate and effective legislation
3. Shifting the emphasis in the treatment of such disorders to community-based services, including family therapies
4. Wider use of cost-effective mental health interventions, including affordable and effective psychoactive drugs, and disseminating information about such interventions

From WHO Factsheet 217, November 1999 .

Recent WPA Meetings and Events

The highlight of the final quarter of 1999 was the WPA Regional Meeting in Buenos Aires, organized by the Argentinean Association of Psychiatrists (AAP), presided by Dr. N. Marchant and co-sponsored by the Association of Argentinean Psychiatrists (APSA), presided by Dr. G. Viale, and the Foundation for Interdisciplinary Investigation of Communication (FINTECO), presided by Prof. M. A. Materazzi. This event, one of the best attended Regional Meetings in the history of WPA, had as central theme The Psychiatric Hospital in the Next Millennium. In addition to a stimulating scientific program composed of 185 sessions, the participants enjoyed the cordial hospitality of

their Argentinean hosts during various cultural events.

A full meeting of the new Executive Committee, the first one since the World Congress, also took place within the framework of the Regional Meeting. Among other topics, the EC appointed the members of the WPA Standing and Operational Committees for 1999-2002, reviewed the annual reports and triennial plans of Zonal Representatives and accorded financial support for their work in 2000, and reviewed a draft of the 2000 central budget, which will then be reviewed by the Zonal Representatives as part of the new statutory responsibilities of the Board.

Also immediately following the Regional Meeting, and within its general auspices and those of the National Academy of Medicine, a historic agreement was reached by all pertinent Argentinean institutions, including the three local WPA Member Societies, to start a process towards the unified certification of psychiatrists.

Also worth noting here is the recent award as Maestro de la Medicina Argentina, 1999 bestowed on Prof. Rodolfo Fahrer, chair of the WPA Section on Psychiatry, Medicine, and Primary Care.

Another notable event in this quarter was the meeting in November 24-27, 1999, of the WPA Co-sponsored Regional Symposium North-South of the Latin American Psychiatric Association (APAL) in the beautiful island of Margarita, Venezuela (see adjacent photo). The theme of the meeting was aptly chosen as 21st Century: a Century for the Promotion of Mental Health. During this event, chaired by Prof. E. Belfort and attended by several members of the WPA Executive Committee, a number of important regional initiatives was moved forward, such as the review of the statutes of the APAL, the preparation of a Latin American Guide for Psychiatric Diagnosis, chaired by Prof. C. Berganza, and a joint meeting of the three Latin American Zones of WPA.



Governor Irene Saez and J.J. Lopez at APAL meeting in Venezuela

LATEST ANNUAL REPORTS FROM MEMBER SOCIETIES & ZONAL REPRESENTATIVES

The WPA Zonal structure and functioning have become a crucial factor for the institutional growth of the WPA. The initial 1996-1999 development phase, with its achievements and limitations, yielded a rich and valuable experience with which we can better face the challenges of the next period.

This analytic review is part of a systematic evaluation plan for the work of the Zones and of the corresponding Member Societies and is aimed at examining activities carried out in 1998 as well as perspectives for 1999. A response rate over 90% was obtained in the 1998 Annual Reports from Zonal Representatives and Member Societies.

Given that 1999 is a year during which a WPA triennium ends and a new one begins, it should be useful for the Executive Committee and the Zonal Representatives themselves to obtain a broad perspective on zonal work integrating reports from recent years. The value of this exercise, as well as that of the WPA General Survey, has been documented by their impact on the development of the pioneering WPA Strategic Plan 1999-2002, recently approved by the General Assembly.

To illustrate one of the findings obtained, particularly involving communication, an adjacent table displays the availability of E-mail and presence of websites of Member Societies in 1997 and 1998. A 12.2% increase in E-mail and a 73.7% increase in websites were noted from 1997 to 1998.

Concerning the principal problems noted in the latest Annual Reports, the following represent major themes:

- Reductions in health services
- Discrimination of the mentally ill through managed care
- Lack of adequate cultural sensitivity in health care
- Deficiencies in laws pertinent to psychiatry
- Need for lower membership dues
- Need to improve the internal organization and activities of Member Societies

ON WPA FINANCIAL PLANNING

From an integrated appraisal of the 1997 and 1998 Annual Reports of Zonal Representatives and Member Societies we can list the following perspectives:

Level of professional qualifications, recognition enjoyed in the Zone, and international experience all seem to facilitate greatly the performance of Zonal Representatives especially under adverse financial situations. This should be kept in mind when updating the electoral requirements for Zonal Representatives.

It seems that invitations from Member Societies to Zonal Representatives to attend national meetings using congress budgets can

help considerably in the planning of zonal work.

Lack of responsiveness from Member Societies is a major problem faced by Zonal Representatives. At the basis of much of this seems to be the weak internal organization of some Member Societies. This issue is of great relevance to the institutional development of WPA. This can be achieved solidly only when Member Societies are individually and zonally strong.

An important task for the organization of Zonal work would be to encourage the more developed Member Societies in the Zone to help those less developed as well as to stimulate the formation of Member Societies in countries that do not have such Societies yet. It would be highly valuable that Zonal Representatives have more opportunities for sharing experiences with each other.

Year	E-mail (%)	Website (%)
1997	75.2	15.6
1998	84.4	27.1

Electronic availability in Member Societies 1997 and 1998

IN MEMORIAM OF JEAN WERTHEIMER

On 22 September, 1999, Professor Jean Wertheimer, chair of the WPA Section on Geriatric Psychiatry, 1993-1999, passed away.

One of the pioneers of geriatric psychiatry in France, he became chair of the Department of Geriatric Psychiatry in Lausanne in 1971 until his retirement in 1998. In 1972 he received the prestigious Hermann Simon Award, along with C. Muller, L. Ciompi and J. Villa.

In recent years, under the aegis of WHO and the WPA he directed the development of a Consensus Statement on Psychiatry of The Elderly, which represents an important step towards the world-wide recognition of this field. Prof. Wertheimer's legacy includes a strong group of collaborators, one of whom, Dr. V. Camus, contributed information for this note.



*Professor Jean
Wertheimer*

WPA PRESENCE AT THE UNITED NATIONS

The World Psychiatric Association maintains official relations, as a non-governmental organization, with the United Nations in New York City,



The UN, New York City

through its Economic and Social Council and Department of Public Information. WPA representatives are the President, the Secretary General and Dr. G. Caracci (Chair of the Urban Mental Health Section), who participate in pertinent UN General Assembly sessions, topical conferences, and the NGO Committee on Mental Health. The vast informational resources of the United Nations, including its Dag Hammarskjöld Library, are regularly consulted by WPA representatives and Secretariat staff.

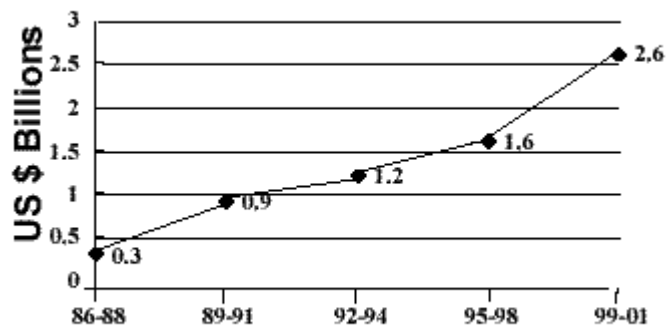
On September 15-17, 1999, WPA representatives attended the 52nd Annual Conference of the UN Department of Public Information, NGO Division, entitled Challenges of a Globalized World: Finding New Directions. The main message of the conference was that while globalization has created important new opportunities for human advance, it has also created widespread marginalization due to the uneven distribution of global opportunities. New information and communication technologies driving globalization are also polarizing the world into the connected and the isolated. Moreover, globalization appears to pose new threats to health and cultural identity and foster personal, job, financial and environmental insecurity. After opening remarks by Secretary General Kofi Annan, Queen Noor Hussein and Nobel Peace Laureate Oscar Arias Sanchez, NGOs and experts on the topic offered suggestions on strategies to allow the opportunities and benefits of globalization to be shared more widely.

Looking to future events, the UN General Assembly decided to designate its fifty-fifth session, which will open on 5 September 2000, as The Millennium Assembly of the United Nations. This summit is likely to be the largest gathering of heads of state or government ever held, and will consider challenges facing the United Nations in the new century and how best to meet them. For Secretary General Kofi Annan, the Millennium Assembly "offers a timely opportunity for the world's leaders to look beyond their pressing daily concerns and consider what kind of United Nations they can envision and will support in the new century". WPA News will follow up and report on these events.

The World Bank's mandate is to promote economic and social progress in developing countries with the aim of reducing poverty and increasing prosperity. It attempts to do this by making loans to governments, and non-government organizations and providing policy advice and technical assistance for projects that promote economic and social development. In Fiscal Year 1999 the Bank committed US\$2.6 billion for health, nutrition and population. This is the fastest growing part of the Bank's lending (see figure) and the Bank is now the largest single source of health related lending in the developing world with projects in over 90 countries.

Traditionally, Bank lending has focused on areas such as infectious disease control and reproductive health. With the results of the Global Burden of Disease study made public, attention was given to the burden of disease identifiable when both mortality and non-fatal health outcomes are considered. This work emphasized the significant burden associated with mental disorders, with five of the ten leading causes of disability worldwide being neuropsychiatric disorders.

Dr. Harvey Whiteford, a psychiatrist who contributed a statement for this note, is the first ever mental health advisor at the World Bank. He has helped the Bank develop a capacity to identify and support mental health related lending in a way which demonstrates the cost effectiveness of the programs and is sensitive to the cultural and economic climates of the countries involved.



*Growth in World Bank Loans for Health,
Nutrition and Population (annual average total)*

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

June 30, 2000, WPA Co-Sponsored Meeting, Geneva, Switzerland, Parity in Psychiatric Care for Mentally Handicapped Persons.
Contact: Prof. Jose Guimon. Fax: (41-22) 3055-79966. E-mail: mary.ritchie@hcuge.ch

July 15-19, 2000, WPA Thematic Conference, Second International Congress on Hormones, Brain, and Neuropsychopharmacology, Rhodes, Greece.
Contact: Prof. U. Halbreich, Fax: (1-716) 892-0431. E-mail: urielh@acsu.buffalo.edu

September 13-16, 2000, WPA Co-Sponsored IV World Congress on Depressive Disorders, Mendoza, Argentina.
Contact: Prof. Jorge Nazar. Fax: (54-261) 429-5662. E-mail: jnazar@fmed2.uncu.edu.ar

September 20-23, 2000, WPA Co-Sponsored XXI Latin-American Congress of Psychiatry, Lima, Peru.
Contact: Profs R. Navarro & E. Gastelumendi, Fax: (51-1) 446- 6768, E-mail: app@colmedi.org.pe

September 26-29, 2000, WPA Co-Sponsored Meeting of the Society of Psychiatrists in South Africa, Durban, South Africa.
Contact: Dr. C. Maud, Fax: (27-31) 265-0540, E-mail: mauddoc@iafrica.com

October 10-12, 2000, Meeting of the WPA Section on Mental Health Economics, Cairo, Egypt, Mental Health Policy and Economics in Arab Countries and Sub-Saharan Africa.
Contact: Dr. M. Moscarelli. Fax: (39-02) 5810-6901. E-mail: moscarelli@icmpe.org Website: <http://www.icmpe.org>

October 20, 2000, Meeting of the WPA Section on Psychiatry and Religion, New York, USA.
Contact: Prof. J. English, Fax: (1-914) 493-1015. E-mail: jtevalley@aol.com

October 25-27, 2000, WPA Regional Meeting, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Psychiatry: Clinical Experience and Scientific Evidence.
Contact: Prof. M. Jorge, Fax: (55-11) 252-5994, E-mail: miguel.jorge@psiquiatria.epm.br

November 8-12, 2000, WPA Co-Sponsored Meeting, Cairo, Egypt, The Globalization of Psychiatry: Perspective for the New Millenium.
Contact: Prof. F. Antun, Fax: (961-9) 211-734 or 899-218, E-mail: antun@cyberia.net.lb

November 17-19, 2000, Meeting of the WPA Section on Mass Media and Mental Health, New York, USA.
Contact: Prof. M. Materazzi. E-mail: cultura@geba.com.ar

November 30-December 2, 2000, WPA Co-Sponsored Meeting, Lyon, France, Schizophrenia: From Prediction to Prevention.
Contact: Prof. J. Dalery, Fax: (33-4) 3791-5102. E-mail: jean.dalery@ch-le-vinatier.fr

March 13-17, 2001, WPA Co-Sponsored 13th World Congress of the World Association for Dynamic Psychiatry, Munich, Germany.
Contact: Maria Ammon, Fax: (49-30) 313-6959.

May 31-June 2, 2001, WPA Co-Sponsored VIII Pan Arab Congress of Psychiatry, Tunis, Tunisia, Women and Mental Health.
Contact: Prof. S. Douki, Fax: (216-1) 601-555. E-mail: saida.douki@gnet.tn

June 20-23, 2001, WPA Co-Sponsored Meeting, Leipzig, Germany, Reducing the Stigma of Mental Illness.
Contact: Prof. M. C. Angermeyer, Fax: (49-341) 972-4539. E-mail: schb@medizin.uni-leipzig.de

June 27-30, 2001, WPA Co-Sponsored IVth Congress of the European Family Therapy Association, Budapest, Hungary.
Contact: Prof. J. Füredi, Fax: (36-1) 393-0281, E-mail: furediprof@mail.matav.hu

July 7-13, 2001, WPA Regional Meeting, London, UK, A Mind Odyssey.
Contact: Royal College of Psychiatrists. E-mail: rllewellyn@rcpsych.ac.uk

July 22-27, 2001, WPA Co-Sponsored Congress of the World Federation for Mental Health, Vancouver, Canada, Respecting Diversity and Participation in Mental Health in a Changing World.
Contact: Prof. J. Arboleda-Florez, Fax: (1-613) 547-1501. E-mail: ja9@post.queensu.ca

September 9-12, 2001, WPA Co-Sponsored 3rd International Conference on the Synthesis between Psychopharmacotherapy and Psychotherapy, Tel Aviv, Israel.
Contact: Prof. S. Tyano, Fax: (972-3) 925-8361, E-mail: styano@post.tau.ac.il

September 30-October 3, 2001, WPA European Congress, Madrid, Spain, New Commitments for Psychiatrists.

Contact: Prof. J.J. Lopez-Ibor, Fax: (34-91) 316-2749. E-mail: tilesa@wpa.es
October 27-31, 2001, WPA Co-Sponsored 17th World Congress of Social Psychiatry, Science, Psychiatry and Society, Agra, India.
Contact: Prof. S. Sharma, Fax: (91-11) 243-2170, E-mail: ihbas@giasdl01.vsnl.net.in
November 16-20, 2001, WPA Regional Meeting, Cancun, Mexico.
Contact: Asoc. Psiquiátrica Mexicana, Fax: (52-5) 652-5516. E-mail: apm@psiquiatras.com
March 21-23, 2002, WPA Thematic Conference, Budapest, Hungary, Psychological and Psychiatric Consequences of Violence.
Contact: Prof. I. Bitter, Fax: (36-1) 210-0336 or 303-2352, E-mail: bitter@psych.sote.hu
August 24-29, 2002, XII World Congress of Psychiatry, Yokohama, Japan, Partnership for Mental Health.
Contact: Prof. J. Suzuki, Fax: (81-3) 3814-2991, E-mail: wpa_sec@c-linkage.co.jp
September 2005, XIII World Congress of Psychiatry, Cairo, Egypt.
Contact: Prof. A. Okasha, Fax: (20-2) 348-1786, E-mail: aokasha@internetegypt.com