
4th Quarter 2000

Greetings

As we end a productive year during which we celebrated our Jubilee in Paris and a successful Regional Meeting in Rio de Janeiro, and begin enthusiastically a new one full of opportunities, the World Psychiatric Association is pleased to announce its new and upgraded presence on the web, **WPA On Line**, located at www.wpanet.org.

Developed by the *Secretariat* and the *Education Coordination Center*, **WPA On Line** contains richer and more illustrated information than its predecessor. It is organized into four sections: General Information, Sectorial Activities, Component Web Pages, and Public Information. Under these categories, a number of innovative items such as "Ethics and Psychiatry", "Institutional Programs", and web pages of Member Societies, Sections and other WPA components are presented. All informational areas will be renewed and expanded as needed and new ones will appear as well. We hope you will visit with us soon and again, and make sure that the page of your Society or Section is promptly developed and periodically updated.

WPA On Line joins other communicational and informational resources of WPA in the process of building a more effective, transparent, and participatory organization, towards fulfilling our fundamental mission of advancing scientifically, humanistically and ethically psychiatry and mental health across the world!

WHO VIEWS ON WOMEN'S MENTAL HEALTH

Earlier this year, WHO issued an important set of Fact Sheets concerning women's health, in particular its relation to violence, female genital mutilation, human rights and HIV/AIDS, mental health, and poverty.

The Fact Sheet on Gender, Health, and Poverty (No. 251) states that a disproportionate share of the burden of world poverty rests on women's shoulders and undermines their health and that this is rarely acknowledged in national antipoverty strategies. Seventy percent of the 1.2 billion people living in poverty are women and, on average, women are paid 30% to 40% less than men for comparable work. Half a million women die annually from pregnancy related complications which are exacerbated by poverty and isolation.

The Fact Sheet on Women and Mental Health (No. 248) confirms that the multiple roles that women fill in society put them at greater risk of experiencing mental health problems. Women bear the burden of responsibility associated with being wives, mothers, and caregivers.

Additionally, they must also contend with gender discrimination, violence, poverty, hunger, malnutrition, and overwork.

The most significant mental disorders and problems faced by women relate to anxiety, depression, and the effects of domestic and sexual violence. Data from the World Bank reveal that depressive disorders account for close to 30% of the disability from neuropsychiatry disorders amongst women in developing countries, but only 12.6% among men. The gender differences in mental disorders are discussed in relationship to differential help-seeking behaviors, biological factors, social causes, and different ways in dealing with distress. The combined impact of gender and low socio-economic status is a critical determinant of mental ill health in women. Women's views, and the meanings they attach to their experiences need to be heeded by researchers, healthcare providers, and policy makers to truly improve outcomes.

The WPA Section on Women's Mental Health has targeted many of the issues in these WHO Fact Sheets in their objectives and ongoing work. Domestic violence, poverty, role strain, depression, anxiety, and discrimination were all topics of symposia presented by the Section at the Hamburg World Congress. Over the next year, our Section will be working to develop educational initiatives on several of these topics for the World Congress in Yokohama.

Prof. Donna Stewart, chair of the WPA Section on Women's Mental Health contributed the bases for this article.

ON WHO HEALTH DAY 2001



Stop Exclusion,
Dare To Care

Remarkably noteworthy is that WHO Health Day on April 7, 2001 as well as the corresponding World Health Report will focus on mental health. WPA has committed itself to participate enthusiastically in these endeavors aimed at bringing the urgent need for thoughtful mental health actions to the attention of governments, international organizations and the general public. Among WPA plans are the preparation of relevant TV spots, celebrations with UN-related NGO's, and special Zonal Representative activities.

WPA AT THE WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION ASSEMBLY



*Dr. Brian Martindale,
WPA representative
at the WMA
Assembly
in October 2000*

For the first time ever, WPA in the person of Western European Zonal Representative Dr. Brian Martindale attended the General Assembly of the World Medical Association (WMA). This organization is a confederation of national medical associations, representing physicians from all specialties and many countries in the world. Its principal concerns are ethical standards, human rights, and contemporary issues at the interface of society and medicine.

Its 52nd General Assembly held in October 2000 in Edinburgh, Scotland, covered highly topical international issues such as the human genome, basic medical education, impact of poverty on health, tobacco control, transplantation and organ donation, health databases, telemedicine, and influencing the media. Participating in addition to full WMA delegates and WPA were WHO and the World Federation for Medical Education.

The highlight of the meeting was a significant updating of the Declaration of Helsinki on Ethical Principles for Medical Research involving Human Subjects. New standards have been adopted concerning the combination of medical care and research, improved transparency about economic incentives, and the potential for the exploitation of poor countries in medical research.

The Executive Committee of WPA shall review at an upcoming meeting the Declaration of Helsinki and prospects for cooperation with the World Medical Association.

A REPORT FROM THE EASTERN EUROPEAN ZONE

The WPA Eastern European Zone consists of ten Member Societies in eight countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Russia and the Ukraine.

An enthusiastic disposition to participate is evolving under the leadership of Zonal Representative Prof. Valery Krasnov. A Zonal newsletter is being launched, exchanges are starting on publications among countries in the Zone, and Zonal studies on cross-cultural aspects of depression are being planned.

A successful XIII Congress of the Russian Society of Psychiatrists was held in Moscow on October 10-13, 2000 that was attended by a large number of psychiatrists in the Russian Federation as well as by representatives from the entire Eastern European and Central Asia area, Western

Europe and North America. A highlight was the awarding of incentives to a group of young psychiatrist researchers. Particularly significant for WPA was the celebration of an Eastern European Zonal meeting chaired by Prof. Krasnov with the participation of virtually all the presidents of the Member Societies in the Zone, the WPA Secretary General and, as invitee, the medical director of the American Psychiatric Association (see photo below).



Participants in the Eastern European Zonal Meeting in Moscow on October 10, 2000

PERSPECTIVES FROM PAST PRESIDENT COSTAS STEFANIS

(Continuation of a series on WPA roots which started in the preceding issue with Prof. Pierre Pichot)

My involvement with the WPA goes back 30 years, leading in 1977 to my appointment as chairman of WPA's Ethics Committee, and in 1983 to my election as WPA's President. The ensuing 6-year period coincided with the most turbulent era in the history of the Association, due to the cold-war climate that invaded our ranks and resulted in rifts that threatened the very existence of our Association and the validity and ethical basis of psychiatric practice world-wide.

Despite fierce opposition, we managed not only to avert WPA's disintegration but to make it stronger than ever by multiplying its scientific and educational activities, democratizing its functioning, reestablishing its relationship with WHO and the UN, creating institutional regionalization, assigning target-oriented roles to EC members, and balancing continuation with renewal in WPA's leadership. We prevented the ratification of a UN Sub-Commission's early anti-psychiatric draft on the rights of the mentally ill and then contributed substantially to its final text, voted upon by the UN General Assembly



Prof. Costas Stefanis
WPA President 1983-1989

in 1992. In addition, we devoted time and effort to sensitize our Member Societies to ethical issues and prepared a WPA Statement on the Rights of the Mentally Ill approved by the WPA General Assembly in Athens in 1989.

Presently, I am a life-long member of the WPA Council and participate in the leadership of the WPA-PTD Depression Program and the Anti-Stigma Campaign. Additionally, I am director of Athens University Mental Health Research Institute.

My views regarding the WPA's future are quite optimistic. I trust it will combine the wisdom of past leaders with the fresh ideas of new ones and will grow steadily to benefit mental patients and society as a whole.

ON THE BALKAN MENTAL HEALTH PROJECT

This collaborative project aimed at addressing the mental health needs of children in the Balkans involves WPA Member Societies in Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Bulgaria, Macedonia (FYROM), Romania, Slovenia, and Yugoslavia. Their representatives convoked by the WPA Secretary General met first at the XI World Congress of Psychiatry in Hamburg. Several WPA Sections were asked to lend expert advice, responding with particular enthusiasm that on Psychological Consequences of Torture and Persecution whose Secretary, Dr. Thomas Wenzel from Austria, has assumed the executive direction of this endeavor.

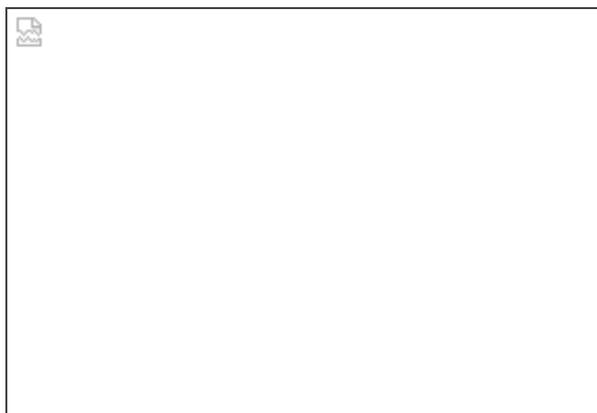
As this initiative matures through initial pilot efforts, cooperation is being obtained from local governments, WHO, and other international organizations. Specific projects are being planned to start the spring 2001 in Albania and Romania involving the evaluation of trauma in children from conflict areas as well as professional training in psychotherapy and forensic psychiatry.

UPCOMING WPA REGIONAL MEETINGS

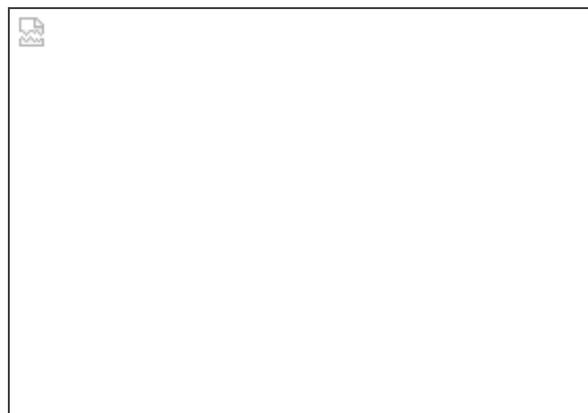
The first WPA Regional Meeting in 2001 will be held in Antalya, Turkey, on April 24-29, having as general theme Psychiatry: A Bridge between Cultures. Among its scientific highlights are the presentation of the recently completed Essentials of the WPA International Guidelines for Diagnostic Assessment as well as several Section symposia and programs for young psychiatrists. The extraordinary cultural interest of the area, surrounded by monuments and remains from several ancient civilizations, and the natural beauty of what is known as the Turkish Riviera shall contribute to make of the Antalya Regional Meeting an exciting and memorable event. Further scientific information can be obtained from fax: (90-212) 351-2659, and e-mail: bahar@psikiyatri.org.tr and general information from fax: (90-312) 440-7799, e-mail: aysin@flaptour.com.tr.

Next, on July 7-13, 2001 in London, the Royal College of Psychiatrists of the UK will organize a WPA Regional Meeting under the theme A Mind Odyssey. Of particular interest will be the presentation of the WHO Health Report 2001, focused on mental health, to be made at this event by Dr. G.H. Brundtland, WHO Director General. Other highlights include programs on Psychiatry and the Arts and a Symposium on International Classification and Diagnosis. Further information can be obtained through e-mail: mkerby@rcpsych.ac.uk and website: www.rcpsych.ac.uk/2001.

A complete listing of upcoming WPA Congresses and Meetings can be found [down](#).



WPA Regional Meeting in London
July 7-13, 2001.



WPA Regional Meeting in Antalya
April 24-29, 2001.

ON RECENT WPA SECTORIAL ACTIVITIES

Over the past several months, a number of WPA activities corresponding to its core sectors (Education, Finances, Meetings, Publications, and Sections) have taken place, some of which are illustrated here. In late August, the Operational Committee on Finances held a two-day meeting in New York (see photo below). They reported satisfaction with the gains our institution is making on managerial effectiveness and transparency, agreed to continue monitoring closely the WPA budget and its implementation, discussed the need for a Permanent Secretariat, recommended the development of a model contract for future World Congresses, and found helpful the notion of a Core Professional Organizer to be chosen through a rigorous and open process.



(L to R) Profs. R. Navarro (APAL, President), J.J. Lopez-Ibor (WPA President), and M.R. Jorge (Brazilian Psych. Assoc.)

President) at the opening of the WPA Regional Meeting in Rio de Janeiro, October 2000.

On October 25-28, the Brazilian Psychiatric Association presided by Prof. Miguel Jorge (Southern South-American Zonal Representative) organized a lively WPA Regional Meeting in Rio de Janeiro. It was attended by over 2,400 psychiatrists representative of almost all Latin American countries as well as leaders from North America, Europe and Africa. Emphasizing as overall theme the need to balance clinical experience and scientific evidence, it offered 221 scientific activities, including lectures, symposia, case discussions, courses, young psychiatrist sessions, and the presentation of 600 posters. WPA had an ample booth promoting new books, such as the volumes on Dementia and Obsessive Compulsive Disorder from the Series on Evidence and Experience in Psychiatry, as well as offering information on upcoming Regional Meetings and for individual membership applications.

A WPA Co-sponsored Meeting on Globalization of Psychiatry: Perspectives for the New Millennium was held in Cairo on November 8-12. It was attended by the WPA Executive Committee (which held a strategic meeting there) and accommodated a meeting of the WPA Standing Committee on Planning and an encounter of the WPA Executive Committee with the director of the WHO Department of Mental Health.

In what may have been the most intensively cross-sectional WPA activity to date, a Conference on Mass Media and Mental Health in the 21st Century was held in New York City on November 17-19, organized by Section chair Prof. Miguel Angel Materazzi. It included sessions on core issues on mass media and mental health, and on special issues connected to urban mental health, telecommunications, social networks, and creativity. A highlight of the event was a cross-sectional round table attended by representatives of the Sections on Classification and Diagnostic Assessment, Mass Media and Mental Health, Psychopathology of Expression, Telecommunications and Informatics, and Urban Mental Health, as well as by the WPA Secretary General and the WPA Secretary for Sections (see photo below).

In addition to the above events and sectorial activities it is worth noting the recent publication of a new Forum on Culture, Spirituality and Psychiatry in Current Opinion in Psychiatry and the progress being made on new volumes on Arab and Latin American countries of the Series on Images of Psychiatry and on books emanating from the XI World Congress of Psychiatry. Of further note are the enhancement of the WPA Continuing Medical Education Program for upcoming



(R to L) Finance Committee Members Drs. R. Astill, M. Kastrup (chair), and A. Heerlein, meeting with Administrator E. Sukhanova at the Secretariat, August 2000.

Regional Meetings and World Congresses and advances on the Educational Programs on International Guidelines for Diagnostic Assessment (IGDA) and Sexual Health (SHEP).



Participants at the WPA Cross-Sectional Conference on Mass Media and Mental Health, New York, November 2000.

SETTING THE BASES FOR THE NEXT WORLD CONGRESS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The continuation and strengthening of the WPA Fellowship and Young Participants Program at the XII World Congress of Psychiatry in Yokohama, Japan on August 24-29, 2002, is aimed at optimizing the participation and promoting the leadership potential of promising young psychiatrists from across the world. The results of the evaluation process of this Program at the XI WCP in Hamburg are displayed on the adjacent table.

With respect to the quality of the opportunities specially offered to Fellows, these were perceived as “excellent” or “good” by 87% of the Fellows and 100% of the Mentors. Among preferred fellowship features, the Fellows’ Workshop and Travel Support received the highest ratings by both Fellows and Mentors. Also well rated were the Fellows’ Lounge, Fellow I.D./Diploma, Orienting Session, and Farewell Session. The expectation of a positive influence of the Congress on the Fellows’ professional work and perspectives, was rated as “extremely likely” or “quite likely” by 83% of the Fellows and 100% of the Mentors. Many Fellows have since assumed leadership positions within their local psychiatric societies and in community organizations in several areas of the world.

Most frequently reported concerning Fellows’ participation in WPA activities following the congress, were visiting the WPA Website (83%), participating in national psychiatric society events (77%), and reading WPA News (69%). The full set of evaluative comments and programmatic recommendations obtained for the Hamburg World Congress will be considered in the planning sessions for the Yokohama Congress scheduled for February 2001.

UPCOMING WPA CONGRESSES AND MEETINGS

Secretary for Meetings, Professor Driss Moussaoui,
coordinates these events and welcomes initiatives for new ones.
Fax: (212-2) 965-125, E-mail: psych@casanet.net.ma

March 13-17, 2001, WPA Co-Sponsored 13th World Congress of the World Association for Dynamic Psychiatry, The Relevance of Groups for Illness, Health and Healing. Munich, Germany.

Contact: Maria Ammon, Fax: (49-30) 313-6959.

March 27-31, 2001, WPA Co-Sponsored Meeting of the First World Congress on Women's Mental Health, Berlin, Germany,

Contact: Prof. M. Lanczik, Fax: (49-9131) 853-65-92, E-mail: m.lanczik@uni.de

April 24-29, 2001, WPA Regional Meeting, Antalya, Turkey. Psychiatry: Bridge between Cultures.

Contact: Prof. Rasit Tukul, Fax: (90-212) 351-2659, E-mail: bahar@psikiyatri.org.tr, website: www.psikiyatri.org.tr

May 23-26, 2001, Meeting of the WPA Section on Transcultural Psychiatry, Andorra.

Contact: Joan Obiols Llandrich, e-mail: tpsection@quipo.it

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 27-30, 2001, WPA Co-Sponsored IVth Congress of the European Family Therapy Association, Budapest, Hungary.

Contact: Prof. T. Kurimay, E-mail: familyth@matavnet.hu, website: www.c3.hu/~familyth

July 7-13, 2001, WPA Regional Meeting, London, UK, A Mind Odyssey.

Contact: Prof. J. Cox, E-mail: mkerby@rcpsych.ac.uk, Website: www.rcpsych.ac.uk/2001

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

August 30-September 2, 2001, WPA Co-Sponsored International Conference on Suicidality and Psychoanalysis, Hamburg, Germany.

Contact: Prof. P. Gotze, Fax: (40-42) 80-34-949, E-mail: tzs@uke.uni-hamburg.de, Website: www.suicidology.de/congress

September 2-5, 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, website: www.together-against-stigma.de

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, website: www.kenes.com/synthesis2001

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

Contact: Pr. J.J. Lopez-Ibor, Fax: (34-91) 3559-208. E-mail: tilesa@wpa.es, Carolina.g.sicilia@tilesa.es, website: www.tilesa.es/wpa2001

October 27-31, 2001, WPA Co-Sponsored 17th World Congress of Social Psychiatry, Science, Psychiatry and Society: Search for Synergy, Agra, India.

Contact: Prof. S. Sharma, Fax: (91-11) 229-9227, E-mail: wasp_congress@vsnl.com Website: www.17thwaspcongress.com

November 16-20, 2001, WPA Regional Meeting, Cancun, Mexico

Contact: Asociacion Psiquiátrica Mexicana, Fax: (52-5) 652-5516. E-mail: apm@psiquiatras.com

November 19-23, 2001, Meeting of the WPA Section on Transcultural Psychiatry and Nigerian Association of Psychiatry, Abeokuta, Nigeria.

Contact: Dr. Goffredo Bartocci, e-mail: tpsection@quipo.it

March 21-23, 2002, WPA Thematic Conference, Budapest, Hungary, Psychological and Pscychiatric Consequences of Violence.

Contact: Prof. J. Harmana, Fax: (36-1) 275-0000, E-mail: harmatta@compreserve.com

August 24-29, 2002, XII World Congress of Psychiatry, Yokohama, Japan, Partnership for Mental Health.

Contact: Pr. J. Suzuki, Fax: (81-3) 3814-2991 or (81-3) 545-640-77, 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