
4th Quarter 2002

Greetings

The first Executive Committee since the General Assembly in Japan met in Lima in October. We soon got down to important business, for example addressing the future financial arrangements for world congresses, the need to update the Manual of Procedures, the need to identify more space for the Secretariat, and the implementation of the General Assembly's resolution about alleged abuse of psychiatry in the People's Republic of China. The new Standing and Operational Committees were established, and EC members outlined their future plans.

As a new member of the Review Committee, which met in London in November, I can vouch for the seriousness with which it is undertaking its task according to the WPA procedures, and in discussion with the Chinese Psychiatric Society. A full report is expected by Spring-- a deadline set by the General Assembly.

I have visited the Secretariat in New York, as has the Secretary for Finances, Professor Tyano, to appraise for myself the adequacy of the accommodations at the present time. The search is on for more space in appropriately prestigious environment. At the EC meeting in Cairo in February, we will be agreeing on short- and long-term strategies consistent with the General Assembly's resolution. Member societies can expect to receive information about the timeline for bids for the permanent Secretariat by the end of February 2003.

I would wish to pay tribute to the loyalty and hard work of the Secretariat, led by Ekaterina Sukhanova, who fulfils many of the responsibilities that would be expected of a Chief Executive.

My own office at Keele is now "up and running", with a part time secretary, who will work closely with the Secretariat in New York.

We are hopeful that the Secretariat will make concrete links with other secretaries and administrators who support EC and Board members round the world.

As a world organisation, we must continue to point out to governments the mental health consequences of conventional and asymmetrical war, and work more vigorously for peace through our psychiatric associations.

The General Assembly in Yokohama gave special recognition to the World Health Organization (WHO) for its longstanding work towards world mental health and its collaboration with WPA. To commemorate this event, Prof. Okasha recently visited the WHO headquarters and presented a special plaque to Dr. Brundtland, WHO Director General. A detailed plan of collaborative work between WHO and WPA for the next triennium has been agreed upon. As part of this plan, the WPA Secretariat is currently assisting WHO in conducting a further survey to update the Atlas of mental health resources around the world.

John Cox, WPA Secretary General



The President of WPA, Prof. Ahmed Okasha, presents Dr. Brundtland, WHO General Director, with a plaque expressing the special recognition of WHO's long-standing work towards world mental health and its collaboration with WPA. (L to R: Prof. A. Okasha (WPA President), Dr. G. Brundtland (WHO General Director), Dr. B. Saraceno (Director of the WHO Department of Mental Health and Substance Dependence)

WPA STATEMENT REGARDING THE ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The Executive Committee (EC) of the World Psychiatric Association (WPA) has been following with great concern the escalation of violence in the Occupied Territories, in Israel and in the refugee camps in the West Bank and Gaza, which represents a new and serious threat to the mental and general health of affected people, as recently recognized by the World Health Organization. As psychiatric professionals we cannot ignore the psychological trauma being experienced and the psychological consequences to be expected from chronic exposure to violence against civilians both in the Occupied Territories and in Israel.

An increase in the prevalence of post-traumatic stress disorders and emotional disorders of childhood, in addition to a wide spectrum of stress reactions, both acute and chronic, especially among the most vulnerable groups such as children, women, the elderly and the disabled are but a few of the mental health consequences to be anticipated. One can speculate how desperate people can get when they lose hope in achieving the basic minimum requirements of human life, freedom from danger and humiliation.

A whole generation of Palestinian children will grow up with their memories imprinted with the death of their families, demolition of their homes and debasement of their communities. A whole generation of Israeli children will grow up hosting a sense of insecurity and foreboding. And children of both populations will grow up with deep distrust against each other.

The WPA EC also expresses its concern regarding the difficulties for people in the area to reach and receive health services they need and regarding the safety of psychiatrists and other health professionals in carrying out their vital work.

Therefore, the World Psychiatric Association:

Appeals to all sides in the conflict to consider the short and long-term psychological consequences of violence and war and to bear their respective responsibility concerning the mental well being of future generations in the region.

Calls on its member societies to raise public awareness in their respective countries regarding the psychological hazards of war, trauma and mass killings and to lobby their governments to play an active role to break the cycle of violence in the Occupied Territories and Israel.

Urgently requests the Israeli Psychiatric Association, the community of Palestinian psychiatrists, and other psychiatric associations in the region to prepare reports on the mental health situation in their areas and specific recommendations for dealing with it.

Urgently requests that relevant WPA sections and taskforces collaborate with local psychiatric societies to evaluate the current situation and design pertinent intervention strategies.

Will organize a forum and a network of international mental health and humanitarian organizations to review mental health reports from the region and to find helpful solutions in collaboration with local societies.

Requests its member societies to be on the alert and report to the WPA similar situations in other parts of the world.

WPA AND THE CHINA ISSUE

Following the recommendation of the general assembly, the President has been communicating with the Deputy Minister of Health of China Dr. Xiaowei Ma as well as with the leaders of the Chinese Psychiatric Society, Professors Ming Yuan Zhang and Yan-Fang Chen concerning a prospective WPA site visit to China and an educational symposium on ethics, forensic, and diagnostic issues. The educational symposium is being provisionally scheduled for October 2003.

The new WPA Review Committee met in London in December 2002. It discussed the implementation of the agreements of the latest General Assembly on this matter. It also considered a larger program of cooperation with our Chinese colleagues, including analyses of the systems of psychiatric care, forensic services, and mental health legislation in China, as well as initiatives on professional education and collegial support.

VISITS TO THE WPA SECRETARIAT IN NEW YORK CITY



In September and October of 2002, respectively, the newly elected WPA Secretary General (SG), Prof. J. Cox, and the new Secretary for Finances (SF), Prof. S. Tyano, have visited the WPA Secretariat in New York.

Prof. J. Cox and the Secretariat staff : Prof. S. Tyano and the Secretariat staff:
Dr. Ekaterina Sukhanova, Administrator, Dr. Ekaterina Sukhanova, Administrator,
and Ms. Rybicka-Kosiec, Administrative and Ms. Brigitte Soubrat-Campana,
Assistant. Bookkeeper.

They have met with the Secretariat staff and the bookkeeper, familiarized themselves with the established procedures and discussed ways of maintaining fluid communication with the Secretariat. The office of the SG, recently established at Keele University, UK, will work in close collaboration with the Secretariat. This process will serve as a preparation for the impending change in the structure of the organisation from a Secretariat organized in the city where a current SG resides to the establishment of a Permanent Secretariat whose location would remain stable regardless of the change in the Executive Committee (EC).

In line with the decision of the General Assembly in Yokohama, the EC is making preparations for opening the bidding process for the site of a WPA Permanent Secretariat. The EC is also considering the steps necessary to improve the current space situation in order to safeguard efficient functioning of the Secretariat while long-range plans are being developed.

UPDATES ON WPA ACTIVITIES

Update from the Secretary for Education

Education: Latest Achievements and Perspectives for the Future:

The Secretary for Education has been working on the permanent development of the WPA Education Coordination Center, as an important tool to coordinate the actions performed by the Operational Committee on Education, the WPA Components (Member Societies, Council, Zone Representatives, Scientific Sections) and the members of the WPA Educational Liaisons Network. Colleagues from developing areas are the ones who are the most grateful for the possibility to access to educational materials through WPA ON LINE. Such materials are very important for their CME and the latest include:

Educational Programs such as Teaching and Learning about Schizophrenia and Module 4: "General Introduction to Training Physicians in

Mental Health Skills" of the WPA/PTD Educational Program on Depressive Disorders (at www.wpanet.org/sectorial/edu4a.html)

Institutional Programs: "Core Training Curriculum for Psychiatry", a core international curriculum for postgraduate training which is rooted in a biopsychosocial framework as well as on a culturally-informed understanding of clinical and educational needs. It re-examines the identity international framework for postgraduate training in psychiatry. (www.wpanet.org/sectorial/programs2.html)

Translations of Educational and Institutional Programs. For example, a group of Spanishspeaking colleagues have contributed to the translation into Spanish of part of the WPA/PTD Educational Program and the creation of supplementary slides. Moreover, the Bulgarian Psychiatric Association has offered to translate the programs on depression and schizophrenia, as well as the Core Training Curriculum.

Contributions from various Sections: Psychopathology of Expression, Classification and Diagnostic Assessment, Conflict Management and Resolution, Ecology, Psychiatry and Mental Health, History of Psychiatry, Psychological Consequences of Torture and Persecution (www.wpanet.org/sectorial/sections3.html)

WPA Documents: the complete text of the Declaration of Madrid (amended in Yokohama in August 2002), Declaration of Hawaii/ II (approved by the General Assembly of the WPA in Vienna in 1983), WPA Statement and Viewpoints on the Rights and Legal Safeguards of the Mentally Ill (adopted by the WPA General Participation of Psychiatrists in the Death Penalty (adopted by the General Assembly of the WPA, in Athens in 1989) (www.wpanet.org/generalinfo/ethic.html)

Forums of Current Opinion in Psychiatry : Psychiatrists and the Death Penalty: Some Ethical Dilemmas; The Declaration of Madrid and Current Psychiatric Practice: Users' and Advocates' Views; Psychiatry in Medical Education; Managed care and psychiatry; Psychiatry and human sexuality; Culture, spirituality and psychiatry; Mass Media and Psychiatry (www.wpanet.org/sectorial/forums.html)

CME courses and activities are offered during WPA scientific Meetings. The system of provision of CME credits for educational activities at WPA meetings and other activities organized by WPA components is being standardized and will be fully described in the updated WPA Manual of Procedures.

We will go on working in this line, producing educational materials with the collaboration of the WPA Components and WPA ELN members. All the educational material considered useful for the CME of psychiatrists will be included in WPA ON LINE to guarantee easy access to colleagues from every region in the world.

Update from the Secretary for Publications

The second edition (in paperback) of the first four volumes of the series Evidence and Experience in Psychiatry (addressing depressive disorders, schizophrenia, dementia and obsessive-compulsive disorder) is now on the market. The books have been updated on the basis of new available evidence. The fifth volume of the series, addressing bipolar disorder, has sold out four months after its publication. It is receiving very favourable reviews: according to that which appeared in the journal Psychotherapy & Psychosomatics, "It is the state-of-the-art book in this emerging field, a must in any medical library". A reprinted version has just become available. The sixth volume of the series, on eating disorders, will appear in March or April 2003. The seventh volume, on phobias, is in preparation.

World Psychiatry, the new WPA official journal, is appearing regularly. The first 2003 issue will include special articles on the future of

treatment of schizophrenia, the future of antidepressant pharmacotherapy, and on how to support governments in regard to adopting mental health policies. There will be a Forum on family interventions for mental disorders, and several research reports, mental health policy papers and sections reports. A contract for the Spanish version of the journal is going to be finalized.

The preparation of three thematic volumes originating from the 12th World Congress is just starting. The books will deal with early detection and management of mental disorders, the mental consequences of disasters, and the role of the family in mental health care. The publisher will be Wiley.

Update from the Secretary for Sections

Sections' Administrative Meeting in Yokohama

A review of the activities of the WPA Sections and their perspectives was carried out at the Administrative Meeting of the Chairs of Sections in Yokohama on August 29, 2002. Issues like greater involvement of the Sections in WPA activities (e.g., participation of the Section on Forensic Psychiatry in the Task Force to look into the issue of Falun Gong) increased inter-sectional communication, research activities by the sections (especially transcultural and intersectional) were raised and the need for greater financial and moral support of the sections was underlined. The positive impact of the newly edited WPA Sections Newsletter on inter-sectional communication was pointed out by the participants.

"Advances in Psychiatry"

A volume edited by the Secretary for Sections Prof. George Christodoulou has just appeared and has been distributed to the WPA Components. The volume is a compilation of state-of-the-art reviews covering what is new in the scientific area corresponding to each of the 32 participating scientific Sections of the World Psychiatric Association.

Periodic Publications by the Sections

In addition to the WPA Sections' Newsletter edited by the Secretary for Sections Prof. G.N. Christodoulou, as many as 19 Sections produce Journals (some indexed), Bulletins or Newsletters. These publications include the Journal of Affective Disorders, Psychopathology, Journal of Mental Health Policy and Economics, and Archives of Women's Mental Health, among others.

ONGOING WPA WORK ON INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION AND DIAGNOSIS

WPA has a long track of interest and participation in international classification and diagnosis activities. Most recently, as highlighted below, new developments in this field are emerging, both at the global and national levels.



Seated L to R: Profs. WWK Fulford, D. Regier, TB Üstün, A. Okasha, JE Mezzich, Y Nakane, and A. Jablensky. Standing L to R: Profs. CE Berganza, YF Chen, R Montenegro, S-D Kipman, L. Kirmayer, F. Lu, I. Salloum, M. First, B. Cuthbert, M. Botbol, and F. Cartier at the WHO-WPA Symposium on International Diagnostic Systems, Yokohama, August 28, 2002.

International Survey on the Use of ICD-10, DSM-IV and Related Diagnostic Systems (1998-2001).

WPA-WHO Symposium on International Classification and Diagnosis: Critical Experience and Future Directions during the WPA European Regional Meeting in London, July 2001. Its proceedings have been published in a special issue of Psychopathology.

Completion and publication (British Journal of Psychiatry, in press) of The Essentials of the WPA International Guidelines for Diagnostic Assessment (IGDA), which has at its core a comprehensive diagnostic model (multiaxial and idiographic) being perceived as a conceptual basis for future international diagnostic systems.

Symposium on International Diagnostic Systems: Integrating Perspectives and Partners at the XII World Congress of Psychiatry in Yokohama, August 2002 (See Photo).

Work meeting among technical officers of WHO and WPA in November 2002 towards close collaboration on updating and revising the ICD mental health component (See photo).

In connection with the above and consistent with the goals of the WPA 2002-2005 Strategic Plan and the WHO-WPA work plan 2002-2004, the Executive Committee has prepared a position statement on this matter, the key elements of which follow:

WPA will offer its full collaboration to the WHO for the preparation of an integrated and broadly based international classification and diagnostic system.

WPA will cooperate with its Member Societies, including the American Psychiatric Association and other national and regional associations, concerning their own classification projects with the expectation that they be as consistent as possible with an evolving international standard.

WPA will engage in this process its various components, including Member Societies, Classification Section and other pertinent Sections, and those involving publications, education and meetings.



L to R: Drs. B. Saraceno (Director of the WHO Department of Mental Health and Substance Dependence), JE Mezzich (WPA President-Elect), CE Berganza (WPA Classification Section Chair, and TB Üstün (WHO Classification Office Director) discussing future developments in international classification, at the WHO, Geneva, Nov. 14, 2002.

WPA REGIONAL MEETING IN LIMA , OCTOBER 2-5, 2002

Peru, with its ancient history and varied cultural life, provided a wonderful Andean backdrop for the Regional Congress hosted by the Peruvian Psychiatric Association. A strong psychoanalytic tradition was in evidence, as well as concern to develop new mental health legislation appropriate for community psychiatric services. If the Incas had used writing, then what a rich story they would have told about mental health in this historic country.

As a first time visitor to the country of my mother's birth, I relished the novel combination of scientific psychiatry with family stories, South American culture and old civilisations. Our Peruvian hosts were generous with their hospitality.



L to R: Profs. D. Stewart, M. Rondon, J.L. Cox, and S-H Chui at Symposium on Women's Mental Health, Lima, October 4, 2002.

WPA, through its ethical statements, has an important contribution to make to mental health services in Latin America. I would commend the recent WHO reports on Health and Violence, with its recommendation that these concerns become a more routine priority for public health. Psychiatrists clearly, in my opinion, have a particular responsibility to contribute to these discussions, especially with regard to the educational implications for all doctors.

John Cox



MEZZICH HONORED IN PERU AND GREECE

L to R: Drs. D. Warthon (Peruvian Psychiatric Association President), A. Valmaggia (APAL Vice-President), A. Okasha (WPA President), L. Solari (Peru's Prime Minister), and J. M. Caldas de Almeida (PAHO Mental Health Chief) at the opening of the WPA Regional Meeting in Lima, October 3, 2002.

Two special awards were bestowed in the last quarter of 2002 on WPA's President Elect, Prof. Juan E. Mezzich. On October 3, 2002, the Medical Council



of the Republic of Peru awarded him its highest prize, the Extraordinary Merit Medal for contributions to life, health, and the medical profession. Later, on December 12, 2002, the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens conferred on him the degree of Doctor Honoris Causa for his contributions to international psychiatry.



L to R: Seated: Profs. S. Tyano, J.E. Mezzich, A. Okasha, John Cox, and Dr. E. Sukhanova. Standing: Profs. M. Maj, P. Ruiz, E. Matute (APA Regional Secretary), D. Warthon (Peruvian Psychiatric Assoc. President), R. Montenegro, A. Valmaggia (APA Vice-President), and G. Christodoulou at the WPA Forum in Lima, Oct 3, 2002.

UPCOMING WPA CONGRESSES AND MEETINGS

Secretary for Meetings, Professor Pedro Ruiz coordinates these events and welcomes initiatives for new ones.
Fax: (1-713) 500-2727, E-mail: pedro.ruiz@uth.tmc.edu

February 1-28, 2003, WPA Co-sponsored IV Virtual Congress of Psychiatry
Contact: Dr. P. Moreno, Fax: (34) 971280401, E-mail: secretaria@psiquiatria.com, Website: www.interpsiquis.com/2003

March 10-13, 2003, WPA Co-sponsored Qatar International Psychiatric Conference, Doha, Qatar.
Contact: Dr. Mohammed Abdelalaim Ibrahim, Fax: (974) 432-8224, E-mail: alaim53_psych@hotmail.com

March 28-30, 2003, WPA Co-sponsored Sixth Workshop on Cost Assessment in Psychiatry of WPA Section on Mental Health Economics, Venice, Italy, Mental Health Policy and Economics: The Value of Research.
Contact: M. Moscarelli, E-mail: info@icmpe.org

April 10-13, 2003, WPA Co-sponsored XIX APSA Congress, Mar del Plata, Argentina
Contact: Prof. Graciela Lucatelli, E-mail: lucatelli@psillpo.com.ar, apsa@apsa.org.ar, Website: www.apsa.org.ar

June 9-11, 2003, WPA Co-sponsored (in collaboration with WHO) 1st International Conference on the Role of Health and Culture in Conflict Resolution, Malta.
Contact: Mark Freeman, Tel: (44-208) 678-5304, E-mail: markf@markallengroup.com

June 19-22, 2003, WPA International Thematic Conference, Vienna, Austria, Diagnosis in Psychiatry: Integrating the Sciences.
Contact: ICOS: Mag. S. Jurkovic, Tel: (43-1) 51280-9111, Fax: (43-1) 51280-9180, E-mail: wpa2003vienna@icos.co.at, Website: www.wpa2003vienna.at

July 5-7, 2003, WPA Co-sponsored Conference of the Society of Psychiatry of Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, Brazil, Psychiatry and Primary Care.
Contact: Dr. Rogerio Wolf de Aguiar, E-mail: wolfaqui@uol.com.br, Website: www.sprs.org.br

July 9-11, 2003, Meeting of WPA Section on Epidemiology and Public Health on Theory, Evidence and Psychiatric Epidemiology, Paris, France.
Contact: Scientific Committee President, Vivianne Kovess-Masfety, E-mail: europa@europa-organisation.com, Website: www.wpaedidemio-paris.org

August 3-5, 2003, WPA Co-sponsored (in collaboration with WPA Section on Rehabilitation) Eight World Congress of the World Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation, New York, USA, A Better Future for Those with Mental Illness.
Contact: Dr. Zebulon Taintor, Fax: (1-212) 426-7645, E-mail: office@wapr.net, Website: www.wapr.net

August 23-28, 2003, WPA Co-sponsored 17th World Congress on Psychosomatic Medicine, Waikoloa, Hawaii, USA.
Contact: Prof. Jon Streltzer, Fax: (1-808) 547-4031, E-mail: icpm2003@aol.com

September 20-21, 2003, WPA Co-sponsored Satellite Conference on Ethnicity & Mental Health in Europe, Essen, Germany.
Contact: Dr. Christian Haasen, E-mail: haasen@uke.uni-hamburg.de

September 22-25, 2003, Conference of International Society for the Psychological Treatments of Schizophrenia & other Psychoses, Melbourne, Australia, Reconciliation, Reform and Recovery: Creating a future for psychological interventions in psychosis.
Contact: Prof. McGorry, E-mail: isps@conferencestrategy.com.au, Website: www.conferencestrategy.com.au

September 25-27, 2003, WPA Co-sponsored World Congress on Depressive Disorders and International Symposium of Cognitive Disorders, Mendoza, Argentina.
Contact: Prof. Jorge Nazar, Tel/Fax: (54-261) 429-5662/ 431-1209, E-mail: jorge_nazar@hotmail.com

September 28-October 1, 2003, WPA Co-sponsored XII International Congress of the European Society of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Paris, France.
Contact: Dr. Philippe Jeammets, E-mail: philippe.jeammets@imm.fr

October 1-4, 2003, WPA Regional Meeting, Caracas, Venezuela, Alliances for Mental Health.
Contact: Prof. Edgard Belfort, Fax: (58-212) 232-1104, (58-212) 763-1184, E-mail: secretariaapal@cantv.net, belfort.ed@excite.com

October 15-18, 2003, WPA Co-sponsored meeting of the Egyptian Psychiatric Association (in collaboration with WHO) on Religion,

Spirituality and Mental Health, St. Catherine Monastery, Sinai, Egypt.

Contact: Dr. Tarek Okasha, E-mail: tokasha@internetegypt.com, *Attention: attendance by invitation only.*

November, 2003, WPA Co-sponsored meeting of the Egyptian Psychiatric Association (in collaboration with WHO) on Religion, Spirituality and Mental Health, St. Catherine's Monastery, Sinai, Egypt.

Contact: Dr. Tarek Okasha, E-mail: tokasha@internetegypt.com

September 22-26, 2004, WPA Co-sponsored 14th World Congress of the World Association of Dynamic Psychiatry, Cracow, Poland.

Contact: Dr. Maria Ammon, E-mail: maria.ammon@dynpsych.de

October 24-27, 2004, WPA Co-sponsored XVIII World Congress of Social Psychiatry, Kobe, Japan, Globalization and Diversity: Challenges for Social Psychiatry.

Contact: Prof. Yoshibumi Nakane, Fax: (81-95) 849-7296, E-mail: yonakane@net.nagasaki-u.ac.jp

November 10-13, 2004, WPA International Congress, Florence, Italy. Treatment in Psychiatry: an Update.

Contact: Prof. Mario Maj, Fax: (39-81) 566-6523, E-mail: majmario@tin.it

March, 2005, WPA Regional Meeting, Athens, Greece.

Contact: Prof. Georgios Christodoulou, Fax: (30-210) 724-2032, E-mail: gnchrist@compulink.gr

September 10-15, 2005, XIII World Congress of Psychiatry, Cairo, Egypt. Five Thousand Years of Science and Care.

Contact: Prof. A. Okasha, Fax: (20-2) 748-1786, E-mail: aokasha@internetegypt.com