Message from the President

Welcome to 2018 and to the new triennium for WPA. I am excited about the opportunities we have ahead and delighted to be able to get to work on our new action plan. I begin by offering sincere congratulations to the four colleagues newly elected to the WPA Executive Committee. I welcome Afzal Javed as the new President-Elect, Michel Botbol, Secretary for Scientific Publications, Roger Ng, Secretary for Education and Thomas Schulze, Secretary for Scientific Sections, and look forward to working with them over the next three years. I also welcome and thank two colleagues who have consented to act as Special Advisors to the President: Maria Lopez-Ibor (Finance) and Levent Küey (support for the Meetings program).

We began the triennium with a productive two-day meeting in early December of the executive committee, secretariat and advisors in the WPA's Geneva office. We were able to lay the foundation for the work ahead, which aims to build on WPA’s previous achievements and reinforce the role and positive influence of psychiatry on global mental health. While in Geneva we met Shekhar Saxena, Director of the Department of Mental Health at the World Health Organization in Geneva. He joined us for a stimulating discussion of the possibilities and plans for collaboration between our organisations, and the role of the WPA as a United Nations non-state actor. We also enjoyed an informative conversation with Norman and Vera Sartorius. In his capacity as chair of the WPA Council, Norman congratulated the committee on its program and first meeting.

Three main topics will drive our focus over the next triennium:

1. How we can better support psychiatrists working with vulnerable populations.
2. How we can support psychiatrists in more effectively promoting mental health and improving care capacity in health and other systems.
3. How we can build more collaborative mental health services and primary care relationships in urban and rural areas, as well as more effective partnerships with service users and family carers.

Within each of these focus areas, we have developed a number of themes that address some of our world’s most pressing mental health challenges and will enable us to effect real and impactful change. You can read the full action plan here: wpanet.org/uploads/Action_Plan/WPA_Action_Plan_2017-2020.pdf

I hope to see many of you at the WPA Thematic Congress in Melbourne, 25-28 February 2018. A lively program awaits you. Preparations are also well underway for the World Congress of Psychiatry in Mexico City, 27-30 September 2018. These two congresses represent our new partnership with Kenes International and I am grateful for the strong and creative alliance already developing.

I plan to share updates on the work with you regularly through the next three years. One of my personal goals over this triennium is to invite consistent two-way communication between WPA and its members. I look forward to working with the Executive Committee to ensure that WPA is not only supporting the needs of the greater global community, but also the needs of our global psychiatric community.

Helen Herrman
President
World Psychiatric Association

EC gathering on the lawns of WPA Secretariat, Geneva University Psychiatric Hospital on Dec 2, 2017. Seen Left to Right are: Michel Botbol (Secretary for Scientific Publications, Pamela Attias (Deputy Administrator), Maria Ines Lopez Ibor (Special Advisor to the President on Finance), Roy Abraham Kallivayalil (Secretary General), Thomas Schulze (Secretary for Scientific Sections), Helen Herrman (WPA President), Afzal Javed (President-Elect), Francesca Sotgiu (CEO) and Roger MK Ng (Secretary for Education).
General matters of WPA
(including Regional, International, Thematic, and World Congress announcements)

NEW WPA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (2017-2020)

Helen Herrman
President

Afzal Javed
President-Elect

Roy Abraham Kallivayalil
Secretary General

Roger Man Kin Ng
Secretary for Education

Armen Soghoyan
Secretary for Finances

Masatoshi Takeda
Secretary for Scientific Meetings

Michel Botbol
Secretary for Scientific Publications

Thomas G. Schulze
Secretary for Scientific Sections

WPA WORLD CONGRESS, BERLIN OCTOBER 8-12, 2017

President Prof Dinesh Bhugra is felicitated on stage by Dr Andreas Heinz, Member of the Congress Committee.

President Prof Dinesh Bhugra welcoming the new President Prof Helen Herrman.

Prof Helen Herrman (WPA President) with Prof Dinesh Bhugra and Dr Julie Holzhausen (Head of DGPPN office and Scientific Secretariat).

Address by WPA President Prof Helen Herrman.

WPA President-Elect Afzal Javed, President Helen Herrman and outgoing President Dinesh Bhugra.

A view of the audience during WCP Berlin. Prof Felice Lieh Mak (former WPA President), Prof Helen Herrman (WPA President), Prof Roy Abraham Kallivayalil (Secretary General, WPA), Prof Pedro Ruiz (former WPA President) and others are seen.

Photos: Copyright DGPPN/Claudia Burger.
The Congress took place October 8-12, 2017 and achieved great success. Nearly 11,000 delegates from 130 countries participated in this five-day event with 900 scientific sessions. The poster exhibition included more than 950 posters. The scientific programme focused on newer advances in research, care, politics and society. In 40 keynote lectures fundamental questions around mental health, stigma and human rights were discussed. The speakers included Sir Simon Wessely, Sir Michael Marmot, Helen Herrman, Dinesh Bhugra, Fabrizio Benedetti, Michael Meaney, Jair de Jesus Mari, Prabha Chandra and Ursula Staudinger.

The topics included the latest innovations in the fields of e-mental health and psychiatric research. Specialists from all the continents took the opportunity for professional exchange. The congress was also dedicated to promote communication and networking between psychiatrists, nursing and allied health professionals as well as associations of service users and family carers. There was a special young psychiatrists’ track in which specially tailored workshops, symposia, meet-the-expert sessions and discussion forums were held. Besides reading sessions with authors, there was a platform for diverse film genres and invited filmmakers to show their work in the field of mental health. Such artwork, in the form of films, exhibitions, readings and musical presentations, was an integral part of the top-class congress programme. The New York psychiatrist and pianist Richard Kogan played the works by the composer Robert Schumann. The topic of psychiatry in National Socialism was also widely addressed in various programme elements: in addition to the travelling exhibition “Registered, persecuted, annihilated” an exhibition and documentary film on the life and work of Dorothea Buck formed part of the event. The artwork enriched the WCP 2017 and afforded time for creating a personal and active dialogue besides the scientific programme.

Hearty congratulations to the German Association for Psychiatry, Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics (DGPPN)!

I am pleased to report about my participation in the annual meetings/conferences supported & organised by our member societies during October-December held in Slovakia, Russia, Bosnia, India and Pakistan. It was indeed a privilege to attend these meetings and represent WPA & share about our future activities. During the Bosnia meeting, Stojan Bajraktarov our zonal representative organised a meeting of presidents of member societies from the region that provided an opportunity to have detailed discussions about needs and opportunities for improving mental health in these countries.

I am also pleased to report that WPA Executive Committee has started its work for the 2017-20 action plan and we are in the process of finalising the agenda for the work of the planning committee during these years. Similarly, we have started getting views from WPA components about our 2020-23 action plan and hope this will provide a continuation to our current triennium’s work with a continuity and sustainability of the projects that would be started during 2017-20.

Afzal Javed
WPA President-Elect
From the Secretary for Education

It is a great honour to be elected as the Secretary for Education of World Psychiatric Association (WPA). WPA is a big family for all psychiatrists around the Globe. Building the capacity of these professionals to work effectively through education is necessary to achieve the main objectives of WPA. The main challenge of providing appropriate education is that only one-third of faculty departments of psychiatry are based in the low and middle-income countries (LMIC), which are populated by over 80% of the world population. Future dissemination of mental health knowledge and skills will rely heavily on the use of e-technology in order to reach the farthest and most remote corners of the world. Therefore, my first mission is to promote and evaluate the use and value of online taught psychiatric courses to psychiatrists in LMIC. Besides, culturally relevant and user-friendly skills-based manuals of mental health interventions of common mental disorders and stress-related disorders will be developed and made available for free downloading from the WPA website. While recognizing the value of online training for mental health professionals, it is my second mission to enhance the face-to-face transfer of mental health knowledge and skills from educational faculties in high income countries to LMIC through establishment of travel grants and fellowships, especially for mental health professionals working in countries with conflicts, emergencies and disasters.

With increasing emphasis on evidence-based care with due respect of patient choice, the voices of our patients, their caregivers, and community key stakeholders involved in patient care have to be heard and respected. For patients and their stakeholders to stay with us as a united and powerful voice to policymakers, education of their treatment and welfare rights, access to proper knowledge about mental health problems, and enhancing their capability to promote their mental health are paramount. My third mission is to provide learning resources and platforms for these stakeholders in order to promote appropriate education of knowledge and skills in understanding and managing mental health problems, as well as promoting public mental health. The above initiatives could not be realized without collaboration with other potential organizations and development partners. It is my fourth mission to attract new investments to the WPA to support the above education and related work in WPA through partnerships and relationships with organizations that share our WPA goals and objectives.

Your support, feedback, and innovative ideas are important for my fulfillment of the roles and responsibilities of the Secretary of Education of WPA. Please feel free to drop me a line using my e-mail address: rmkng@me.com

Roger MK Ng
WPA Secretary for Education

From the Secretary for Scientific Sections

Dear colleagues,

First let me thank you for the trust you have put in me. I am humbled and deeply honored to serve you as WPA Secretary of Sections for the next 6 years.

I pledge to work together with our President, my colleagues on the Executive Committee, and all of you to further develop the Sections as the scientific backbone of WPA by supporting creative research agendas, by strengthening the power that comes out of diversity, and by building bridges across potential gaps that actually should not exist. Specifically, I would like to focus on the following issues, including both logistical and conceptual aspects:

1. Develop tools for improving and streamlining communication between the Sections.
2. Initiate a brainstorming platform to identify urgent research topics to be taken on in an intersectional and cross-regional approach.
3. Establish cross-country peer networks of researchers to facilitate and share access to knowledge, resources, and strategies to publish successfully, and promote the exchange of (early career) investigators.
4. Continue and expand the intersectional activities of WPA.
5. Leverage the Sections’ experiences and resources to further WPA’s activities for early career psychiatrists by strengthening ties with trainee organizations.
6. Establish truly authentic and compassionate relationships with organizations representing patients, their families and caregivers.

I am looking forward to your ideas, suggestions, critique, and help towards fulfilling our goal of improving the lives of millions of people all over the world.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas G. Schulze
WPA Secretary for Scientific Sections
From the Secretary for Scientific Publications

I would like first to express my gratitude to all those who made possible my election to the WPA EC as Secretary for Scientific Publications. It is a great honor for me and I will do the best I can to the promotion of the Association and the good functioning of its EC.

1. As highlighted in the presentation of my candidacy to this position, my engagement in WPA is based on the idea that WPA offers a unique opportunity to enhance mental health and psychiatry worldwide integrating the diversity of our discipline, including geographical or cultural diversity and theoretical or practical diversity that make the richness of our discipline when it is integrated under a common umbrella.

2. At a general level, publications are situated between science (or knowledge) and education (or training), in reference to evidence and value based good practices. It is therefore, mainly a mediating stage between the input of knowledge and the output of education. The main aim of publications is then to be integrated in this general process to serve its goals, towards the objectives of the WPA action plan 2017-2020.

3. In this general perspective, I consider however, that publications have a specific role to play:
   a. The dissemination of knowledge to improve psychiatric science and practice at various levels
      i. Theoretical
      ii. Practical
      iii. The interactions between them
   b. The communication of publications to promote and increase the visibility, the funding and the academic recognition of:
      i. Globally, Psychiatry, WPA and WPA components
      ii. Locally, of Member Societies and psychiatrists, taking into account their lack of resources in LMIC and the glass-ceiling effect professionals have to face when they want to get their work published, for linguistic, cultural, educational reasons, in less scientifically informed and methodologically trained contexts
      iii. Keeping in mind that WPA is not a scientific organization as any other, because beside knowledge, its purpose should be to use its well deserved prestige to help overcoming these contextual limitations, and for that purpose, promote particularly the scientific production in these less favored contexts

I look very much forward to meeting psychiatrists of the world and representative of Member Societies in future WPA activities. I remain at your disposal to help you in the projects you may have in relation with scientific publications.

Michel Botbol
WPA Secretary for Scientific Publications

WPA Publications Symposium, Berlin 2017

The symposium held on 9th October during WPA World Congress addressed the issue of publishing in low resource countries, and was chaired by Christopher Paul Szabo (South Africa), co-chaired by Prabha Chandra (India) and featured 4 speakers: Peter Tyrer (Emeritus Professor, Imperial College, UK), Dusica Lecic-Tosevski (Professor of Psychiatry, Belgrade University, Serbia), Joao Mauricio Castaldelli-Maia, Santo Andre, SPe, Brazil) and Reinhard Heun (Professor of Psychiatry, Royal Derby Hospital, UK).

From L to R: Joao Mauricio Castaldelli-Maia, Peter Tyrer, Reinhard Heun, Prabha Chandra, Christopher Paul Szabo, and Dusica Lecic-Tosevski.

Peter Tyrer presented work undertaken in an attempt to see whether email assistance helps authors whose papers have been rejected without review by the British Journal of Psychiatry (BJPsych), to publish subsequently. Dusica Lecic-Tosevski spoke about the “publish or perish” credo and the pressure to publish as a phenomenon that impacts not just developed but also developing world settings. Joao Mauricio Castaldelli-Maia spoke about gaps in randomised control trials, having conducted a study to review such gaps. The final presentation was by Reinhard Heun who spoke about how to write a paper, proposing that it should adopt a hypothesis based approach. This was the final work of the Operational Committee on Publications (noting the absence of Alfredo Cia) who served under Michelle Riba as Secretary for Scientific Publications.

Christopher Paul Szabo
WPA THEMATIC CONGRESS
25 - 28 FEBRUARY 2018
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

It’s Not Too Late – Register

Join colleagues from around the world at the WPA Thematic Congress Innovation in Psychiatry: Effective Interventions for Health and Society in Melbourne, Australia, 25-28 February 2018. No matter what your area of expertise, this Congress will have you covered with a scientific program that brings new ideas and innovative thinking on treating mental health and psychiatric illnesses. Presented by proven experts, our symposia, plenaries, presentations and posters will afford attendees the opportunity to discuss, challenge and build on ideas shared.

Don’t miss your opportunity to be part of these important discussions on the future of psychiatry. Register NOW and join us in the beautiful and culturally diverse city of Melbourne. More information at wpamelbourne.kenes.com/ and www.wpanet.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Join us for WCP 2018, Mexico City, 27-30 September, 2018 to discuss how psychiatry can impact some of the most important social challenges facing communities across the globe. Hear from world experts and share in research and learnings that can be applied across borders for local benefit. Now, more than ever, it is essential for the psychiatric community to stand firm for mental health.

You are cordially invited to submit proposals for symposia sessions at the upcoming Congress, for consideration by the Scientific Program Committee. Share your expertise and organize your own symposia session at WCP 2018! Deadline for submission of proposals: 15 January 2018.

More information at www.wpanet.org or www.wcp-congress.com/2018
HON MEMBERSHIPS AND HON FELLOWSHIPS
AWARDED AT WPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
BERLIN 2017

1. WPA Honorary Fellowship

Prof Paul Appelbaum (USA)
Dr Edgard Belfort (Venezuela)
Prof Dinesh Bhugra (UK)
Dr Alfredo Cía (Argentina)
Dr Afzal Javed (Pakistan)
Prof Edmond Pi (USA)
Dr Michelle Riba (USA)
Dr Constantin Soldatos (Greece)
Prof Donna Stewart (Canada)
Dr Zvi Zemishlany (Israel)

Dr Ola Marstein (Norway)
Dr Daniel Maughan (UK)
Dr Gordana Milovic (UK)
Dr Petr V. Morozov (Russia)
Dr Khalid Attaullah Mufti (Pakistan)
Dr Nahla Nagy (Egypt)
Dr Abydas Navickas (Lithuania)
Dr David M. Ndeitei (Kenya)
Dr Roger Ng (Hong Kong)
Prof. Aurel Nireștean (Romania)
Dr Soumitra Pathare (India)
Dr Max Pemberton (UK)
Dr Nerys Perez (Dominican Republic)
Mr Albert Persaud (UK/Spain)
Mr Andrew Peters (Australia)
Dr Mary Piper (UK)
Dr Luz Ma Querubin (Philippines)
Brig MSVK Raju (India)
Dr Virginia Rosabal (Costa Rica)
Prof Roxanna Ruiz (Guatemala)
Dr Walid Sarhan (Jordan)
Sir Anand Satyanand (New Zealand)
Dr Mervyn Schouler-Ocak (Germany)
Dr Raad Shakir (UK)
Dr Avdesk Sharma (India)
Dr Sujatha Sharma (India)
Dr Greg Shields (UK)
Dr Norbert Skokauskas (Norway)
Prof Paul Summergrad (USA)
Dr R Thara (India)
Dr Mvuyiso Talatala (South Africa)
Dr Kuruvilla Thomas (India)
Prof Edgardo Tolentino (Philippines)
Dr Julio Torales (Paraguay)
Dr Pichet Udomratn (Thailand)
Dr Uwoidoho Udofia (Nigeria)
Dr Rutger Jan van der Gaag (Netherlands)
Prof Bernard van Rensburg (South Africa)
Dr Antonio Ventriglio (Italy)
Dr Lakshmi Vijayakumar (India)
Ms Marjorie Wallace (UK)
Dr Ian Westmore (South Africa)
Sir Simon Wessely (UK)
Dr Michael Jan Wise (UK)

Dr Andrea Fiorillo (Italy)
Dr Andrew Forrester (UK)
Dr Silvana Galderisi (Italy)
Dr Silvia Gaviria (Colombia)
Sir David Goldberg (UK)
Dr Mukesh Haikerwal (Australia)
Dr Julie Holzhausen (Germany)
Dr Malcolm Hopwood (Australia)
Prof Gabriel Ibijaro (UK)
Dr Paramjit Joshi (USA)
Prof Michael Kidd (Australia)
Dr Jyrki Korkeila (Finland)
Prof Linda Lam (Hong Kong)
Rt Hon Norman Lamb (UK)
Dr Alex Langford (UK)
Dr Min-Soo Lee (South Korea)
Dr Bennett Leventhal (USA)
Dr Saul Levin (USA)
Dr Petros Levounis (USA)
Dr Maria-Ines Lopez-Ibor (Spain)
Dr S. C. Malik (India)
Dr Joan Marsh (UK)

2. WPA Honorary Membership

Dr Leopoldo Abda (Ecuador)
Prof Mohan Agashe (India)
Dr Francis Agnew (New Zealand)
Prof Paul Appelbaum (USA)
Dr Gisele Apter (France)
Dr T.V. Asokan (India)
Dr Stojan Bajraktarov (Republic of Macedonia, FYROM)
Prof Sabyasachi Bhaumik (UK)
Prof K S Bhu (India)
Dr Michel Botbol (France)
Dr Niall Boyce (UK)
Rt Hon Paul Burstow (UK)
Mrs Vanessa Cameron (UK)
Dr Eka Chkonia (Georgia)
Dr Wai-chi Chan (Hong Kong)
Dr Prabha Chandra (India)
Dr Santosh K Chaturvedi (India)
Dr Massimo Clerici (Italy)
Dr Mary Cohen (USA)
Prof Eric Chen (Hong Kong)
Prof Enrique Chávez León (Mexico)
Dr Frank Huang-Chih Chou (Taiwan)
Dr Rodrigo Cordoba (Colombia)
Prof Tom Craig (UK)
Dr Kirsten Eckstrand (USA)
Prof Ian Everall (Australia/UK)
Dr Ann Faerden (Norway)
Prof Peter Falkai (Germany)
Mr Jon Fanning (USA)
Dr Dr Andrea Fiorillo (Italy)
Dr Andrew Forrester (UK)
Dr Silvana Galderisi (Italy)
Dr Silvia Gaviria (Colombia)
Sir David Goldberg (UK)
Dr Mukesh Haikerwal (Australia)
Dr Julie Holzhausen (Germany)
Dr Malcolm Hopwood (Australia)
Prof Gabriel Ibijaro (UK)
Dr Paramjit Joshi (USA)
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Dr S. C. Malik (India)
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Dr Ola Marstein (Norway)
Dr Daniel Maughan (UK)
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Dr Petr V. Morozov (Russia)
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Dr David M. Ndeitei (Kenya)
Dr Roger Ng (Hong Kong)
Prof. Aurel Nireștean (Romania)
Dr Soumitra Pathare (India)
Dr Max Pemberton (UK)
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Dr Mary Piper (UK)
Dr Luz Ma Querubin (Philippines)
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Dr Virginia Rosabal (Costa Rica)
Prof Roxanna Ruiz (Guatemala)
Dr Walid Sarhan (Jordan)
Sir Anand Satyanand (New Zealand)
Dr Mervyn Schouler-Ocak (Germany)
Dr Raad Shakir (UK)
Dr Avdesk Sharma (India)
Dr Sujatha Sharma (India)
Dr Greg Shields (UK)
Dr Norbert Skokauskas (Norway)
Prof Paul Summergrad (USA)
Dr R Thara (India)
Dr Mvuyiso Talatala (South Africa)
Dr Kuruvilla Thomas (India)
Prof Edgardo Tolentino (Philippines)
Dr Julio Torales (Paraguay)
Dr Pichet Udomratn (Thailand)
Dr Uwoidoho Udofia (Nigeria)
Dr Rutger Jan van der Gaag (Netherlands)
Prof Bernard van Rensburg (South Africa)
Dr Antonio Ventriglio (Italy)
Dr Lakshmi Vijayakumar (India)
Ms Marjorie Wallace (UK)
Dr Ian Westmore (South Africa)
Sir Simon Wessely (UK)
Dr Michael Jan Wise (UK)

Presidential Commendations

Mrs Vanessa Cameron (UK) Goodwill Ambassador
Dr Antonio Geraldo de Silva (Brazil)
Prof Helen Herrman (Australia)
Dr Dilip Jeste (USA)
Dr Marianne Kastrup (Denmark)
Dr Saul Levin (USA)
Prof Mario Maj (Italy)
Mr Kunal Nayyar (USA/India) Goodwill Ambassador
Mr Suresh Oberoi (India) Goodwill Ambassador
Ms Shivani (India) Goodwill Ambassador
Prof Robert van Voren
Sir Simon Wessely (UK)
ZONE 1 (CANADA)

The Mental Health Commission of Canada, first formed in 2007, received a renewed ten-year mandate for 2017-2027. It has identified its current key focus areas as Children and Youth, First Nations, Inuit and Metis, Mental Health First Aid, Suicide Prevention and Workplace Mental Health. While stigma and discrimination continue to be significant problems, there is also increasing public interest in mental health, both at local levels and nationally. Access to health care is entrenched in the Canada Health Act, however resources and funding are largely determined on a provincial level, creating a complex system to navigate when advocating for increased mental health resources.

Two rapidly evolving areas of national health policy pertain to Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) and legalization of cannabis. National legislation on MAiD was introduced in June 2016 following a Supreme Court case ruling in 2015. Current MAiD legislation in Canada allows for MAiD if a person has a serious and incurable illness, are in an advanced state of irreversible decline, have intolerable suffering, and their natural death has become reasonably foreseeable. Mental illness is not specifically excluded, however applications for sole criterion mental illness would typically not fulfill the “reasonably foreseeable” death criterion. The federal government has commissioned the Council of Canadian Academies to establish three Expert Panels to further study the implications of potential MAiD when mental illness is the sole underlying condition, for mature minors, and advance directives. I sit on the Mental Illness panel, all panels anticipate completing their reports by fall 2018 for government review.

The federal government is also tabling legislation to legalize cannabis. Regulated medicinal cannabis has been legal in Canada since 2001. The government has indicated it aims to have processes and legislation in place to allow for legalized cannabis by July 2018. The Canadian Psychiatric Association and other organizations have been working to inform policy makers on potential mental health impacts, particularly on vulnerable youth populations.

K. Sonu Gaind
Zonal Representative for Zone 1 (Canada)

ZONE 8 (SOUTHERN EUROPE)

A Zonal Symposium titled “Compulsory treatment and the use of physical restraints in Southern Europe” was held in the WPA Congress in Berlin (12.10.17). The Symposium, dealing with two controversial issues in psychiatry practice, was well attended. The presenters were Prof. Zvi Zemishlany (Israel), Dr. Enrico Zanalda (Italy) and Dr. M. Can Ger (Turkey). All presenters agreed that compulsory hospitalization is necessary for some patients and is a common practice in the three countries of the zone. The rate of compulsory hospitalization is lower in Italy compared to Israel and Turkey (only 9% of admissions), probably due to an effective enforcement by the police of outpatient compulsory treatment.

The use of physical restraints is more frequent in Southern Europe in comparison to Western Europe. The reasons for that are a shortage of staff and a lack of a legal framework for restraints practices. It was concluded that the use of physical restraints should be reduced as much as possible, in a cost-benefit manner.

Zvi Zemishlany
Zonal Representative for Zone 8 (Southern Europe)

ZONE 10 (EASTERN EUROPE)

On the 30th of October 2017 the second Moscow international Conference “Interdisciplinary approaches to the mental health of person and society” took place in Moscow State University. The Conference united specialists from different fields of knowledge to speak on the issue of mental health: psychiatrists, psychologists, biologists, journalists, lawyers, sociologists. 140 scientific reports were presented in 18 scientific sessions. Traditional clinical aspects of mental health support and rehabilitation of people with mental disorders were discussed along with modern approaches to fundamental research in psychiatry (genetics, epigenetics, proteomics, neurophysiology, etc.). The Conference was organized with the support of Moscow State University (Prof.

Interdisciplinary audience at the Conference.
ZONE 11 (NORTHERN AFRICA)

On the 17th and 18th November 2017, I attended the Young psychiatrists association meeting “Jeunes Psy” in its 5th Annual Scientific Meeting in Tunis, Tunisia. This year’s topic was Perspectives in psychiatry: “back to the future”. At the opening ceremony, welcome speeches were given by Pr Fethi Nasef, Chief of the psychiatric department in Razi Hospital, La Manouba, Tunisia and president of the Tunisian bipolar forum and Amine Larnaout, psychiatry resident and president of Jeunes Psy. They welcomed Pr J.Ventura (USA); Pr M. Carta (Italy); Pr J.M. Aubry (France) and Dr Hatem Alaa (Egypt). Jeunes Psy welcomed two special and honorary guests: Pr N. Nagy, Professor of Psychiatry, Cairo, Egypt and Zonal Representative of the World Psychiatry association Northern Africa and Dr Mariana Pinto da Costa, Early Career Psychiatrists Section Chair at the WPA.

The 5th Annual Scientific Meeting program was divided into 4 main sessions, two workshops and a closing conference. Sixteen psychiatry residents presented oral communications. The Young psychiatrists association “Jeunes Psy” is a scientific association created in 2011 by young residents in Psychiatry and Child Psychiatry.

Nahla Nagy
Zonal Representative for Zone 11
(Northern Africa)

ZONE 12 (MIDDLE EAST)

Qatar is holding its 6th Qatar International Mental Health Conference in December this year, hosting a number of international, regional and local speakers and delegates. The Emirates Society for Mental Health conducted the 5th Emirates Society Mental Health Conference under the theme “Patients and Families’ awareness” in October. Abu Dhabi, in the United Arab Emirates, is holding its 6th International Child and Adult Behavioural Health Conference in March 2018; the theme is ‘bridging the gap between scientific research and clinical practice’. In October, the College of Medicine at the University of Baghdad held the first national symposium about suicide in Iraq, in collaboration with the Royal College of Psychiatrists, UK. Talks highlighted data from 2015-2016, and discussed the suicide prevention strategy in the country.

The Lebanese Psychiatric Society organised the Mental Health Day 3rd and 4th November in association with the WPA, with the theme “Depression: Let’s talk”. The program addressed the interface between depression and physical illness and drew on data from Lebanon. Oman has an ongoing mental health awareness campaign through this year. It covers a variety of topics raising public awareness and reducing stigma, through a series of talks to the public, regular TV programs, and utilising social media resources.

Suhaila Ghuloum
Zonal Representative for Zone 12
(Middle East)

ZONE 14 (EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA)

Some of the forthcoming events are:

(1) The 5th Global Mental Health Summit planned to take place from 8-9 February 2018 in Johannesburg, (summit@globalmentalhealth.org), to which several of the WPA-WHO Forum’s Panel chairs and members have been invited. With agreement by the organisers, this meeting could provide a follow-up opportunity to take the necessary liaison and planning another step forward.

(2) The “Mental Health Innovations – Africa” (www.mhinnovation.net) as a platform for role players to continue discussion and communication between role players in Africa. This is a well-established NGO networking group, with a specific African focus.

(3) Dr. Mvuyiso Talatala, as part of his ongoing SASOP portfolio of African Liaison, has recently strengthened relations with the Southern African Group of Psychiatrists at a meeting in Cape Town in June 2017, involving also psychiatrists in countries with no association yet. These included SA, Mozambique, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Uganda, Swaziland, Ethiopia, Tanzania. Similarly, this group has drafted a regional position statement on ‘A continental alliance for inte...
ZONE 15 (CENTRAL AND WESTERN ASIA)

The Institute of Psychiatry, WHO collaborating center for Mental Health Research and Training, Rawalpindi Medical University organized a symposium to highlight the World Mental Health Day theme. Dr. A T Nizami head of the institute stressed that since most of adult life is spent in the workplace, the environment and experience of the workplace has a major effect on our mental health and quality of life. A working group was constituted to promote mental health at workplaces. Eminent Psychiatrists Prof. Farid Minhas Dean Psychiatry College of Physicians and Surgeons Pakistan and Prof. Malik Mubashir the Founder of Institute supported the WHO objectives.

Khalid A Mufti
Zonal Representative for Zone 15
(Central and Western Asia)

ZONE 18 (AUSTRALASIA AND SOUTH PACIFIC)

On 18 September 2017, Ms. Rosy Sofia Akbar, Fijian Minister for Health and Medical Services opened the 7th Creating Futures conference in Suva, Fiji. In welcoming delegates she made note of the “diverse and eminent group, all of whom are united by the goals of building networks, sharing knowledge and experiences, and developing skills with the ultimate aim of ensuring safer, better and more effective care for those in our communities who experience mental illness”. The theme of the conference was Strengthening Mental Health Capacity in the Pacific. Plenaries and workshops involved forty presenters from Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and India and a similar number of local co-facilitators.

On the 25th September 2017, the 3rd Pasifika Study Group opened in Noumea, New Caledonia. A joint project of the Faculty of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, and the Pasifika Medical Association, the Pasifika Study Group brought together doctors from a range of Pacific nations including Cook Islands, Samoa, Tonga, Fiji, Vanuatu, Noumea, Australia and New Zealand, who are leaders in the mental health services in their nations. The aim of the Pasifika Study Group is to support the development of mental health capacity in Pacific nations, strengthening networks across the Pacific and sharing experience and knowledge regarding the unique challenges faced in providing mental health care for children and youth in Pacific contexts.

Allister Bush
Zonal Representative for Zone 18
(Australasia and the South Pacific)
ICELANDIC PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

We invite you to attend the 32nd Nordic Congress of Psychiatry which will be held in Reykjavik, Iceland on June 13th-16th, 2018. We are proud to introduce Harpa, Reykjavik’s new Concert Hall and Conference Center. Harpa is located in the heart of Reykjavik, overlooking the bay and mount Esja. It is within walking distance from most of the congress hotels, art galleries, restaurants and shopping areas. The programme will focus on recent advances in clinical and basic mental health sciences and will include invited plenary lectures, parallel symposia, free presentations and poster sessions. The theme of the congress “Shaping the Future” emphasizes the importance of psychiatry for future developments of psychiatric care in our health care systems.

We encourage participants to use this opportunity to take time to enjoy the unique nature of Iceland and attend some of the many cultural events Reykjavik has to offer. The congress website is: http://www.ncp2018.is/

Welcome to NCP in Reykjavik in June 2018.

Thorgunnur Arsaelsdottir, President
Halldóra Jónsdóttir, Chairman, OC
Icelandic Psychiatric Association

JAPANESE SOCIETY OF PSYCHIATRY AND NEUROLOGY

The 114th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Psychiatry and Neurology “Commonality and Uniqueness of Psychiatry in Medicine and Medical Care”, will be held at Kobe, Japan, 21-23 June 2018. Organizer: Japanese Society of Psychiatry and Neurology (JSPN). Contact: Prof. Hiroshi Yoneda.

Inauguration of WFMH Congress at New Delhi on Nov 2, 2017. Seen L to R. Dr Sunil Mittal, Prof Gabriel Ivbijaro, Dr Harsh Vardhan, Hon’ble President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind, Dr Preeti Sudan, Prof Helen Herrman and Dr NK Bohra.

Dr Sunil Mittal
The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) congratulates Professor Helen Herrman on becoming the President of the World Psychiatric Association, and acknowledges her as being the first Australian to hold the position. Professor Herrman has been a Fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists since 1987. She is the Director of the World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Mental Health in Melbourne, as well as Director, Research, Orygen, The National Centre of Excellence in Youth Mental Health at The University of Melbourne.

We also congratulate Dr. Afzal Javed on his appointment as President-Elect, and we look forward to working with Prof. Herrman and Dr. Javed in the future. Recognising that the psychiatric profession in Australia and New Zealand makes important contributions to particular mental health issues, the RANZCP has established two new networks: one on family violence and another on veterans’ mental health. The networks are embedded within the RANZCP’s governance structure and will report directly to the RANZCP Board.

Neuropsychiatry Days, which is one of the traditional meetings of the Turkish Neuropsychiatric Society was held on 26-28 October 2017 and celebrated its 10th anniversary. The meeting was held in collaboration with Brain Research Society. The main focus of the meeting was limbic system. Different features of limbic system have been covered in detail in terms of its anatomy, physiology and pathology. This special course of one and a half days included practice sessions in which all participants watched videos of anatomical dissections. The participants also had the chance to take part in dissections directly in smaller groups.

The second part of the meeting consisted of conferences and panel discussions not only on limbic system, but also on different topics such as artificial intelligence, new developments on Alzheimer’s disease and the relationship between behavior and emotion. An interactive discussion on memory models and autonoetic consciousness was also one of the many memorable parts of the meeting. Overall, 10th Neuropsychiatry Days turned out to be a fruitful event for neuroscientists and a source of inspiration for the 11th meeting.

Banu Aslantas Ertekin
EC Member, Turkish Neuropsychiatric Society

The Royal College of Psychiatrists’ recent “Choose Psychiatry” campaign aimed to increase awareness of the specialty among medical students and foundation doctors, highlight the benefits of working as a psychiatrist and, ultimately, encourage more to apply for training posts in psychiatry. Our short film (https://youtu.be/ewJ_jprh6Sw) tells the stories of patients and how they thought their psychiatrist had changed their lives for the better. We used the testimony of real patients and filmed real psychiatrists, so the story was authentic and impactful.

This film is supported by a range of other resources including:
• “day in the life” films featuring psychiatrists at different stages of their career
• profile films of psychiatrists talking about their careers
• a new section of our website about careers in psychiatry

Excellent media coverage including pieces on the BBC, Sky and Huffington Post, plus a steady flow across social media ensured that many of our target audience saw the campaign, which had a “reach” of 28 million, and a huge increase in students and foundation
LITHUANIAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

Lithuanian medicine is currently experiencing a very difficult financial situation. It has not changed for good for a long time. Almost all doctor services are priced at very low rates. Due to lack of funds, there are not enough staff in all medical institutions. Primary care psychiatrists face an enormous workload every day. The price per registered person is 3.91 EUR per year. For this amount, the psychiatrist has to provide all necessary services to each registered patient, as needed, throughout the whole year. Therefore, there is a shortage of doctors, including psychiatrists, because the medical institutions do not receive enough funds from the Lithuanian budget to hire more specialists. A typical situation is, a psychiatrist can give only 10 minutes for a patient or six patients per hour (36 patients per one working day of six hours). Due to such volumes, psychiatrists cannot ensure enough attention to each patient.

In October, an organization of health professionals “Lithuanian Medical Movement” was established, which is now trying to bring together all doctors in the country to discuss with the Ministry of Health and the Lithuanian Parliament on the increase of financing for medicine and improvement of services. Psychiatrists, together with family physicians, are actively involved in these discussions, addressing these emerging issues.

Alvydas Navickas
President, Lithuanian Psychiatric Association

PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION OF BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

The IV Congress of Psychiatry of Bosnia and Herzegovina was organised in collaboration with Faculty of Medicine, University of Banja Luka, 16th-19th November 2017. The main theme was “Psychiatry and Mental Health: Dilemmas and Perspectives”. Numerous participants and guests (more than 300) from the country and 10 more European countries were included in the broad Congress programme, which included 9 Plenary and 30 Invited Lectures, 5 specialized Symposia, more than 150 oral and poster presentations, and international workshop, EPA Itinerant Course and two sessions Ask the Expert, at three connected locations as well as in rich social programme after sessions. WPA Zone 9 Meeting was held under the leadership of Stojan Bajraktarov (ZR), with representatives of five regional associations in the presence of Afzal Javed (WPA President-Elect) and Michel Botbol (WPA Secretary for Scientific Publications).

Our Congress was a WPA co-sponsored event awarded with WPA Educational Credits, under the patronage of the European Psychiatric Association as well as supported by the Ministry of Health, Academy for Science and Arts, University Clinical Center, City of Banja Luka, Swiss Embassy and Project of Mental Health as well as by professional organizations in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Congress had huge professional, scientific and social success.

Marija Burgic-Radmanovic, President
Goran Račetović, Secretary General
Psychiatric Association of Bosnia-Herzegovina

First row (from left): Marija Burgic-Radmanovic (PABH President), Miro Jakovljevic (Zagreb, Croatia), Abdulah Kucukalic (PABH Vice-President), Miroslava Jasovic-Gasic (Belgrade, Serbia), Gordana Milavic (London, UK), Afzal Javed (WPA President-Elect, UK), Norman Sartorius (Geneva), Goran Cerkez (Federal Ministry of Health, Sarajevo, B&H), and Ljiljana Ivancic (Ministry of Health and Social Welfare of Republic of Srpska, B&H).
It gives us immense pleasure to invite you all to the 70th Annual National Conference of Indian Psychiatric Society, 2018 (ANCIPS 2018) Ranchi to be held from 5 - 8 February 2018 at Central Institute of Psychiatry, Ranchi. The Conference promises to be an Academic & Cultural Feast with confluence of over 3000 delegates from across the nation & abroad. We would be delighted to have you here in Ranchi to share your experiences and to contribute to the development of future trends in PSYCHIATRY. Your presence will surely enhance the scientific level of this educational gathering. Please visit ancips2018ranchi.com.

Brig MSVK Raju, President
Gautam Saha, General Secretary
Indian Psychiatric Society

The 24th National Conference of Indian Association for Social Psychiatry was held on 17th-19th November 2017 at Guwahati, gateway to Northeast of India. It was inaugurated by Prof. A. Adhikari, Principal, Gauhati Medical College. Prof. Rajiv Gupta, President of IASP presided and Prof. Roy Abraham Kallivayalil, Secretary General WPA gave address as the Guest of Honour. Prof. HR Phookun, Prof. Mamta Sood, Prof. D Basu, Dr. Vinay Kumar, Dr. Utpal Bora and others spoke. This was for the first time that a national conference was held in the northeast. It was attended by more than 250 delegates. The scientific program was very rich and delegates deliberated on the topics related to the theme of the conference: Cultural Diversity and Mental Health. Abstracts of the presentations in the conference are available as supplement of the Indian Journal of Social Psychiatry. The 25th National Conference of IASP will be held at Rohtak, Haryana, India. Please visit our website http://iasp.org.in/.

Mamta Sood
Secretary General, Indian Association for Social Psychiatry

Indian Association of Social Psychiatry National Conference, Guwahati. Seen L to R are Prof. HR Phookun, Prof. A Adhikary (Chief Guest), Prof. Roy Abraham Kallivayalil (Sec Gen WPA), Prof. Rajiv Gupta (President), Prof. Mamta Sood, and Dr Vinay Kumar.
At the annual meeting of the TSOP, 4-5 November 2017 at Tainan, Taiwan, the whole TSOP members elected directly 15 new council members for 2017-2018. One week later, the new council members met and an election was held. Among themselves, Prof. Te-Jen Lai was re-elected as TSOP president for another two-year term, 2017-2019. TSOP by-law limits for the TSOP presidents no more than two consecutive two-year terms. Prof. Lai was the chairman of the Department of Psychiatry at Chung Shan University Hospital in Taichung before he became the dean of Chung Shan Medical University. His major professional interests are geriatric psychiatry and suicidal prevention. TSOP has a membership of 1,600 psychiatrists for the population of 23 million in Taiwan.

Winston W. Shen
WPA Zonal Representative for Zone 17 (Eastern Asia)

News from WPA Scientific Sections
WPA Secretary for Scientific Sections, Thomas G. Schulze, thomas.schulze@med.uni-muenchen.de

The Comprehensive Textbook of AIDS Psychiatry – A Paradigm of Integrated Care edited by Drs. Cohen, Gorman, Volberding, Jacobson, and Letendre was published by Oxford University Press in May 2017 in print and online. Our textbook has 135 contributors more than half of whom are members of the WPA Section on HIV/AIDS Psychiatry. For a description of the book and table of contents, access:

https://global.oup.com/academic/product/comprehensive-textbook-of-aids-psychiatry-9780199392742?q=mary%20ann%20cohen&lang=en&cc=us# Our HIV Psychiatry Quarterly Updatable Annotated Bibliography can be accessed at:


Dr. Cohen was awarded honorary membership in the WPA. Our Section now has 403 members. We held meetings of our Section at the 2017 World Congress in Berlin in October 2017. The main topics of concern were HIV and addictions, HIV stigma, and prevention of HIV transmission. Cultural aspects of challenges to HIV prevention and care were presented and discussed along with strategies to address them. Plans for presentations at future meetings were proposed. Please note that our Section now has a new listserv address: hiv-aids@list.apm.org We invite you to attend our meetings and explore our web page at: http://www.apm.org/sigs/hiv/ We welcome new members and invite you to join our SIG at:

https://www.apm.org/about-apm/sigs/hiv/signup

Mary Ann Adler Cohen, Chair
Jordi Blanch, Secretary
Section on HIV/AIDS Psychiatry

Presenters at the Symposium on HIV psychiatry in the 21st century: at WPA Berlin. L to R. are Jordi Blanch, Spain; Mary Ann Adler Cohen, USA; Cesar A. Alfonso, USA; and Luís Pereira, USA and Portugal.
ANXIETY AND OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE DISORDERS

Problematic Internet Usage (PUI)

Growing global concern about the public health and societal costs of Problematic Internet Usage (PUI), which has an estimated prevalence of 6% among the general population and which is increasingly recognised to affect children and young people, represents an emerging challenge for mental health research. Some disordered online behaviours, such as excessive gaming, buying, gambling, email checking, social media use and viewing pornography, cause such significant impairment of everyday functioning of some individuals that mental health professional help is sought. National health authorities are now expressing concern. However, there is lack of agreement on the definition of PUI as a ‘mental disorder’ and a critical scarcity of reliable information on its prevalence, clinical parameters, brain-based biology and socio-health-economic impact. Moreover, significant geographical differences in the magnitude of the problem (e.g. East Asia versus Europe) need to be better understood, to inform health policy and service development.

To this end, the EU under its Horizon 2020 umbrella has just launched a new four year European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) Action Programme (CA 16207), led by members of the WPA Anxiety and Obsessive Compulsive Disorders Section, to advance networked interdisciplinary research into problematic internet usage across Europe and beyond. The first steps will be to reach consensus on the reliable definition of the problem, devise age-appropriate assessment instruments to measure its severity, plan studies to clarify its clinical course and impact on health and quality of life as well as to clarify the underpinning brain-based mechanisms to support the development of screening biomarkers to identify those who are vulnerable before the problematic use becomes too entrenched and ultimately to identify targets to guide the development of new and effective interventions.

The Action welcomes research-active scientists working in the field. More information on how to join COST action can be found at: http://www.cost.eu/participate/join_action.

Naomi A Fineberg, Chair
Joseph Zohar, Secretary
Natalie Hall and Julius Burkauskas
Section on Anxiety and Obsessive Compulsive Disorders

GENETICS IN PSYCHIATRY

The Genetics Section organized a symposium on ‘Genetic testing for the optimization of treatment - truly ready for clinical prime time?’ at WPA Berlin Congress. It was chaired by Dr. Thomas G. Schulze (Munich, Germany) and Dr. Dan Rujescu (Halle, Germany). It included seven discussants: Gonzalo Laje, (Chevy Chase, USA), Siegfried Kasper (Vienna, Austria), Wagner F. Gattaz (São Paulo, Brazil), Mark Frye (Rochester, USA), Daniel Müller (Toronto, Canada), Julia Stingl (Bonn, Germany), and Anna C. Eichhorn (Pfungstadt, Germany) who updated the audience about their relevant work and then engaged the audience in a vigorous discussion of clinical utility of genetic testing in psychiatry, and its future.

Vishwajit L Nimgaonkar
Acting Chair, Section on Genetics in Psychiatry

Symposium at WPA Berlin, Oct 2017. Seen in the picture are L to R: Mark Frye, Siegfried Kasper, Julia Stingl, Dan Rujescu, Anna C. Eichhorn, Daniel Müller, Wagner F Gattaz, Gonzalo Laje and Thomas Schulze (WPA Secretary for Scientific Sections).

Müller (Toronto, Canada), Julia Stingl (Bonn, Germany), and Anna C. Eichhorn (Pfungstadt, Germany) who updated the audience about their relevant work and then engaged the audience in a vigorous discussion of clinical utility of genetic testing in psychiatry, and its future.
ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDERS

The major events in our section in the past couple of years are: 1) An ADHD symposium at WPA Berlin Congress 2017. The subject was “Advances in ADHD research” and the speakers were all section members. 2) We had a digital/ballot election in which I was elected as Chair and Dr. Soutullo was elected as Secretary, unanimously. We hope to continue the productive and inspirational work of Prof. Biederman, the retiring chair.

Iris Manor
Chair, Section on Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorders

WOMEN’S MENTAL HEALTH

During the WPA World Congress of Psychiatry 2017 our Section held a meeting which was attended by 30 members and WPA President Prof. Helen Herrman. The agenda included: the election of the new board, with the addition of three assisting members, definition and expansion of the advisory board, presentation of the Section action plan and a short presentation of Prof. Herrman’s Action Plan.

Josyan Madi-Skaff
Chair, Section on Women’s Mental Health

At the 9th Canadian Conference on Dementia (CCD) in Toronto, Ontario, Canada on November 2-4, Dr. Dilip Jeste provided a keynote speech entitled “Secrets of Successful Cognitive and Emotional Aging” and Dr. Keri-Leigh Cassidy gave a plenary entitled “Fountain of Health Initiative: A Unique Canadian Strategy to Promote Brain Health and Resilience”. Linda Gobessi was also the plenary speaker on the Fountain of Health at the Calgary’s Annual Geriatrics Update course.

Amy Gough
Associate Editor, Section on Positive Psychiatry

POSITIVE PSYCHIATRY

At the WPA World Congress of Psychiatry in Berlin 2017, Dilip Jeste co-chaired a session on Positive Psychiatry and Spirituality (with Dr. Alexander Moreira-Almeida of Brazil), speaking about “Positive psychiatry: more than just treating mental disorders”. Amresh Shrivastava chaired the inaugural Positive Psychiatry Symposium “Perspectives on Positive Psychiatry: Transition from Illness to Wellness”. At this session, our section members Beverley Cassidy and Kiran Rabheru spoke on “The Fountain of Health Initiative: Optimizing brain health, vitality and resilience across the spectrum of aging” and Amresh Shrivastava talked about the concept of self-worth as a positive psychiatry-based intervention.

Linda Gobessi (left) and Heidi Schmaltz at Calgary’s Annual Geriatrics Update course.

Matters for WPA News

Please send all matter for publication in the WPA News to Prof. Roy Abraham Kallivayalil, Secretary General, wpasecretariat@wpanet.org.

A copy may be marked to roykalli@gmail.com
We had a well attended business meeting in Berlin, chaired by the outgoing Chair Michel Botbol. Our section leadership for the next triennium includes Hervé Granier (France), Graciela Onofrio (Argentina), César Alfonso (USA), Hachem Tyal (Morocco), Maria Ammon (Germany), Petrin Redayani Lukman (Indonesia), Saman Tavakoli (Iran) and Michel Botbol (France). We now have 22 countries represented in our section with close to 80 members. Intersectional collaborations with the Education in Psychiatry and Psychoanalysis in Psychiatry sections included four symposia in Berlin and two in the upcoming Melbourne WPA congress. We are also planning to participate in the Mexico DF meeting in 2018. Upcoming psychoanalytic conferences co-organized by our members include: Hachem Tyal - ALFAPSY Colloquium in Marrakech in March 2018, César Alfonso - 62nd Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Psychodynamic Psychiatry and Psychoanalysis in New York in May 2018 and Graciela Onofrio - Argentine Psychoanalytic Association meeting in February 2018.

Educational activities in the few months since the Berlin meeting include a psychoanalytic meeting on object relations theory in Malang, East Java organized by Limas Sutanto, Petrin Redayani Lukman and Sylvia Detri Elvira, and an Introductory Course on Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy in Isfahan, Iran, orchestrated by Saman Tavakoli.

Cesar A. Alfonso
Secretary, Section on Psychoanalysis in Psychiatry

The newly elected Committee of the Section has already met twice since October 2017, planning future meetings, developing collaboration with different WPA sections and organizations, facilitating publications and promoting philosophy and humanities through various media. Our Section was very well represented at the 19th Annual Conference of International Network for Philosophy & Psychiatry held on 13-15 November 2017 in Madrid. The opening keynote was given by Giovanni Stanghellini on behalf of Bill Fulford. Some of our Section members - Guenda Bernegger, Matthew Broome, Thomas Fuchs, Bill Fulford, Guilherme Messas, Michael Musalek, Jean Naudin, Maria Rovaletti, John Sadler, Borut Skodlar, and Michael Wong - presented plenary lectures and sessional papers on topics ranging from social aesthetics, embodied neuroscience, values based psychiatry, phenomenology, biosocial ethics to hermeneutics and transdisciplinary research.

SAVE THE DATE!! Our Section has identified the 20th Annual Conference of International Network for Philosophy & Psychiatry, which is being held in Hong Kong on 4-6 October 2018 as the major academic event of 2018. Our Section is one of the major support organizations and our Section Secretary Michael Wong is the Chair of the Organizing and Scientific Program Committees.

Michael TH Wong
Secretary, Section on Philosophy and Humanities in Psychiatry
**Psychotherapy**

The Psychotherapy Section held a business meeting in Berlin. Our section leadership includes César Alfonso (USA), Allan Tasman (USA), Rizky Aniza Winanda (Indonesia), Hazli Zakaria (Malaysia), Daniel Nahum (USA), Dusica Lecic Tosevski (Serbia), Renato Alarcón (Peru), and Ekin Sonmez (Turkey). We now have 28 countries represented in our section with close to 100 members. Intersectional collaborations with the Education in Psychiatry and Psychoanalysis in Psychiatry Sections included three symposia in Berlin and two in the upcoming Melbourne WPA congress. We are also planning to participate in the Mexico DF meeting in 2018. Recently held educational workshops include a conference in Indonesia on object relations theory by section members Petrin Redayani Lukman, Sylvia Detri Elvira and Limas Sutanto, and a Satir psychotherapy course in Thailand where our section member Pichai Ittasakul served as a faculty coordinator.

Cesar A. Alfonso  
Chair, Section on Psychotherapy

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**Military Psychiatry**

At the WPA Berlin Congress 2017, Section symposium named “Mental health consequences of war conflicts: what military psychiatry can teach us” included four interesting reports about current themes in the field. J. Vevera gave lecture about the acute stress reaction from military perspective, T. Frančišković and M. Letica Crepulja presented their clinical experiences in early interventions for individuals with combat-operational stress reactions, L. Mužinić Marinić and I. Marinić spoke about mental and somatic comorbidities in patients with chronic posttraumatic stress disorder, and V. Rozanov gave an overview about the information wars, terrorism, mass media and mental health.

During the business meeting, the Chair (V. Rozanov) gave the overview of the achievements and activities of the Section, after which the Section held election for new board members, as current Board has served for two consecutive terms. The members elected Tanja Frančišković as the new Chair, Igor Marinić as new co-Chair and Georgios Pagkalos as new Secretary.

Igor Marinić  
Co-chair, Section on Military Psychiatry

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**Interdisciplinary Collaboration**

The Section on Interdisciplinary Collaboration spearheaded three sessions at the World Congress of Psychiatry in Berlin, October 2017. True to its mission the two symposia were Inter-Sectional and the workshop was Interdisciplinary. We organized a Symposium on: Stress-A Global Common Denominator in collaboration with the WPA Section on Evidence Based Psychiatry and another one: Interdisciplinary Concepts and Diagnoses of Mental Well Being, together with the WPA Sections on Psychiatry, Medicine and Primary care and of Psychoneuroendocrinology. Our Educational efforts were pursued through a Workshop: Enhancing Creativity and Innovation of Young Psychiatrists which was conducted with a young expert on Entrepreneurial Education.

The subjects of our recent activities are incorporated in a Position Paper: Partnerships for Global Well-Being. A draft is currently distributed to many diversified colleagues. Hopefully it will be released as an Inter-Sectional consensus. The Chair of the Section, Professor Uriel Halbreich presented scientific and policy topics in several Congresses. Discussions with colleagues in several Regions will hopefully lead to establishment of Regional Interdisciplinary Collaborative Alliances-RICAs.

Uriel Halbreich  
Chair, Section on Interdisciplinary Collaboration
**EARLY CAREER PSYCHIATRISTS**

The WPA Early Career Psychiatrists Section had several successful activities in the WPA Congress in Berlin, with contributions from Professor Helen Herrman in the symposium “A beginner’s guide to a successful career in psychiatry” and Professor Norman Sartorius in the “Meet-the-expert-session”, amongst many other collaborative sessions within the Congress Programme and venue, such as “Opportunities for Early Career Psychiatrists”, “Academic Publishing Workshop”, and outside, in the city of Berlin with clinical visits and a pub crawl. The new elected board has eight members, each representing a region of the world (Western Europe, Eastern Europe, North Africa and Middle East, Asia, South Africa, North America, South America and Australia and New Zealand). The ECP Section will continue working to support psychiatric trainees and early career psychiatrists across the world, providing them further opportunities for professional development.

Mariana Pinto da Costa
Chair, Section on Early Career Psychiatrists

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**CONFLICT MANAGEMENT AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

The Section presented a Symposium at WPA Berlin Congress 2017 entitled “What Happens if We Solve our World’s Crises with Amygdala Driven Reactions?”. It was chaired by Prof. Michael Stark. The speakers were: Roy Abraham Kallivayalil, Sabine Koenig and Peter J Verhagen. This symposium had houseful attendance and lively participation by the delegates.

This was followed by the business meeting of the Section chaired by Prof. Solly Rataemane and attended by founder Chair Prof. Eliot Sorel and large number of members. The following office-bearers were elected as Section officers for 2017-2020: Chair - Fernando Lolas Stepke (Chile), Co-chair - Michael Stark, and Secretary Arun Enara (India).

Chairs and speakers at the CMCR Section Symposium, WPA Berlin 2017. Seen in the photo from L to R are Prof. Solly Rataemane (Chair), Sabine Koenig, Prof. Roy Abraham Kallivayalil, Prof. Michael Stark, and Prof. PJ Verhagen.

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**RURAL MENTAL HEALTH**

The Section on Rural Mental Health was revamped in April 2013 with Prof. Satish Malik (India) elected as the Chair and Dr Anshuman Pant (UK-Australia) as the Secretary. This Section has been active in many activities since its new start in 2013. Professor Vimal Sharma was co-opted as the Section Vice Chair and Professor Prakash Behere as the International Liaison Officer. Our executive members have been quite active in Asia (especially Pakistan and India) and have representation from Africa, Americas and the Middle East. At the WPA World Congress 2017, the Section put up a Symposium on ‘Rural Mental Health: Challenges and solutions’ which was well received. We also had our business meeting and new members were co-opted.

The Section on Rural Mental Health shall continue to strive to promote the objectives of the WPA relating to rural and remote psychiatry.

Anshuman Pant
Secretary, Section on Rural Mental Health

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**PREVENTIVE PSYCHIATRY**

Mental Health in the workplace should be seen as a matter of priority according to Dr Cyriac Thomas (Former Vice-Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi University and former Member, National Minorities Commission, India). The role of psychiatrists and mental health professionals in helping the society to find out the right life-work balance and preventing emotional problems is very important. He was delivering the Keynote address in connection with the observance of World Mental Health Month at the Dept of Psychiatry, Push-
Professor George Christodoulou, President of the Society of Preventive Psychiatry, gave two talks on 21 and 22 October 2017 at the Vasilis and Marina Theocharakis Institute in Athens on “Mental Health Promotion” and on “Psyche and Soma Interactions: Psychosomatic and Somatopsychic illnesses”. Vivid discussion followed. These talks were organized within the framework of the Society of Preventive Psychiatry program for “Health Promotion in Difficult Times”.

We are looking forward to the next big event - WPA Thematic Congress, Melbourne February 25-28, 2018 with great enthusiasm. Please visit our newly designed website www.wpanet.org and kindly send us your valuable comments. Our Facebook page is https://www.facebook.com/wpanet/.

Let me thank WPA President Helen Herrman, members of the EC, Board, Council and especially Francesca and Pamela at our WPA Secretariat for their help, support and co-operation.

Roy Abraham Kallivayalil
Secretary General
World Psychiatric Association

News from WPA Affiliated Associations

Message from the Secretary General

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Happy to come back to you again! The biggest event of the last triennium - World Congress of Psychiatry, October 8-12, 2017 with the theme "Psychiatry of the 21st Century: Context, Controversies and Commitment" held at Berlin, Germany was a great success! Nearly 11,000 delegates from 130 countries participated, with 900 scientific sessions and more than 950 posters. Our heartiest congratulations to DGPPN! Dinesh Bhugra (President), Michelle Riba (Secretary for Scientific Publications), Edgard Belfort (Secretary for Education) and several members of the Board completed their term at the end of Berlin Congress. We place on record our appreciation for their hard work for the WPA!

The new team led by Helen Herrman (President) has now assumed office. Our heartiest congratulations to Afzal Javed (President-Elect) and the newly elected WPA Secretaries, Michel Botbol, Thomas Schulze, Roger Ng and Board Members. The new EC and Board had meetings at Berlin. The EC had a very useful meeting again at the WPA Secretariat Geneva December 1-3, 2017.

Dr. Cyriac Thomas (Former Vice-Chancellor) delivering Keynote address at the World Mental Health Month Observance organised by WPA Preventive Psychiatry Section and IMA at Pushpagiri, Tiruvalla, India. Dr Joice Geo, Dr Roy Abraham Kallivayalil, Dr RN Sharma, Rev Dr Mathew Mazhavancheril and Fr Mathew Vadakekkuttu are seen.

We are looking forward to the next big event - WPA Thematic Congress, Melbourne February 25-28, 2018 with great enthusiasm. Please visit our newly designed website www.wpanet.org and kindly send us your valuable comments. Our Facebook page is https://www.facebook.com/wpanet/.

Let me thank WPA President Helen Herrman, members of the EC, Board, Council and especially Francesca and Pamela at our WPA Secretariat for their help, support and co-operation.

Roy Abraham Kallivayalil
Secretary General
World Psychiatric Association

Professor George Christodoulou

Professor George Christodoulou, President of the Society of Preventive Psychiatry, gave two talks on 21 and 22 October 2017 at the Vasilis and Marina Theocharakis Institute in Athens on “Mental Health Promotion” and on “Psyche and Soma Interactions: Psychosomatic and Somatopsychic illnesses”. Vivid discussion followed. These talks were organized within the framework of the Society of Preventive Psychiatry program for “Health Promotion in Difficult Times”.

George Christodoulou
President, Society of Preventive Psychiatry
EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF ASSOCIATIONS OF FAMILIES OF PERSONS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

EUFAMI issues tips for improving mental health at work, by devising a series of tips aimed at improving mental health in the workplace to mark World Mental Health Day on 10 October 2017. The theme of 2017’s awareness day precisely focused on attitudes in the workplace towards mental health.

“We believe that a happier, fairer, and more productive place of work is easily within our grasp if we apply some simple steps”, says EUFAMI Secretary General Aagje Ieven. Employers, colleagues, and friends and family can all help to build an environment where caring for a loved-one can be factored into working arrangements. EUFAMI will continue to encourage more flexible arrangements in the workplace and change attitudes so that combining work and care-giving duties can become more acceptable.

EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF PSYCHIATRIC TRAINEES

EFPT was delighted to participate in the World Congress of Psychiatry in Berlin, with a range of contributions to the scientific programme. This included a collaborative symposium involving several early career psychiatrists’ organisations, encompassing the WPA’s own Early Career Psychiatrists’ Section, amongst others. EFPT is also pleased to have published its first ever joint statement with the WPA on the ‘Mental Health of Psychiatric Trainees who Migrate: Supporting Adjustment and Growth’, which is available here: http://www.wpanet.org/detail.php?section_id=7&content_id=2050.

We are excited to be making plans for our 26th annual Forum, which will take place on 21-25 July 2018, in the vibrant city of Bristol in the UK. The Forum will include visits to local psychiatric care facilities, opportunities for trainees to develop collaborative projects and a scientific day on cutting-edge neuroscience. We would be particularly interested to hear from any trainees in WHO Europe zone countries that are not already members of EFPT. For more information please contact president@efpt.eu.

Howard Ryland
President, European Federation of Psychiatric Trainees

ASIAN FEDERATION OF PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATIONS (AFPA)

Asian Federation of Psychiatric Associations (AFPA) invites you to participate in its international congress to be held in Manila, Philippines, from January 24-26, 2018. The event, which will be locally hosted by the Philippine Psychiatric Association (PPA), is to coincide with the PPA’s 44th Annual Convention. It features the timely theme “Advances, Impacts, & Future Directions of Psychiatry: The Asian Experience”, with the goal of portraying the distinctiveness of psychiatry in Asia. The program is poised to enhance and update the participants on scientific momentum, its impacts on current clinical practice, and future directions in the field, with a special focus on the Asian backdrop. More details are available on the website http://afpa2018.philpsych.ph/.

The new office-bearers are: President: Afzal Javed (Pakistan), President Elect: Malcolm Hopwood (Australia), Immediate Past President: Shigenobu Kanba (Japan), Secretary General: Nor Zuraida Zainal (Malaysia), Secretary for Science: YU Xin (China), Secretary for Education and training: G Prasad Rao (India), and Secretary for Finance: Samia Abul (UAE).

Afzal Javed
President, Asian Federation of Psychiatric Associations (AFPA)
February 2018

13-15 February 2018: 3rd International Women’s Mental Health Conference, Al-Khobar, Saudi Arabia. Organizer: International Society of Women’s Mental Health. Contact: Dr. Nada Al-Zaidi. E-mail: dr_nnz@hotmail.com

16-17 February 2018: 8th Emirates Society Mental Health International Congress “Together for Better Care”, Dubai, UAE. Organizer: Emirates Society of Mental Health. Contact: Dr Samia Abul. Email: saAbul@dha.gov.ae Website link: ema.ae

21–22 February 2018: 11th Kasr Al Ainy Annual International Psychiatry Congress “Personalized versus Manualized Psychiatry ”, Kasr Al Ainy. Organizer: Department of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University. Collaboration: EPA. Contact: Azza El Bakry E-mail: azza_bakry13@yahoo.com

22-24 February 2018: Annual conference of the EACBT “CBT & Medication in the treatment of Psychiatric Disorders; from Therapy to Practice”, Cairo, Egypt. Organizers: Egyptian Association of Cognitive Behavior Therapy. Contact: Reham Abdel Samie Aly. E-mail: rehamaaly@hotmail.com Website: www.eacbt.org

25-28 February 2018: WPA Thematic Congress ‘Innovation in Psychiatry: Effective Interventions for Health and Society’, Melbourne, Australia. Contact: Andrea Pound. E-mail: andrea.pound@unimelb.edu.au Website: http://wpamelbourne.kenes.com/

April 2018


18-21 April 2018: XXXIII ARGENTINE CONGRESS OF PSYCHIATRY “The body in psychiatry. From the biological to the social”, City of Mar del Plata, Argentina. Organizer: Argentinean Psychiatrists Association (APSA). Contact: Dr. Juan Cristóbal Tenconi. E-mail: info@apsa.org.ar Website: www.apsa.org.ar


May 2018

2-4 May 2018: Emerging mental health challenges across the globe “Epidemiology and Public Health”, New York, USA. Organizer: Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. Contact: Katherine M. Keyes. E-mail: kmk2104@columbia.edu Website: www.wpaepi2018.org/

June 2018


June-July 2018

28 June-1 July 2018: “2nd International Congress on Evidence Based Mental Health: From research to clinical practice”, Kavala, Greece. Organizer: International Society on Neurobiology and Psychopharmacology. Collaboration: WPA Section on Evidence Based Mental Health. Contact: Dr. KN Fountoulakis. E-mail: kostasfountoulakis@gmail.com Website: www.psychiatry.gr

July 2018

5-7 July 2018: XIII WAPR World Congress “Recovery, Citizenship, Human Rights, Reviewing consensus”, Madrid, Spain. Organizer: World Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation (WAPR). Contact: Sandra Mérida. E-mail: smerida@fase20.com Website: www.fase20.com

September 2018

The World Psychiatric Association (WPA)

The WPA is an association of national psychiatric societies, presently 140 (including two ad hoc associations), spanning 120 different countries and representing more than 200,000 psychiatrists.

The WPA organizes the World Congress of Psychiatry, International and Regional Congresses, and Thematic Conferences. With its 70 scientific sections, it promotes collaborative work in specific domains of psychiatry. It has developed ethical guidelines for psychiatric practice, including the Madrid Declaration.

Its website is currently visited from almost all countries across the world and the WPA News is widely disseminated. Various educational programmes and series of books had been produced including an E-Learning long distance programme. World Psychiatry, the WPA official journal, could be freely downloaded from PubMed Central and the WPA website (www.wpanet.org).

What are its Aims?

The core missions of the WPA include the following:

- To encourage the highest possible standards of clinical practice
- To increase knowledge and skills about mental disorders and how they can be prevented and treated
- To promote mental health
- To promote the highest possible ethical standards in psychiatric work
- To disseminate knowledge about evidence-based therapy and values based practice
- To be a voice for the dignity and human rights of the patients and their families, and to uphold the rights of psychiatrists
- To facilitate communication and assistance especially to societies who are isolated or whose members work in impoverished circumstances

An Alpine lake situated in the heart of the Bernese Oberland, Thunersee is made especially picturesque by the magnificent mountains that surround it and the quaint villages along its banks. The town of Thun, from which the lake takes its name, is worth visiting in order to experience the grand castle and historical medieval Old Town. Also of note are the 12 beautiful churches that occupy the coastline, all dating back to the medieval period.