
1st Quarter 2002

Greetings

With the onset of 2002, the World Psychiatric Association (WPA) began preparations for its Extraordinary and Ordinary General Assemblies scheduled for this August 26th. The General Assembly, as the supreme governing body of WPA, will contemplate amendments of its Statutes and By-Laws, elections of Executive Committee officers and Zonal Representatives, approval of the Strategic and Financial Plans for 2002-2005, and other key institutional decisions. Preparations include the development of the agendas for the General Assemblies, evaluation of the current Strategic and Financial Triennial Plans, and development of key reports and action items.

The framework of the upcoming WPA General Assemblies will be the XII World Congress of Psychiatry, which will take place August 24-29, 2002 at the impressive and friendly Pacific Yokohama Convention Center and surrounding facilities (photo below). The Congress Organizing and Scientific Committees met in February to finalize the structure of its overall program. WPA Sections will have a crucial role in the scientific program. Virtually all Sections will be present through one or more symposia, intersectional sessions, and consensus or position statements. The first World Congress in Asia is shaping up to be a truly memorable event!

The process for the democratic renewal of WPA officers culminated its nominations phase this February 26, under the guidance of the Nominations Committee. The vast majority of Member Societies participated in this process, which attests to the growing institutional maturity of our Association.

Through the efforts of the WPA Secretariat and the Education Coordination Center, this quarter has seen a substantial upgrade of WPA Online, our Association's website at www.wpanet.org. And visitors are coming at record levels!

Furthermore, WPA launched this February World Psychiatry, its first fully owned journal. It is destined to play a major role in further strengthening WPA's network and extending WPA's impact across the world.

Last but not least, the WPA EC admitted ad-hoc this February the Kenya Psychiatric Association as our 119th Member Society. Welcome to our growing and committed family!



Pacific Convention Plaza and surrounding area, Yokohama, Japan,
site of the WPA XII World Congress of Psychiatry

ON RECENT WPA ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The first WPA Regional Meeting of 2002 took place in Sharm-El-Sheikh, Egypt this January, with the main theme being “New Challenges in Psychiatry”. Participants came from 31 different countries. The rich scientific program extended through 29 diverse sessions. The cultural program opened with a pre-congress visit to the ancient monastery of St. Catherine adjacent to Mt. Sinai, a place holding a special spiritual significance for people of many religions. A WPA Executive Committee (EC) meeting was also held, which started the planning for the 2002 General Assembly and the evaluation of the 1999-2002 Strategic and Financial Plans.



L to R: Profs. G. N. Christodoulou, E. Sukhanova, J. E. Mezzich, M. Maj,
J. J. López-Ibor, A. Okasha, M. Kastrup, R. Montenegro and D. Moussaoui
at the EC Meeting in Sharm-el Sheikh, Egypt, Jan. 2002

On Feb. 16 and 17, The WPA Executive Committee met in Tokyo with leading Japanese colleagues to finalize the Program of the XII World Congress of Psychiatry (WCP) scheduled to take place in Yokohama during August 24-29 this year. Several EC members visited the venue of

the XII WCP to plan for WPA business meetings, the main of which will be the General Assembly on August 26. Most WPA Standing and Operational Committees and nearly all Scientific Sections will also hold business meetings during the Congress. Additionally, a full meeting of the WPA EC addressing current issues was held in Tokyo.

Twenty-two WPA Member Societies from the Americas, Europe, Africa, Asia and Oceania have already announced that they will consider WPA CME Credits for the XII WCP officially valid for their members. More Societies are being added to this list. For further information, please contact the Secretary for Education at rogermontenegro@wpanet.org. If you have questions about the World Congress, you may write to info@wpa2002yokohama.org (for general information) or reg@wpa2002yokohama.org (for registration-related questions). You may also visit the Congress Website at <http://wpa2002yokohama.org>.

Several business meetings related to WPA and its World Congress, including the meeting of the XII WCP Fellowship Committee, are scheduled to take place this May (18-23) in Philadelphia, USA, during the Annual Meeting of the American Psychiatric Association (APA), one of the largest WPA Member Societies.

The APA Annual Meetings traditionally attract a large number of both North American and international participants, thus providing a good opportunity for encounters with colleagues from various parts of the world.

As we approach the 2002 General Assembly, the WPA Planning Committee has a particularly busy agenda developing and reviewing some of the most important documents to be presented for adoption to Assembly delegates.

One such document is a set of proposed amendments of the Statutes and By-Laws.

A draft proposal is being circulated to all WPA Member Societies for their review.

Another major initiative, in line with the mandate of the 1999 General Assembly, has been the systematic preparation of a Developmental Plan for a WPA Permanent Secretariat. The Planning Committee, aided by the Secretariat, is conducting a consultation with WPA Member Societies and components on this crucial institutional plan. The Committee is also working on the preparation of the Strategic Triennial Plan 2002-2005, which in due course will be presented for adoption to the WPA General Assembly.

Under the guidance of the Nominations Committee, the WPA electoral process is moving forward. Four positions in the Executive Committee (President-Elect, Secretary General, Secretary for Finances, and Secretary for Meetings) and 12 Zonal Representative positions stand open for elections. The statutory deadline for submission of nominations was reached on February 26, six months before the WPA General Assembly. After collecting all nominations, the Secretariat assembled and organized the materials for the review of the Nominations Committee, which will meet this April in Rome.



L to R: Profs. A. Okasha, N. Sartorius, J. J. López-Ibor, Y. Nakane, J.E. Mezzich and C.



Dr. E. Sukhanova (Secretariat Administrator) presenting a paper on literature and

Haasen
at the XII WCP Scientific Committee Meeting,
Tokyo, Feb. 2002

depression
at the WPA Regional Meeting at Sharm-el
Sheikh, Egypt, Jan. 2002

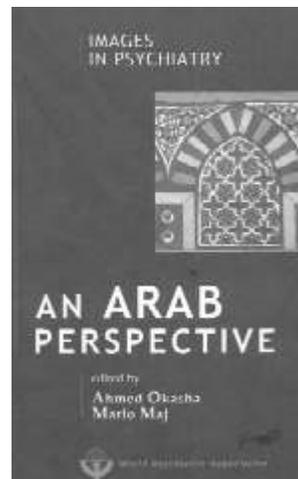
WORLD PSYCHIATRY LAUNCHED WITHIN A GROWING PUBLICATIONS PROGRAM

During the year 2002, the WPA will publish the first three issues of its new official journal, World Psychiatry, and at least fifteen books. World Psychiatry was launched in February 2002. The first issue, containing 27 articles, was sent free of charge to 20,000 psychiatrists in 114 different countries, including all officers of WPA and its Member Societies and Sections. An electronic version of the issue was also sent to the officers of Member Societies and Sections by request. The journal will be translated into several languages; Portuguese and Chinese are to be among the first. Member Societies and Sections are welcome to propose state-of-the-art research and mental health policy papers for publication.

The three volumes originating from the 11th World Congress of Psychiatry have been published. These volumes deal with diagnosis and classification in psychiatry, psychiatry in society, and psychiatry as a neuroscience, and provide a set of comprehensive reviews on some of the key issues of interest to psychiatrists worldwide. They will also be available in electronic form.

The first four volumes of the series Evidence and Experience in Psychiatry are now sold out. A second updated edition, in paperback form, is in preparation. All these volumes have also been published in Italian and a Russian version of the volume on schizophrenia is in preparation. The fifth volume of the series, dealing with bipolar disorder, was just published: it contains 104 contributions by renowned experts in the field, and will also be available in electronic form. The sixth volume of the series, dealing with eating disorders, is in preparation.

The volume on Arab countries of the series Images of Psychiatry has just been published (see adjacent photo). The volumes on German-speaking countries and Poland



Cover of Images of
Psychiatry: An Arab
Perspective

are now available in manuscript form and should be published by the end of the year . Volumes on Latin America, Spain and Greece are in preparation.

After the publication of the volumes on French and Spanish texts, a third volume of the series Anthologies in Psychiatry, devoted to Italian texts, is ready in manuscript form and should be published by the end of the year. Volumes on Japanese and German texts are in preparation. Efforts are being made to ensure the distribution of the above books to all Member Societies and the participation of Member Societies and Sections in the selection of the contributors to the books. Proposals for topics and contributors to future volumes are welcome.

WPA ONLINE NOW UPGRADED!

If you visit us at WPA Online (www.wpanet.org), you will find many changes that will help you make the most of our website.

The design of our home page has been changed

A list with the "Latest Inclusions in WPA Online" has been added so that it is easier for frequent users to find what is new

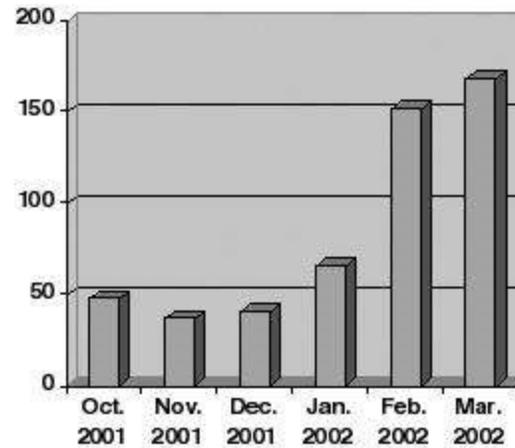
A Search engine can help you to find quickly, through key words, what you are looking for.

Free institutional WPA e-mail accounts are now offered to Zone Representatives, Council Members, Scientific Sections and their members, Member Societies and their individual members, and Affiliated Associations.

A free institutional WPA website is being offered to Member Societies and Sections along with free technical support.

The WPA/PTD Educational Program on Depressive Disorders, Module 3: Depressive Disorders in Older Persons, is now available at <http://www.wpanet.org/sectorial/edu4.html>

AVERAGE DAILY VISITORS TO WPA ONLINE



As shown in the adjacent graph, a remarkable growth in number of visitors is being noted over the past several weeks. We will continue to refine our website in response to the needs of WPA members and components.

A NEW HONOR FOR OKASHA

The American College of Psychiatrists has announced that it will confer upon Prof. Ahmed Okasha, President-Elect of WPA, its highly prestigious Honorary Fellowship. Prof. Okasha will join a very selective roster of 20 outstanding figures of international psychiatry.



FROM PROF. N. SARTORIUS, PAST PRESIDENT 1996 – 1999

(Continuation of our series on the roots of WPA)



In the years 1996-1999 the World Psychiatric Association made great strides to become the world's largest and most influential organization in the field of psychiatry. WPA's fifty Scientific Sections continued and expanded their work; its publication program was diversified and expanded. The Association developed and distributed a number of educational programs for psychiatrists and for general health care professionals. Several important psychiatric organizations became either Member Societies or Affiliated Associations of WPA. Communications

The Standing Review Committee originally established to receive individual complaints and explore whether they require corrective action, was charged with the mandate of investigation of possible misuse of psychiatry or other infringements of human rights of people with mental illness. Building on previous statements, the Madrid Declaration became a well received international guideline for ethical psychiatric practice. The formal acceptance of the Declaration became a condition for membership in WPA.

A program of WPA Fellowship was implemented in connection with the X and XI World Congresses of Psychiatry, enabling numerous young psychiatrists to attend these meetings and leading to the development of collaboration and communication among them. Courses imparting professional skills to young psychiatrists were held in conjunction with WPA meetings.

The continuing search for ways to recognize excellence in the practice of psychiatry also found its expression in the establishment of several WPA prizes, notably the Jean Delay Prize, which rewards achievements in integrating various conceptual approaches to

among Member Societies, Zonal Representatives of the WPA and the WPA governing bodies improved in speed and content. WPA proved to have an unparalleled convening power - in the years 1996-1999 WPA was instrumental in bringing together in international meetings of different types over 40,000 psychiatrists from all over the world.

psychiatry.

I hope that WPA will continue to exert well its growing influence, basing its work on scientific evidence, humanistic perspectives and fulfillment of its ethical responsibility.

UPDATE ON FALUN GONG FROM THE REVIEW COMMITTEE

During the past year, the WPA Review Committee has been investigating complaints received on the alleged abuse of psychiatry concerning Falun Gong practitioners in China. Following statutory procedures, the Review Committee has worked in cooperation with our local member, the Chinese Society of Psychiatry (CSP). Prof. Yan Fang Chen, Vice President of the CSP was invited to attend the latest meeting of the Committee.

The WPA has provided the CSP with lists of Falun Gong practitioners who allegedly have been inappropriately hospitalized in a psychiatric institution. These cases are presently being investigated by members of the CSP who are aware that the credibility of this process will increase if foreign experts participate in this work.

Parallel to this investigation, the WPA and the CSP are collaborating on the organization of an educational symposium on "Cultural Aspects of Forensic Psychiatry and Nosology". To facilitate the implementation of these initiatives the WPA President met recently with the Chinese Deputy Minister of Health, Dr. Xiao-Wei Ma. During this meeting, Dr. Ma showed clear awareness of the activities of WPA and of the CSP, and described in detail ways in which the care of psychiatric patients has been improved in China. He expressed willingness to support the relationship between WPA and Chinese psychiatry through projects such as the translation into Chinese of World Psychiatry and its distribution to psychiatrists in China. He indicated that Falun Gong practitioners who have psychiatric disorders are treated the same way as other psychiatric patients would be.

The Review Committee is planning to meet again in May, which may also allow for further discussions between WPA leaders and representatives of the CSP.



Prof. J. J. López-Ibor in Beijing with Dr. Xiao-Wei Ma, Chinese Deputy Minister of Health, surrounded by officers of the Chinese Society of Psychiatry, Feb. 2002

NEWS FROM THE SECTIONS

The WPA Scientific Sections are participating actively in the program of the Yokohama World Congress. Almost every Section has submitted one or more proposals, some involving inter-sectional collaboration. Some Sections will also present consensus or position statements.

The preparation of a Directory of Section Members is advancing well. This Directory is essential for communication purposes and will facilitate interaction between the Sections and the other WPA components.

The volume *Advances in Psychiatry* is moving forward, comprising papers in the scientific area covered by each Section. Beta Publishing Company in Athens has been authorized to publish this book to be edited by Prof. G. Christodoulou, Secretary for Sections.

The Executive Committee of the WPA has accepted a proposal for the creation of a Newsletter of the WPA Sections. The first issue of this Newsletter is in preparation.

The Section of Psychopathology of Expression is preparing an Art exhibition in Yokohama to include original Western and Japanese paintings.

The Section on Military and Disaster Psychiatry is collaborating with the Section on Anxiety Disorders and OCD in developing integrative activities. For the Yokohama Congress they are planning a full day scientific program devoted to disasters. Additionally, the two Sections will collaborate in the development of four training centers related to Stress-Trauma and Disaster Intervention to be

located in France, Spain, Israel and Argentina.

A meeting of the Section on Transcultural Psychiatry in collaboration with the Association of Psychiatrists in Nigeria was organized for November 19-23, 2001 in Abeokuta, Nigeria.

A Meeting of all Section Chairs is scheduled for the Yokohama Congress. Additionally, each Section will have a Business Meeting there to elect new officers and decide on the future perspectives.

WHO'S DEREK YACH VISITS WITH WPA AT THE UN

Derek Yach, Executive Director of the WHO Cluster on Non-Communicable Diseases and Mental Health visited with Prof. Juan E. Mezzich (WPA Secretary General) and Prof. G. Caracci (WPA Representative at the UN and Chair of the NGO Committee on Mental Health) on February 7th, 2002 at the WHO office of the United Nations in New York. New WPA and WHO developments were discussed and opportunities for further collaboration were explored. Of particular interest will be the 2002 World Health Day and World Health Report, which will focus on health promotion.



L to R: Drs. G. Caracci, C. Pearson (standing), D. Yach, J. E. Mezzich & A. Waxman
at the United Nations WHO office in New York

STRATEGIC & FINANCIAL PLAN 1999 — 2002 BEING EVALUATED

In August 1999, the WPA Board and General Assembly adopted the Strategic Plan for 1999-2002 developed by the WPA Executive

Committee and a Financial Plan developed by the Secretary for Finance. The Strategic and Financial Plans functioned jointly as the framework for the work of WPA for the 1999-2002 period.

These Strategic and Financial Plans are now being evaluated based on an appraisal of EC members' specific work plans and WPA actual activities in this period of governance. This draft report will be circulated to WPA components for their information and comments and will subsequently be presented to the General Assembly in August 2002, along with the Strategic and Financial Plans for 2002-2005. The evaluation of these plans represents an institutional innovation as it is the first time WPA will present to the General Assembly this type of systematic appraisal of the past three years of governance.

MATA DE GREGORIO PASSES ON

Prof. Jesús Mata de Gregorio, founding member of the Venezuelan Society of Psychiatry and esteemed past president of the Latin American Association of Psychiatry, passed away this month at 80 years of age. During his long career, Mata de Gregorio came to be regarded as a hero of Venezuelan psychiatry. He was known for his wisdom and advocated a sensitive approach to treating illness. He once said, "practicing medicine is a dialog." Motivated by a limitless curiosity for his fellow human beings, he sought to understand illness within the context of cultural, economic, and social realities in which people become ill. He leaves a history of dedication to the field which has helped inspire an entire generation of psychiatrists in Venezuela and beyond.

UPCOMING WPA CONGRESSES AND MEETINGS

Secretary for Meetings, Professor Driss Moussaoui,
coordinates these events and welcomes initiatives for new ones.
Fax: (212-22) 965-125, E-mail: psych@casanet.net.ma

April 19-22, 2002, WPA Co-sponsored Bi-annual Panhellenic Congress of Psychiatry, Athens, Greece.

Contact: Prof. George Christodoulou, Fax: (30-1) 724-2032, E-mail: gnchrist@compulink.gr

April 22-23, 2002, WPA Co-sponsored Meeting on Emerging Challenges in the Delivery of Mental Health Services in Africa, Kampala, Uganda.

Contact: Dr. F. Kigozi, Uganda Psychiatric Association, Fax: (256) 41-22-1761, E-mail: buthosp@infocom.co.ug

June 9-12, 2002, WPA Co-sponsored 6th World Congress of the International Association for Emergency Psychiatry, Barcelona, Spain.

Contact: Prof. Antonio Andreoli, Fax: (41-22) 3728-599, E-mail: christa.terpelle@hcuge.ch

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

Contact: Pr. J. Suzuki, c/o Convention Linkage, Fax: (81-3) 545-640-77, E-mail: wpa_sec@c-linkage.co.jp,

info@wpa2002yokohama.org Website: www.wpa2002yokohama.org

September 18-21, 2002, 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

October 9-12, 2002, WPA Regional Meeting, Lima, Peru. Quality of Life: A Challenge for Today's Psychiatry.

Contact: Dr. Dante Warthon, Peruvian Psychiatric Association, E-mail: warthon@amauta.rcp.net.pe, raquel_kahn@latinmail.com

October 29-November 2, 2002, WPA Co-sponsored 15th International Congress of International Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions, New Delhi, India.

Contact: Prof. Savita Malhotra, Fax: (91-172) 744401, 745078, 714455, E-mail: savitam@sancharnet.in, Website: www.childindia.org

October 2-4, 2003, WPA Regional Meeting, Caracas, Venezuela, Alliances in Mental Health.

Contact: Prof. Edgard Belfort, Fax: (58-212) 232-1104, 763-1184, E-mail: secretariaapal@cantv.net, belfort.ed@excite.com

November 10-13, 2004, WPA International Congress, Florence, Italy.

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

September 10-15, 2005, XIII World Congress of Psychiatry, Cairo, Egypt.

Contact: Prof. A. Okasha, Fax: (202) 748-1786, E-mail: aokasha@internetegypt.com



"Face-It," a series of self-portraits by patients and staff exhibited at the Courtauld Institute Gallery in London as part of the Royal College of Psychiatrists celebration of Psychiatry and the Arts, Jan.- Mar. 2002