Greetings

This issue is literally “from the Secretariat”, as it highlights the work that we have been undertaking, and in particular the small amount of history being made. The Executive Committee held its first meeting at the Permanent Secretariat in Geneva on 10 and 11 February 2008 (see photo below). This meeting was preceded by a similarly important occasion: the Planning Committee, chaired by the President-Elect, also met at the Secretariat.

It was good to see our excellent and spacious offices full of active WPA leaders. The new WPA sign at the entrance to the University Psychiatric Hospital illustrates aptly the ‘permanence’ and location of our generous office space (see page 5).

It is a pleasure also to include Administrator Anna Engstrom and Deputy Administrator Pamela Atiase in this Greetings page. They both deserve our thanks for their excellent and economical work - yet they know also what further developments have yet to occur when resources permit.

The arrangements for the General Assembly in Prague, and in particular for the accreditation of delegates will be communicated clearly to Member Societies over the next few weeks. It is vital that Member Societies have paid their dues in advance of the General Assembly.

The President’s stimulating account of the Paris Conference on Psychiatry for the Person is featured on page 3. At the time of writing the Secretariat is assisting with the local organisation of a yet more major meeting on person-centered medicine in Geneva which has, rightly, attracted interest of other international medical organizations and reminds us that psychiatrists are doctors!

Finally, as evidence that your Secretariat is proactive, Anna Engstrom has volunteered to take on the responsibility of web entry for the new Website following the excellent initiatives from Prof. Tasman and his assistant Kathie Sauer in Louisville. The web management is now back with the Secretariat where the Manual of Procedures said it should be!

Our thanks to Roger Montenegro and his team in Buenos Aires for launching this ship so successfully.

Prof. John Cox, WPA Secretary General
WFMH Secretary General Visits WPA President’s Office

On January 16, 2008, Preston Garrison, the Secretary General of the World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH) visited the WPA President’s Office at the International Center for Mental Health, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York University. This provided an opportunity for discussing progress in, and enhancing the implementation of the formal agreement between WPA and WFMH signed in 2007.

Jean Delay Prize Jury Held Successful Meeting

On January 28, 2008, the Jury for the Jean Delay Prize met in Paris. A record number of high caliber nominations from all WPA World Regions had been received by the WPA Secretariat. Through a spirited and collegial process the nominations were systematically discussed. The winner was Professor Hans Juergen Moeller from Munich University, a renowned clinician and psychopharmacology researcher and an accomplished organ player. Prof Moeller will receive the Prize at the Opening of the World Congress of Psychiatry in Prague in September 2008, where he will deliver later a plenary lecture.

Executive Committee Meets in Geneva

On February 10 and 11, 2008 the WPA Executive Committee met at the WPA Permanent Secretariat. It reviewed a full array of institutional topics. Among these were the completion of the registration of WPA in the Canton of Geneva and the continuous preparation of the XIV World Congress of Psychiatry in Prague. (See photo on Cover page.)
On February 6-9, 2008, an extraordinarily well received Paris Conference on Psychiatry for the Person was held at Sainte Anne Hospital. Prior to the beginning of the scientific program, a number of visits to key historical psychiatric locations were carried out, including Esquirol Hospital; Salpetriere Hospital and its Charcot Library; Alle Sigmund Freud, Pavillon Babinsky, Chapelle Saint-Loius, and Philippe Pinel Statue; St. Anne Hospital and its Historical Museum, Library Henry Ey, and Museum Singer Polignac; and Bicetre Hospital. At the opening session, welcoming words were offered by Prof. JE Mezzich (Conference President), Prof. Michel Botbol (Conference Organizer and President of the Association of WPA French Member Societies), Dr. Matt Muijen (WHO European Office Representative), and D. Gerard Masse (St. Anne Hospital Medical President), in the company of leaders of the WPA Institutional Program on Psychiatry for the Person (IPPP) and WPA European Zonal Representatives. In one of the introductory lectures, Dr. Jean Garrabe documented that psychiatry for the person was already implicitly present as an aspiration since the beginnings of WPA history.

One of the Conference highlights was the European Panel on Psychiatry for the Person and the Helsinki Mental Health Action Plan. It included the participation of Dr. Matt Muijen (WHO European Office Representative), and D. Gerard Masse (St. Anne Hospital Medical President), in the company of leaders of the WPA Institutional Program on Psychiatry for the Person (IPPP) and WPA European Zonal Representatives. In one of the introductory lectures, Dr. Jean Garrabe documented that psychiatry for the person was already implicitly present as an aspiration since the beginnings of WPA history.

Another Conference highlight was an Inter-Sectional Symposium on Collaboration with the Development of ICD-11 and Person-centered Integrative Diagnosis, co-chaired by Prof. I. Salloum and M. Jorge and leaders of 17 WPA Scientific Sections. The Conference also offered opportunities for discussions with key stakeholders, such as psychiatrists, service users, and family members. The Paris Conference provided a highly appreciated setting for a focused and interactive discussion of topics crucial for our field without commercial interference. It was followed by a half day Workshop on the design of the Person-centered Integrative Diagnostic model.
WPA President Awarded Distinguished Lecturership at the University of Pittsburgh

On March 4, 2008, Prof. Juan E. Mezzich was awarded a Distinguished Lecturership at the University of Pittsburgh. The adjacent photograph shows Pharmacy Dean Patricia Kroboth presenting a diploma to Prof. Mezzich.

The ICD-11 Advisory Group Meets in Geneva

On March 11 and 12, 2008, the high level International Advisory Group for the Revision of ICD Classification of Mental Disorders met at WHO Headquarters in Geneva. Issues of harmonization with national classifications as well as new approaches for more efficient groupings of disorders were discussed.

Central American Psychiatric Congress in Managua

On March 13 to 15, 2008 the Central American Psychiatric Association met in Managua. This was the 19th annual event of this institution that encompasses six esteemed WPA Member Societies. A rich scientific and cultural program complemented opportunities for encounters of psychiatrists in Central America with colleagues from other world regions, particularly Latin America, North America and Europe.

Third Pan American Congress of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry in Cuba

On March 26-28, 2008, a new edition of the Pan American Congress of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry took place in La Habana. Key topics of this subspecialty were the subject of lectures, symposia and debates. Additionally, the work of a talented child theatrical group, “La Colmenita”, and of the legendary Psycho-Ballet school were highlighted. The event also represented an International Conference of the WPA Classification Section. In this connection, the Diagnosis and Classification Section of the Latin American Psychiatric Association held a meeting during which it started planning the second edition of the Latin American Guide for Psychiatric Diagnosis (GLADP) and decided to do it in collaboration with the WPA Classification Section (along the lines of the Person-centered Integrative Diagnostic model) and with the World Health Organization (contributing to the development of ICD-11).
A NEW WPA WEBSITE IS COMING SOON
Allan Tasman, MD, WPA Secretary for Education

We are pleased to announce that I, as Secretary for Education and John Cox, our Secretary General have been working intensively and collaboratively to complete a major revision of the WPA website. Major assistance in this effort has been provided by Anna Engstrom, in our WPA Geneva office. The intent is to update our technology, make the site and its materials more readily accessible, and to put in place new features that will allow for new and expanded modes of communication within the WPA. Further, the new technology will allow us to post streaming video of lectures and other academic presentations to increase access to educational opportunities for our members.

The current website (www.wpanet.org <http://www.wpanet.org/>, developed and maintained by our hardworking colleague, Prof. Roger Montenegro, will be active and open to the public until final edits to the new website have been completed. We would like to express our thanks and our appreciation for his work in developing the first website, and his dedicated oversight of the website over the years.

We are currently running two sites in parallel, and we would be very interested to receive any comments you may have concerning the newly designed site. The site is currently passwordprotected until we are ready to publish the site to the public. During this interim period prior to publishing, we welcome you to sign into the site, and review it by following these procedures:

1. Go to http://www.worldpsychiatricassociation.org/indextest2.shtml
2. A window will pop up and request a login and password.
   a. Login: wpa
   b. Password: review

We hope that you will enjoy this format which includes flash animations, content that is dynamically served from a database, and contains links to the latest news and announcements, meetings, newsletters and publications, search features, and easy navigation by Sections or Topics.

We would like to draw your attention to some of the highlights:

1. The Meetings page content is now built dynamically from a database and has a search function that is new.
2. The Sections area is set up with individual pages which will follow the new format, and can be edited directly by the Sections.
3. The Publications page will be designed with a search function similar to the meetings search. This section will also have its content being served from a database. The search will be available by Subject, Author, Title, etc.

Once the final version of the website is completed, and the switch over is accomplished, we will be updating all the information on the website so it will be current.

We hope that you will be involved in this exciting new project with us, and we would be pleased to receive any comments or contributions by June 1st, (websitereview @worldpsychiatricassociation.org), when they will be reviewed and included where possible.

With best wishes,

Allan Tasman, WPA Secretary for Education
E-mail: allan.tasman@louisville.edu

John Cox, WPA Secretary General
E-mail: john1.cox@virgin.net

WPA Permanent Secretariat
Developments

Photo of the WPA Sign recently posted outside the main entrance leading into the Geneva University Psychiatric Hospital premises.
A successful Third International Congress on Women’s Mental Health was held in Melbourne, Australia, from March 17-20th, 2008. Participants came from 50 countries, including many members of the World Psychiatric Association.

The Congress was held under the auspices of the International Association for Women’s Mental Health (IAWMH), whose President was Prof. Donna E. Stewart MD, (University Health Network and University of Toronto, Canada), Chair of the Scientific Program and President-Elect of IAWMH was Prof. Susan Kornstein MD, (Virginia Commonwealth University), and Local Arrangements Chair was Prof. Jayashri Kulkarni MD, (Monash University and Alfred Psychiatric Research Centre). Supporting organizations were the World Psychiatric Association, the World Health Organization, the World Federation of Mental Health, the Pacific Rim College of Psychiatrists, the Menopause Society, the International Menopause Society, the North American Society for Psychosocial Obstetrics and Gynecology, Alfred Psychiatric Research Centre, Monash University, Beyond Blue, the Jean Hailes Foundation for Women’s Health, and the Royal Women’s Hospital, Victoria. Continuing Education Credits were provided by the World Psychiatric Association.

Keynote presentations by 15 international experts were divided into 7 themes: International perspectives on women’s mental health, Women’s mental health in the perinatal period, Estrogens and women’s mental health, Interface with other specialties, Women’s mental health in the menopausal transition, Women’s mental health in times of conflict and disaster, and Advances in the management of mood disorders in women.

The Symposia dealt with a diversity of topics in keeping with the theme that women’s mental health is inextricably linked to their physical, psychosocial, and cultural contexts. Topics included International perspectives on sexual and reproductive rights and mental health, Objectification in eating disorders, Women’s mental health in refugee, immigrant and displaced persons, Drug abuse treatments from lab to clinic, Hormones, mood, sleep and cognition, The Australian longitudinal study on women’s mental health, Women in war and disasters, Culture as a rationalization for abuse of women, Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in girls, Multiple perspectives on abortion, and The implication of culture on women’s mental health.

Workshops included a CBT Clinicians Manual for women coping with fibromyalgia, Dialectical behaviour therapy from a feminist perspective, Safety of women in psychiatric units, The impact of motherhood in mental illness, Prevention of eating disorders, Juggling the disjunctions in career paths, Managing high-risk pregnant women with dual diagnoses, Some consumer perspectives on treatment issues, Aftermath of torture and war trauma in the treatment of women refugees and immigrants, and Responding to the experience of childhood sexual assault.

The social and local components, ably organized by Prof. Jayashri Kulkarni, included an Aboriginal welcome, a consumer talk, and numerous presentations of Australian musical and dance talent. The Congress gala was a roaring success with excellent local entertainment and good fellowship.

The International Association for Women’s Mental Health Membership Meeting was held on Wednesday, March 19, 2008, at which time Dr. Donna Stewart stepped down as President and was succeeded by Dr. Susan Kornstein. Several able volunteers offered to lead various committees of the organization. The Fourth International Congress will be held in 2011 and venue bids are now open. As our past three meetings have been held in Europe, North America and Australia, we are open to suggestions for locations that are accessible and will draw new members.

The program evaluations were excellent and the overall meeting is best summed up by one participant who wrote, “This meeting was the best I have ever attended! It was nourishing, with excellent speakers on vital and controversial women’s health topics, all covered in a very thoughtful manner. The relaxed atmosphere contributed to deeply meaningful discussions. Please do it again soon!”
A WPA Thematic Conference will take place in Granada, Spain, between 18th and 21st June 2008. The title is “Depression and other common mental disorders in Primary Care”, and its motto is “Working together”. Mental and Primary Health professionals working together, exchanging experiences and perspectives, on one of the most relevant areas of Public Health, due to the morbidity and the DALY’s implied.

Eight plenary sessions and almost 40 simultaneous symposia will take place. International leading speakers will intervene on lectures and presentations. The official symposia included in the Scientific Program will be about the following topics:

- Biological factors in the detection and management of Mental Health Disorders.
- Developing and delivering mental health services across the world, where are we failing?
- Collaborative intervention between psychiatry and primary care: “working together”
- Development of a risk algorithm for onset of major depression: the PREDICT study.
- Psychoses in the Community: from early diagnosis to continuity of care.
- Do antidepressants work in primary care?
- Primary Care Mental Health in lower and middle-income countries. What can the West learn?

Look for more information at the Web site of the Conference:
www.wpa2008granada.org

Prof. Francisco Torres-González
Chairperson of the Organizing Committee
The WPA International Congress
“Treatments in Psychiatry: A New Update”
1-4 April 2009, Florence, Italy

The WPA International Congress “Treatments in Psychiatry: A New Update” will take place in Florence, Italy, from 1 to 4 April 2009. It will be the follow-up to the 2004 WPA International Congress “Treatments in Psychiatry: An Update”, which was the second most attended psychiatric congress worldwide in that year, with almost 7,000 participants. This time, more than 8,000 participants are expected.

The Congress aims to provide a high-quality, comprehensive overview of all evidence-based treatments currently available for all mental disorders. Many of the most renowned experts in the various treatment areas will be among the speakers.

One component of the Congress will be represented by the ESI™ Top-Cited Scientist Lectures, which will be delivered by the scientists who attracted the highest total citations to their papers in indexed journals of psychiatry and psychology over the past 10 years (according to the Essential Science Indicators™). Other components will be Update Lectures, Update Symposia, Advanced Courses, Regular Symposia, Section and Zonal Symposia, Workshops, New Research Sessions, Poster Sessions, Satellite Symposia and other Sponsored Events.

For further information, please visit the Website of the Congress (www.wpa2009florence.org) or contact the Organizing Secretariat (Prof. Mario Maj; secretariat@wpa2009florence.org).

WPA Regional Meeting - Abuja 2009
24-26 September 2009, Abuja, Nigeria

Dr. Olufemi Olugbile
Chairman, Local Organising Committee

Plans are afoot to ensure that the Regional Meeting of the WPA, scheduled for Abuja, Nigeria, from September 24th to 26th, 2009 is a highly successful and memorable event.

The meeting is to be hosted by the Association of Psychiatrists and Allied Professions (AAPAP).

The theme is one that carries a lot of social relevance, not only for Africa, but for many other resource-challenged areas of the world. ‘Scaling up and reaching down – addressing unmet need for service’ goes to the heart of the mental health situation in a large number of countries, where only a limited percentage of people who could benefit from the mental health service are able to access such service. It is recognition of the fact that the best minds in the profession need to be trained on the task of creating a service that is both scientific and accessible for the generality of the world’s population.

The meeting will be a point of contact for researchers and clinicians in mental health from all over the world, policy makers at national and international levels, and stakeholders in mental health of all categories.

There will be lectures, symposia, poster presentations, workshops and policy discussions.

The location will afford many international visitors their first chance to enjoy the delights and adventure of Abuja, the new capital city of Nigeria. There will be excursions to places of tourist interest, and opportunities to experience the rich diversity of culture in a country with more than 200 ethnic nationalities.

All in all, the WPA Regional Meeting of September 2009 in Abuja promises to be a highly significant, unforgettable experience.

The Local Organising Committee is under the chairmanship of Dr Olufemi Olugbile. The secretary is Dr Sola Ephraim-Oluwanuga.

Further information may be obtained from the Conference Secretariat through the following email addresses: femi_olugbile@yahoo.com · aunty sola@yahoo.com · ogureje@cornui.edu.ng
Future WPA Scientific Meetings

Prof. Pedro Ruiz, Secretary for Meetings, Professor and Vice Chairman, Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences
University of Texas Medical School at Houston, 1300 Moursund Street, Houston, Texas 77030, USA
Tel: +1 713 500 2799. Fax: +1 713 500 2757. E-mail: pedro.ruiz@uth.tmc.edu

May 2008


14-18 May 2008: “20th Panhellenic Psychiatric Congress”, Crete, Greece. Organizer: Hellenic Psychiatric Association. Contact: Dr. Nikolaos Tzavaras. E-mail: psych@psych.gr


June 2008


9-13 June 2008: “10th World Congress of Psycho-Oncology”, Madrid, Spain. Organizer: International Psycho-Oncology Society (IPOS). Collaboration: Spanish Psycho-Oncology Society. Contact: Dr. Luigi Grassi. E-mail: luigi.grassi@unife.it Website: www.ipsos-society.org

12-15 June 2008: “VIITH Congress of the Czech Republic Psychiatric Society”, Spindleruv Mlyn, Czech Republic. Organizer: Czech Psychiatric Society. Contact: Dr. Jiri Raboch. E-mail: jiri.raboch@f1.cuni.cz Website: www.guarant.cz

18-20 June 2008: “Fighting Stigma and Discrimination Because of Mental Illness”, Cairo, Egypt. Organizer: Egyptian Psychiatric Association. Contact: Dr. Tarek Okasha. E-mail: tokasha@internetegypt.com Website: www.psychiatryegypt2008.com


August 2008

21-23 August 2008: “8th Pan Arab Conference of Psychiatry: Psychological Consequences of Violence-Evidence Based Mental Health”, Damascus, Syria. Organizer: Syrian Arab Association of Psychiatrists. Contact: Dr. Adib Essali. E-mail: adib-essali@hotmail.com Website: www.ebm-syria.com

29-31 August 2008: “XX Congreso Peruvano de Psiquiatria”, Lima, Peru. Organizer: Peruvian Psiquiatria Association. Contact: Dr. Julio Acha. E-mail: jacha@terra.com.pe

September 2008


October 2008


17-19 October 2008: “Third International Conference on Schizophrenia”, Chennai, India. Organizer: Schizophrenia Research Foundation (SCARF). Contact: Dr. R. Thara. E-mail: SCARF@vsnl.com Website: www.icons-scarf.org


30 October-2 November 2008: “13th Pacific Rim College of Psychiatrists”, Tokyo, Japan. Organizer: Japanese Society of Transcultural Psychiatry. Contact: Dr. Tsuyoshi Akiyama. E-mail: akiyama@east.ntt.co.jp

1-3 November 2008: “Fourth SPF International Conference”, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Organizer: Bangladesh Association of Psychiatrists. Contact: Dr. A.H. Mohammad Firoz. E-mail: bap@agni.com

6-8 November 2008: “Second International Conference on Intellectual Disability/Mental Retardation”, Bangkok, Thailand. Organizer: World Health Organization (WHO). Collaboration: WPA Section on Mental Disability/Mental Retardation. Contact: Dr. Shekhar Saxena. E-mail: bangkokconference2007@ssss.gouv.qc.ca Website: www.bangkok-id-conference.org


26-29 November 2008: “Annual Congress of the German Society of Psychiatry, Psychotherapy and Nervous Diseases”, Berlin, Germany. Organizer: German Society of Psychiatry, Psychotherapy and Nervous Diseases. Contact: Dr. Juergen Zielask. E-mail: juergen.zielasek@bvr.de Website: www.dgppn-kongress.de

28-30 November 2008: “Annual Conference of the Indian Association for Social Psychiatry”, Delhi, India. Organizer: Indian Association for Social Psychiatry. Contacts: a) Dr. Roy Abraham Kallivayalil; b) Dr. Rakesh K. Chadda. E-mails: a) roykallivayalil@dataone.in b) drrakeshchadda@hotmail.com


1-4 April 2009: WPA International Congress “Treatments in Psychiatry: A New Update”, Florence, Italy. Organizer: Italian Psychiatric Association. Contact: Dr. Mario Maj. E-mail: majmario@tin.it Website: www.wpa2009Florence.org

16-20 June 2009: “II Thematic Conference on Legal and Forensic Psychiatry”, Madrid, Spain. Organizer: Spanish Society of Legal Psychiatry. Contact: Dr. Alfredo Calcedo Barba. E-mail: forensicspsychiatry2009@gmail.com

23-25 September 2009: “Second European Conference on Schizophrenia Research (ECSR)”, Duesseldorf, Germany. Organizer: German Research Network on Schizophrenia. Contact: Dr. Wolfgang Gaebel. E-mail: wolfgang.gaebel@uni-dusseldorf.de Website: www.kompetenznetz-schizophrenia.de

24-26 September 2009: “WPA Regional Meeting”, Abuja, Nigeria. Organizer: African Association of Psychiatrists and Allied Professions. Collaboration: Association of Psychiatrists in Nigeria. Contact: Dr. Oye Gureje. E-mails: a) ogureje@comui.edu.ng b) femi_olugbile@yahoo.com c) auntysola@yahoo.com

24-26 September 2009: “VII World Congress of Depressive Disorders and International Symposium on Posttraumatic Stress Disorder”, Mendoza, Argentina. Organizer: Dr. Jorge Nazar. Collaboration: University of Cuyo. Contact: Dr. Jorge Nazar. E-mail: jorge_nazar@hotmail.com

21-23 January 2010: “WPA Regional Meeting”, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Organizer: Bangladesh Association of Psychiatry. Contact: Prof. A.H. Mohammad Firoz. E-mail: bap@agni.com

17-19 June 2010: “WPA Regional Meeting”, St. Petersburg, Russia. Organizer: Russian Society of Psychiatrists. Contact: Dr. Valery Krasnov. E-mail: krasnov@mtu-net.ru

1-5 September 2010: “WPA Regional Meeting”, Beijing, China. Organizer: Chinese Society of Psychiatry. Contact: Dr. Yizhuang Zou. E-mail: yzouy@263.net Website: www.psychiatryonline.cn

26-28 January 2011: “WPA Regional Meeting”, Cairo, Egypt. Organizer: Egyptian Psychiatric Association. Contact: Dr. Tarek A. Okasha. E-mail: tokasha@internetegypt.com

14-17 April 2011: “WPA Regional Meeting”, Yerevan, Armenia. Organizer: Armenian Association of Psychiatrists. Contact: Dr. Armen Soghoyan. E-mail: soghoyan@yahoo.com

11-15 October 2011: “XV World Congress of Psychiatry”, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Organizers: a) Argentina Association of Psychiatrist (AAP); b) Association of Argentinean Psychiatrists (APSA); c) Foundation for Interdisciplinary Investigation of Communication (FINTECO). Contact: Mariano R. Castex. E-mail: mcastex@congresosint.com.ar Website: www.congresosint.com.ar