
3rd Quarter 2003

Greetings

According to the WPA Manual of Procedures, the Board's (Executive Committee and Zonal Representatives) is expected to make a fundamental contribution to the governance and regional collaboration of the WPA. This was far-sighted, and these ideas are now beginning to be realised as the Board's administrative infrastructure is strengthened in the Secretariat.

The Zonal Representatives are elected by the entire General Assembly and play crucial roles in the regional coordination of Member Societies. The EC is committed to strengthening the Board and enhancing, as resources permit, the ZRs' work. A survey of ZRs' work plans and achievements will shortly be sent to Member Societies once agreed by the Board. It is greatly hoped that the Member Societies will continue to enhance the profile of their Zonal Representatives and financially support their scientific and administrative initiatives.

There are signs that Member Societies are beginning to overcome cultural and linguistic barriers which have tended to keep regional and national psychiatrists apart, e.g. through the use of e-mail and paper newsletters, as well as bolder plans for harmonisation. Better-resourced Societies could do it through their international committees, and Regional ZRs' could spearhead these developments. The proposal that the local ZR convene a meeting of Regional ZRs' at a national society meeting has obvious merit.

Other decisions by the EC included agreeing upon a time scale for bids for the World Congress in 2011 and for the Core Professional Conference Organiser; conducting a preliminary review of the Permanent Secretariat bids; increasing the Secretariat staffing by 0.5 WTE; proposing a baseline assignment for ZRs with additional monies available for specific tasks, as well as searching for the "wisdom of Solomon" with regard to ethical issues.

The President, President-Elect, Past President and Chair of the Review Committee are meeting Chinese colleagues, including government officials, in Beijing in January 2004. We hope for a good New Year's resolution.

Prof. John Cox
WPA Secretary General



The WPA Executive Committee with Prof. Edgard Belfort Garban, WPA Zonal Representative for Southern South America (Zone 5) at the WPA International Congress held in Caracas, Venezuela, October 1-4, 2003. From l-to-r, first row: WPA Secretary for Meetings Prof. R. Montenegro, WPA Zonal Representative Prof. E. Belfort, WPA President Prof. A. Okasha, WPA President-Elect Prof. J. E. Mezzich, WPA Secretary for Finances Prof. S. Tyano, WPA Secretary for Meetings Prof. P. Ruiz. From l-to-r, second row: WPA Secretary for Publications Prof. M. Maj, WPA Secretary General Prof. J. Cox, WPA Secretary for Sections Prof. G. Christodoulou.

WPA AND WHO CONSULTATION ON MENTAL HEALTH AND REHABILITATION OF PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES IN POST-CONFLICT AND COMPLEX EMERGENCY COUNTRIES (IRAQ)

The WPA produced a statement on the possible mental health sequelae before the Iraq War on May 16, 2002. The APA and WPA Presidents sent a letter to Ambassador Bremer—US Presidential Envoy to Iraq— calling for the rehabilitation of mental health services in Iraq after news of the lootings of main mental hospitals on June 21, 2003.

Recently an inter-country meeting on mental health and the rehabilitation of psychiatric services in post-conflict and complex emergency countries was held at WHO-EMRO in Cairo, Egypt from the 28th to the 30th of July, 2003. The meeting was chaired by WPA President Prof. Ahmed Okasha. Participants included the WPA Zonal Representatives for the Middle East and North Africa, representatives from two of the WPA's largest Member Societies (the American Psychiatric Association, represented by its President, and the Royal College of Psychiatrists), representatives from 15 other WPA Member Societies, the Arab Federation of Psychiatrists, the Iraqi Psychiatric Association, and other professional organizations.

The objectives of this meeting were to: develop a coordinated strategy, methodology and approach for rapid assessment and identification of the most immediate needs; a comprehensive needs assessment and situation analysis; prepare a plan of action of short-, intermediate, and long-term strategies; and to map out the financial implications and fund raising possibilities. Recommendations were produced according to the objectives.

Following our meeting in Cairo, the American Psychiatric Association will be hosting an APA-WPA Presidential Symposium during the May, 2004 Annual Meeting in New York City, entitled "Reconstructing Post-War Mental Health Services." This symposium will be chaired by APA President Dr. Marcia Goin and WPA President Prof. Ahmed Okasha, and will be followed by a forum on the same subject.

This initiative of the WHO, the WPA and the APA is an unprecedented step toward the rehabilitation of mental health care in cases of emergency and conflict.

Ahmed Okasha
WPA President

ANNOUNCING THE WPA OKASHA AWARD FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (2005)
Recipients to be announced at the XIII World Congress of Psychiatry in Cairo, Egypt



This Award includes a diploma, a medal and a donation of US\$15,000, given to the two winners by the President of the WPA during the Opening Ceremony of the XIII World Congress of Psychiatry, Cairo, 10-15 September, 2005.

The Okasha Award recognizes the contribution of two young psychiatrists or neuroscientists, below the age of 40, whose research efforts have best served psychiatry and mental health in a developing country. Developing countries are those listed in the categories B, C and D of the World Bank. No member of the WPA Executive Committee, WPA Board or WPA Council or employees of pharmaceutical companies can be nominated for the Award.

The Okasha Award is presented by the WPA with an unrestricted grant from the Egyptian APEX Pharma.

**PROFESSOR J.A. COSTA E SILVA
ELECTED TO THE FRENCH MEDICAL
ACADEMY**

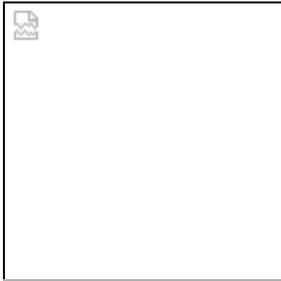
On July 1, 2003, Professor Jorge Alberto Costa e Silva of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, WPA President 1989-1993, was elected as an Associate Member of the French Medical Academy, one of the oldest in the world.

RCP JOURNALS ONLINE

The Royal College of Psychiatrists has made full-text access to the online version of its three journals (the British Journal of Psychiatry, the Psychiatric Bulletin, and Advances in Psychiatric Treatment) freely available across 75 developing countries.

No registration or activation is required of the vast majority of institutions and individuals in the chosen countries for free access to the online journals. Further information is available at www.rcpsych.ac.uk/publications/dev_countries.htm.

The journals may be accessed at the following addresses:



Prof. J.A. Costa e Silva

- British Journal of Psychiatry: <http://bjp.rcpsych.org>
- Psychiatric Bulletin: <http://pb.rcpsych.org>
- Advances in Psychiatric Treatment: <http://apt.rcpsych.org>

SECRETARIAT NEWS

The Secretary General is reviewing the personnel management policies to make sure that these are up to date. A human resources manual, including appraisal and leave procedures, is in preparation in line with good local practice. The SG reviewed these and other Secretariat issues during a visit to New York in the autumn and also met the President-Elect (see photo) to discuss the personnel procedures during his term of office. A room designated for the use of WPA officers is being considered and plans are in hand to welcome WPA members attending the APA meeting in May.

Christopher Gabbert was appointed full time as Technical Coordinator, which increases the establishment to 3 full-time staff. Congratulations, Christopher.

Ekaterina Sukhanova, Chief Executive of the Secretariat, is shouldering more responsibility and is line manager for the staff. We are reviewing the administrative arrangements for the EC and the Board so that these vital committees can undertake their work as productively as possible. She has recently had a book published, "Voicing the Distant: Shakespeare and Russian Modernist Poetry". Congratulations, Ekaterina.

Karolina Rybicka-Kosiec's voice is familiar to many and she epitomises the loyal hard work carried out by our staff. Thank you, Karolina.

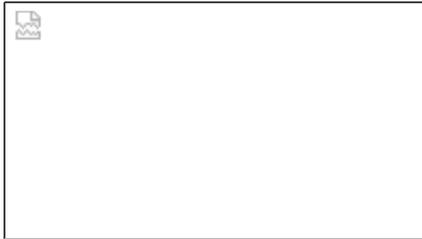
Brigitte Soubrat Campana, WPA Bookkeeper is busy with keeping our financial records in good shape. Thank you, Brigitte.

Joanne Woolridge is a part-time secretary based at Keele UK and is the latest addition to the team. The Secretary General's office is always busy and Joanne has specific responsibility for servicing the Board, ZR matters and for the General Survey-- in addition to providing administrative support for the SG. Thank you, Joanne.

We were delighted to welcome Prof. Mezzich to the office and to arrange for him to meet local administrators (see photo).



WPA President-Elect Prof. Juan E. Mezzich (center) during a visit to the offices of WPA Secretary General John Cox (left). Prof. Mezzich is flanked on the left by Ms. Joanne Woolridge, Assistant to the Secretary General, and on the right by Dr. Roger Bloor (Medical Director) and Mr David Pearson (Director of Clinical Governance and Nursing), both of the North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare, NHS



Prof. Juan E. Mezzich, WPA President-Elect (left) and Prof. John Cox, WPA Secretary General (right) visiting with Dr. Ekaterina Sukhanova, WPA Secretariat Chief Executive (center) at the WPA Secretariat offices in Manhattan (New York City).



The WPA Secretariat Staff in NYC. Seated in the middle is Prof. John Cox, WPA Secretary General; next to him (fourth from left) is Dr. Ekaterina Sukhanova (WPA Secretariat Chief Executive). Also seated are Ms. Brigitte Soubrat- Campana, Bookkeeper (first from left); Ms. Karolina Rybicka-Kosiec, Administrative Assistant (second from left); and Mr. Christopher Gabbert, Technical Coordinator (first from right)

WPA MEETING ON RELIGION, SPIRITUALITY & MENTAL HEALTH

This is a picture of a WPA unprecedented event devoted to Religion, Spirituality and Mental Health, organized in the oldest monastery in the world, St. Catherine’s in Sinai, Egypt. It was attended by the President of WPA, the WPA Secretary General, the WPA Secretary for Sections, and the Chairs of the following WPA Scientific Sections: Addiction Psychiatry; Transcultural Psychiatry; Religion, Spirituality and Psychiatry; and Human Sexuality.

An interactive discussion between monotheism and spiritual philosophies with regard to mental health was a great success, where similarities were more manifest than differences.

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Tarek Okasha, WPA Zonal Representative for Northern Africa. Dr. Tarek Gawad chaired the Organizing Committee. Prof. Soad Moussa chaired the Scientific Committee. The meeting was hosted by the Egyptian Psychiatric Association in collaboration with the WHO and attendance was highly represented by colleagues from the Hellenic Psychiatric Association. It was unforgettable scene seeing WPA Secretary General Prof. John Cox and WPA Secretary for Sections Prof. George Christodoulou climbing the mountain of Sinai’s 3400 stairs in an agile way that raised admiration and envy!



Seated from left to right: Prof. Tarek Okasha, WPA Zonal Representative for Northern Africa and Chairperson of the meeting; Prof. Soad Moussa, Chair of the Scientific Committee of the meeting; Prof. Ahmed Okasha, WPA President and Honorary President of the meeting; Archbishop Damianous, Abbot of the St. Catherine Monastery, Sinai, Egypt; Prof. George Christodoulou, WPA Secretary for Sections; Prof. Ahmed Mohit, Director of Health Protection and Promotion (WHO- EMRO); Prof. John Cox, WPA Secretary General.

Standing from left to right: Prof. Tarek Gawad, Chair of the Organizing Committee of the meeting; Prof. Nady El Guebaly, Chair of Section on Addiction Psychiatry; Prof. H. van Praag, Chair Section on Religion Spirituality and Psychiatry; Prof. Goffredo Bartocci, Chair Section on Transcultural Psychiatry; Prof. Rubin Hernandez, Serrano Chair Section on Psychiatry and Human Sexuality.

SPOTLIGHT ON ZONAL REPRESENTATIVES NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH ASIAN PSYCHIATRY

A report from Prof. Parameshvara Deva, WPA Zonal Representative for Southern Asia (Zone 16)

The World Psychiatric Association co-sponsored a highly successful International Conference on Psychiatry that was organized by the South Asian Forum on Mental Health and Psychiatry (SAFMHP) – UK Chapter from 17th to the 20th of August 2003 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The SAFMHP was formed at the first successful conference for the South Asian region attended by over 250 psychiatrists and mental health workers in Colombo in April 2002 and organized by SAHANAYA (a mental health NGO in Sri Lanka) and psychiatrists from the region. It brought together psychiatrists and mental health workers from the South Asian region with psychiatric professionals of South Asian origin from Europe, North America and Australia for a unique opportunity to discuss and find solutions for the long neglected state of mental health in the region.

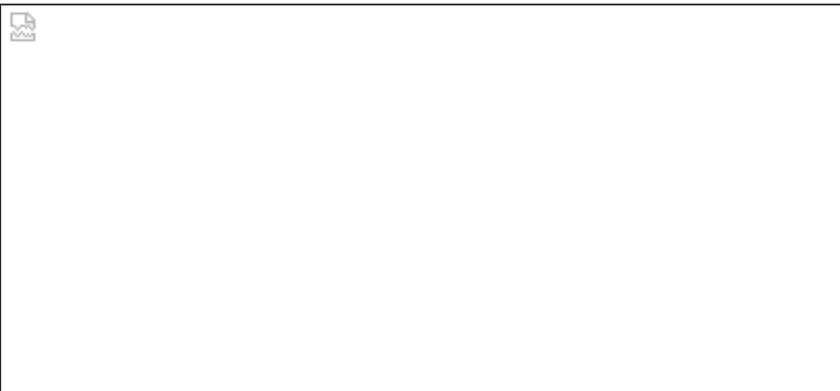
Unlike previous international conferences in the region, this home-grown conference in 2002 was seen as the beginning of cooperation in psychiatry and mental health across borders in a vast and important area of Asia. The conference was organized with the hard work of Prof. Mohan as Chairman and Dr. Afzal Javed as Secretary of the Organizing Committee. It attracted over 400 registrants from 15 countries.

The International Conference on Psychiatry held in August 2003 went beyond the region to bring in large numbers of psychiatrists from South East Asia, the UK and other developed countries. It held a forum that allowed them to share experiences of progress and innovations in psychiatry, and to discuss possible adaptations for use in countries of the region. The conference was held at the Taj Samudra Hotel in Colombo and was opened by the Sri Lanka's Minister of Foreign Affairs. Among the guests was the President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists (UK). Besides sharing scientific advances, the meeting also saw a gathering of psychiatrists in three forums for regional cooperation.

The WPA was represented by Prof. Juan E. Mezzich (WPA President-Elect) and Dr. M. P. Deva (WPA Zonal Representative for Zone 16, Southern Asia). The Sri Lankan College of Psychiatrists agreed to join the WPA as a Member Society in the near future.

The meeting in Colombo also saw the second meeting of the proposed Asian Federation of Psychiatric Associations (AFPA). The meeting was organised by Dr. M. P. Deva, chaired by Prof. Mezzich, and was attended by 20 psychiatrists from Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Pakistan, the UK and the USA. The meeting unanimously decided upon the formation of the AFPA and appointed Dr. M. P. Deva to invite a group of Asian psychiatrists to draw up a draft constitution for the proposed federation and organize the official launch of the AFPA at the 2005 XIII World Congress of Psychiatry in Cairo, Egypt.

The International Conference was also the venue for the launch of the Overseas Asian Group of the Royal College of Psychiatrists (UK) whose objective is to bring together the many members and fellows of the college in Asia. At the business meeting of the South Asian Forum, Prof. Nalaka Mendis and Dr. Afzal Javed were elected Chairman and Secretary, respectively, of the Forum. The next meeting is scheduled for late 2004. The Second International Conference on Psychiatry for the South Asian region was truly an example of what can be achieved given the foresight of founders of the South Asian Forum and close cooperation between psychiatrists of developing and developed countries in the fast changing world of today.



Seated l-to-r: Profs. A. Javed (UK), V.K. Varma (India), P. Deva (Malaysia), J.E. Mezzich (USA), and U. Ambihapahar (Papua New Guinea). Standing (at center among other colleagues): Profs. H.R. Chaudhry (Pakistan) and Fernando (Sri Lanka) at an organizational meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka on August 21, 2003.



UPCOMING WPA INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS "TREATMENTS IN PSYCHIATRY: AN UPDATE"

FLORENCE, ITALY, NOVEMBER 10-13, 2004

WWW.WPA2004FLORENCE.ORG

This is expected to be one of the main psychiatric events of the year. Abstracts (no longer than 250 words) may be submitted via e-mail to the Scientific Secretariat (secretariat@wpa2004florence.org). A very attractive programme of tours for participants and accompanying persons has been arranged. For further information, please contact the Chairman of the Organizing Committee, Prof. Mario Maj, WPA Secretary for Publications (majmario@tin.it).

BIDS FOR THE WPA XV WCP: A LETTER FROM THE WPA SECRETARY FOR MEETINGS

The letter below has been circulated to all WPA Member Societies via e-mail.

Dear WPA Member Society President,

I am writing, on behalf of the WPA President Dr. Ahmed Okasha and the members of the WPA Executive Committee, to invite you to consider bidding for the WPA XV World Congress of Psychiatry to be held in 2011. It is traditional for a WPA Member Society to be the local host of all WPA World Congresses of Psychiatry.

If you decide to bid to this effect, a letter signed by the President of the WPA Member Society doing the bidding should be officially submitted, followed by a proposal addressing all issues enumerated in Appendix I (Supplemental Information to Choose a Site for the World Congress of Psychiatry) of the WPA Manual of Procedures, Second Edition. You are also advised to consult the WPA Manual of Procedures to become informed about all issues pertinent to the hosting of a WPA World Congress of Psychiatry. This manual is located in the WPA website (www.wpanet.org). You should also feel free to contact me if you were to require technical assistance and/or advice in this regard. In accordance to the WPA guidelines, the evaluation and selection of the bidding proposals will be made by the members of the WPA Executive Committee, with ratification by the WPA Board, the WPA Council and the WPA General Assembly.

All letters of intent and bid proposals need to be postmarked and submitted by no later than midnight on May 31, 2004. The original letter of intent and the original proposal should be sent to:

WPA Secretary for Meetings
WPA Secretariat
Metropolitan Hospital Center
1901 First Avenue (Suite 4M-3)
New York, New York 10029 USA

Also, a copy of the letter of intent and a copy of the bid proposal should be sent to:

Dr. Pedro Ruiz
WPA Secretary for Meetings
1300 Moursund Street
Houston, Texas 77030 USA

I hope and wish that you give maximum consideration to the opportunity to bid for this WPA World Congress of Psychiatry.

Sincerely,



Pedro Ruiz, M.D.
WPA Secretary for Meetings
