

Webinar: Diplomacy and Psychiatry. “The Human Factor is the Basis of Crises and the Individual is the Source of Solutions”



WPA CMCR section's Webinar

Date: June 4, 2024 9-10 am EST

Presenter: Enrico Suardi, M.D.

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Title

Diplomacy and Psychiatry. “The Human Factor is the Basis of Crises and the Individual is the Source of Solutions” (Giandomenico Picco, 1948-2024)

Summary

This presentation is a tribute to Giandomenico (aka Gianni) Picco, an extraordinary international civil servant and negotiator, who passed away on March 10, 2024. As an assistant for political affairs to the UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, Picco negotiated the release of hostages from Lebanon, the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, and the end of the Iran-Iraq war. He received the Presidential Award for Exceptional Service from President George H. W. Bush in 1991. In 2014 he coauthored with the psychotherapist Gabrielle Rifkind “The Fog of Peace: the Human Face of Conflict Resolution.” The presenter will use Picco’s insights into negotiation and review psychological concepts relevant to international affairs. He will discuss the past involvement of the American Psychiatric Association in

peacemaking and track II diplomacy processes. The presenter will make the case that psychiatrists can contribute to developing empathetic approaches to international relations and offer useful advice to decision-makers and subject matter experts in diplomacy.

Educational objectives

- Participants will describe psychological concepts relevant to international relations and peace-making.
- Participants will review historical examples of the involvement of psychiatry in multitrack diplomacy.
- Participants will appraise the role that psychiatrists can play in conflict management and resolution.

Gap statement

The presentation will address the lack of knowledge regarding the psychological underpinnings of conflict between and within groups.

The presentation will highlight the need to apply this knowledge to the practice of conflict management and resolution.

Bio of the presenter



Dr. Enrico Suardi is director of psychiatry at Saint Elizabeths Hospital, director of forensic services at the Ross Center, and president-elect of the Washington Psychiatric Society in Washington, DC. A diplomate of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology in psychiatry, child and adolescent psychiatry, and forensic psychiatry, he is on faculty at Saint Elizabeths Hospital, Georgetown University, and George Washington University. He is a Professor at the Institute of World Politics (IWP) in Washington, DC and has served as chief child and family psychiatrist at the U.S. State Department. Dr. Suardi completed his M.D. and a residency in preventive medicine in Milan, Italy. He obtained an M.Sc. in Public Health and Policy from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and an Executive M.A. in National Security Affairs from IWP. He studied political psychology at the Elliott School of International Affairs of George Washington University in Washington, DC.