



Message from the President



January 2019

Colleagues,

Let me begin by wishing you all a Happy New Year and thanking you for your contributions in 2018. It was a fruitful year.

We successfully convened with Member Societies and other partners the first of our now annual program of World Congresses in Mexico City, as well as a Thematic Congress in Melbourne and the third WPA Regional Congress in Africa – this time in Addis Ababa. Participants in all of these Congresses appreciated the quality and diversity of speakers, the range of topics, and new opportunities for exchange among speakers and with audiences. We made progress in work with the University of Melbourne towards an online graduate diploma in psychiatry, worked with colleagues to establish the Lancet-WPA Commission “Reducing the global burden of depression”, refreshed the WPA branding, approved the formation of a consulting committee with service users and family carers, and formalised a partnership agreement with citiesRISE.

Behind the scenes, the WPA Standing Committees have been active and providing invaluable advice to the Executive Committee and me as we pursue our action plan and institution-building agenda. Also instrumental has been the advice and help from the other WPA components including the Board, Council and Scientific Sections. The new Section on Early Career Psychiatrists has been among the most active of our 70 Sections, and supporting a number of initiatives, including the WPA fellowship program that brought some 50 early career psychiatrists from all over the world to Mexico City.

2019 is also shaping up to be a productive year.

We will step up the pace on our work with CitiesRISE. 2018 was a year of planning and preparation. 2019 will see us putting some of those plans into action in several countries, working towards the broader aim of strengthening the community orientation of our profession.

We also look forward to partnering with our member society, the Portuguese Psychiatric Association, to host our next WPA World Congress in Lisbon, Portugal. The Scientific Committee, led by Professor Norman Sartorius has been working hard to build another outstanding program, and we are delighted to have already received many high-quality abstracts and proposals. Please visit our website to learn more: [19th WPA World Congress of Psychiatry](#). Of course, if the program alone is not enough to tempt you to attend the meeting during the traditional holiday period, perhaps the outstanding weather and picturesque city of Lisbon will encourage you to combine this opportunity for learning with a summer vacation this coming August.

Before this we hope you will join us in the historic city of Ohrid where the Psychiatric Association of Macedonia (FYROM) is hosting the WPA Thematic Congress on Dementia, 15-18 May 2019.

The first issue of [World Psychiatry](#) for 2019 has just been published. Thanks again to Professor Mario Maj for editing this important journal. There is little doubt that his stewardship is key to the publication being ranked Number 1 in the Social Science Citation Index. In this issue, you can also read more about the CitiesRISE work I mention above.

In my last message to you, I hinted that a new WPA website was on its way. I am delighted to let you know that in just a few weeks' time, we will launch "stage one" of the new site. What does "stage one" mean, I hear you ask? Well, as with all good websites, our new website has been built to evolve and grow to meet the needs of all our components and visitors. This first stage will bring you WPA news and information in a clearer, more modern and easy to navigate site. Stage two will offer secure login areas where our members and components can share information, pay their memberships fees online and access confidential documents.

2019 is going to be an exciting year for WPA and I look forward to working with you all to advance psychiatry and mental health worldwide.

Best wishes
Helen

Prof Helen Herrman AO
WPA President