

Newsletter

International Association for Suicide Prevention

From The President
Professor Diego de Leo



“This newsletter focuses on the work of IASP”

IN THIS ISSUE

From the President	1
IASP: The Organisation	2,3
IASP: Awards - the Nominations	4,5
IASP: Task Forces - work in Action	6,7,8
Notice Board	9
IASP: Elections	10
IASP: National Representatives	11
IASP: Membership	12

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

A very Happy New Year and a Peaceful 2003! May the people on this planet remember the horrors of violence and try to understand each other's reason by using just the strength of their arguments.

May I call on you all to read this newsletter immediately as I wish you, as an important member of IASP, to participate in the nomination of suitable recipients for the IASP Awards. You can read all the details of each of the three awards: Stengel, Ringel Service Award and the Farberow Award on pages 4 and 5.

The current Executive Committee complete their term in office in September 2003. From Central Administrative Office you will receive your nomination papers and again I request you most sincerely to participate in selecting your next board. This newsletter is about IASP: **your** organisation and it will be **your** choice of the team that will lead you into 2004. From my side, with only a few months remaining, I must say that it has been a great privilege working for the benefit of this association. It will be my care to pay attention that all things are in proper order when given to the new board. A piece of my heart will remain with IASP forever, and I know that I will be always willing to help and contribute to the life of the association.

This newsletter focuses on the work of IASP. This is so that you are fully informed on current activities. Do remember to refer also to our website [www.iasp.info]. At anytime write to me or any member of the Board - we are very keen to see IASP continue to develop into a dynamic and effective organisation.

You are a great bunch of people. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to work for you!

With my very best wishes for your health and spirit,

Yours

Diego

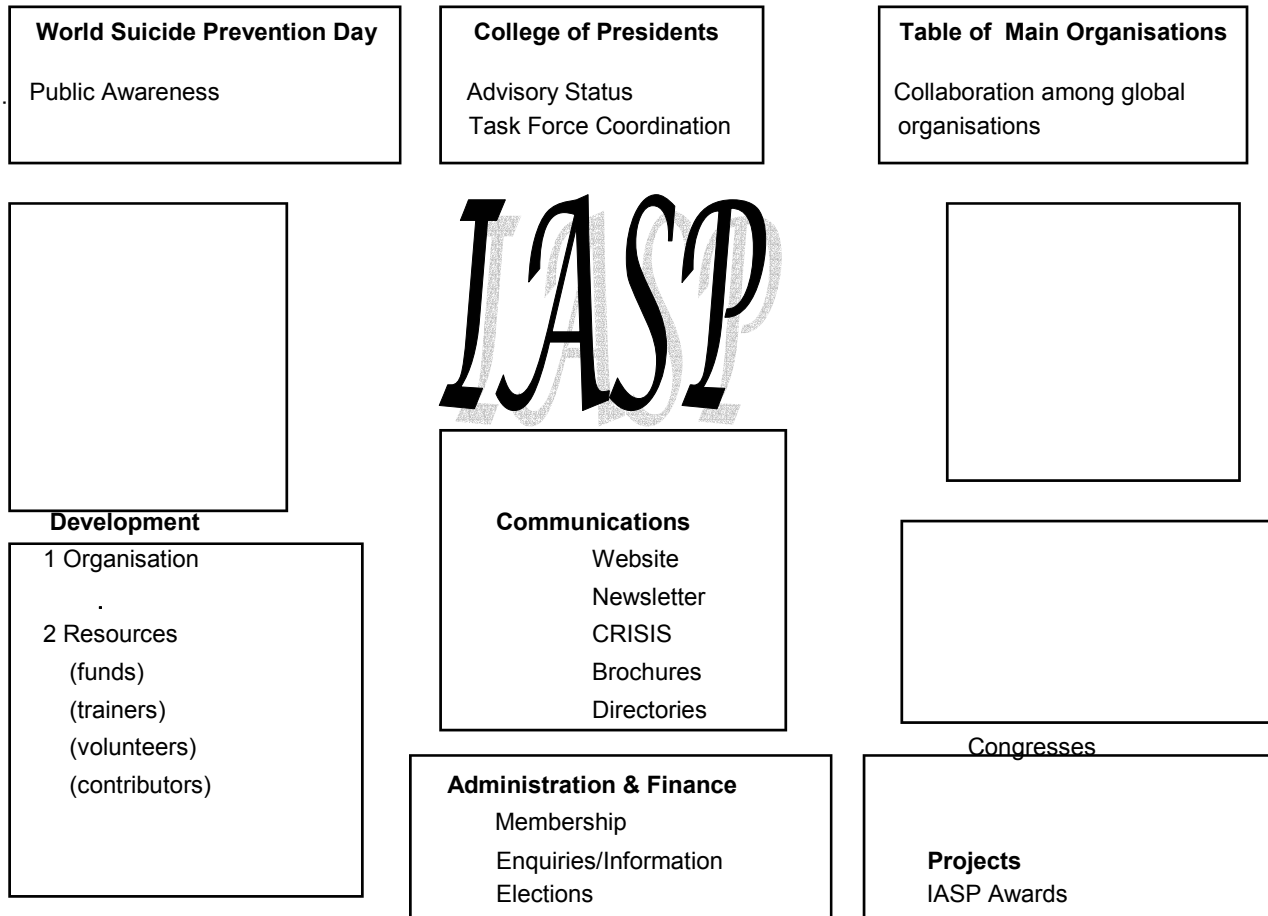
• Editorial Board

- Lars Mehlum
- Lanny Berman
- Onja Grad
- Thomas Bronisch
- Paul Corcoran

This newsletter was compiled by Vanda Scott



International Association of Suicide Prevention—the Organisation



1. Global Activities:

1.1 College of Presidents:

With the aim of profiting from the previous experience and wisdom of the past-presidents of IASP and also in order to keep involved as much as possible key-people in the life of our association, a "college" of presidents is proposed. This institution should act as a privileged consultant to the executive board of IASP, after appointing a spoke-person.

1.2 Table of Main Organisations:

To bring together the main organisations in the field of suicide prevention in order to harmonise planned and ongoing activities of the several existing organisations; exploratory investigation should be made with regard to the feasibility of a meeting amongst the delegates of each major association. Time and location for this initiative could be coincident with major suicidological events.

1.3 World Suicide Prevention Day:

Initiate and launch the World Day for Suicide Prevention in September 2003 at the IASP Congress in Sweden.

2. Council of National Representatives:

To meet the constitutional requirements of the Association which provides for the widest membership representations and therefore open dialogue and the availability of knowledge, skills and experience in combating suicide world-wide.

3. Council of International Organisations:

To meet the constitutional requirements of the Association which provides for organisational membership representations by encouraging more dynamic relationship and interaction within the overall membership in order to encourage the development of dynamic programmes and research in suicide prevention.

4. Projects/Programmes:**4.1 Awards**

Provision of awards to honour the contribution of individuals in the field of suicide prevention. The three awards are: The Stengel Research Award, Ringel Service Award and The Farberow Award.

4.2 Latin Section of IASP.

Establish a sub group of IASP communicating in French and Spanish in response to membership requirements.

4.3 Volunteer Agency Survey of all the volunteer-resourced suicide prevention services throughout the world in order to understand the complexity and magnitude of the volunteer resource working in suicide prevention activities.

4.4 Directory of Survivors of Suicide providing detailed information to survivors, health and mental health professionals, and the general public of the availability of such services to assist in the difficulties of bereavement and mourning a suicide entails.

5. Organisational Development:**5.1 IASP Constitutional Matters**

- Establishing charitable status in Norway, Switzerland and USA.
- Reviewing the constitutional status of IASP to ensure it is relevant to society today, worldwide.
- Activate Board development and prepare for succession.
- Develop policies and procedures.

5.2 Resource Development: funds, membership and contributors (recruitment strategy, sponsorship programme and fundraising).

6. Communications:**6.1 External**

Website - extending IASP services to the public and membership and a mechanism to encompass the administration of IASP through the internet.

Newsletter - biennial publication encompassing national development and strategies and information on initiatives and Board activities.

Brochures - introducing the work of IASP to those working with suicidal people.

CRISIS - the journal of crisis intervention and suicide prevention.

6.2 Internal*Congresses*

- 2003 Stockholm - preparation and implementation.
- 2005 South Africa - preparation and implementation.
- 2007 Ireland - preparation and implementation.

Congress Guidelines - provision of updated guidelines (policy on speakers costs and selection criteria).

Organisational Procedures – preparation of papers on all aspects of IASP activities.

7. Administrative Procedures:

Central Administrative Office - ongoing management of processes.

Membership - ongoing management of processes.

Certificates - ongoing management of process.

Electoral Activities - ensure democratically elected Executive Committee and national representatives.

Executive Committee meetings – preparation of meetings.

Ensuring that systems are in place for continuity between Administrations.

8. Finance:

IASP Awards 2003 - Nominations

The International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) provides awards for those who have contributed in a significant way to the furthering of the aims of the Association. Awards are presented at the IASP biennial conference.

The Stengel Research Award has been provided since 1977 and is named in honour of the late Professor Erwin Stengel, one of the founders of IASP. This award is for outstanding research in the field of suicidology, and nominations can be made by any member of IASP.

The Ringel Service Award was instituted in 1995 and honours the late Professor Erwin Ringel, the founding President of the Association. This award is for distinguished service in the field of suicidology, and nominations can be made by National Representatives of IASP.

The Farberow Award was introduced in 1997 in recognition of Professor Norman Farberow, a founding member and driving force behind IASP. This award is for a person who has contributed significantly in the field of work with survivors of suicide, and nominations can be made by any member of IASP.

THE STENGEL RESEARCH AWARD

Members of the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) are invited to nominate suitable persons for the Stengel Research Award. Nominees do not necessarily have to be IASP members. The criteria for selection are:

- outstanding and active researcher with at least 10 years of scientific activity in the field, as evidenced by a number of publications in internationally acknowledged journals;
- national leadership in the area;
- suicidology is main (focal) area of interest/work;
- author/co-author of at least one international book;
- reasonable expectation (outline to be submitted) of further research activity in the field.

Previous recipients:	1977	M. Bolt (Canada)
	1979	R. Diekstra (The Netherlands)
	1981	J-P Soubrier (France)
	1983	J. Lonnqvist (Finland)
	1985	G. Sonneck (Austria & J. Beskow (Sweden)
	1987	R. Goldney (Australia) & C. Pfeffer (USA)
	1989	P. Cosyns (Belgium) & J. Wilmotte (Belgium)
	1991	D. De Leo (Italy)
	1993	D. Wasserman (Sweden)
	1995	K. Hawton (United Kingdom)
	1997	A. Schmidtke (Germany)
	1999	A. Roy (United Kingdom)
	2001	A. Leenaars (Canada)

THE STENGEL RESEARCH AWARD CHAIRPERSON

Prof. Keith Hawton	Phone: +44 [1865] 226 258
University of Oxford	Fax: +44 [1865] 226 265
Department of Psychiatry	E-mail keith.hawton@psychiatry.oxford.ac.uk
Warneford Hospital	
Oxford OX3 7JX	
United Kingdom	

Please send your nomination directly to Professor Keith Hawton, Chairperson of the Stengel Research Award Committee, and **attach a brief summary** of why you feel your nominee is deserving.

THE RINGEL SERVICE AWARD

National Representatives of the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) are invited to nominate suitable persons to receive the Ringel Service Award. Nominees do not necessarily have to be IASP members.

The criteria for selection are:

- actively involved in the practice of suicide prevention and crisis intervention and its dissemination;
- acknowledged as a national initiator or leader in the field;
- suicide prevention and/or crisis intervention should be the main portion of his/her work.

	<u>Previous recipients</u>
1995	Zhai Shu Tao (P.R. of China)
1997	Yukio Saito (Japan)
1999	Vanda Scott (France)
2001	Lars Mehlum (Norway)

THE RINGEL SERVICE AWARD CHAIRPERSON

Simon Armson	Phone: + 44 [208] 8394 8300
Samaritans	Fax: + 44 [208] 8394 8301
The Upper Mill	E- mail: s.armson@samaritans.org.uk
Ewell, KT17 2AF	
United Kingdom	

Please send your nomination directly to Simon Armson, Chairperson of the Ringel Service Award Committee, and **attach a brief summary** of why you feel your nominee is deserving.

DEADLINE: 1 April 2003

THE FARBEROW AWARD

Members of the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) are invited to nominate suitable persons for the Farberow Award. It is for the person who in the view of the award committee has contributed significantly in the field of work with survivors of suicide. Nominees do not necessarily have to be IASP members.

The criteria for selection are:

- has been actively involved in the establishment and operation of bereaved through suicide/survivor programs;
- has demonstrated national leadership in the area;
- has contributed to the research and evaluation of such programs;
- will continue to involve themselves in this important area of work.

	<u>Previous recipient</u>
1997	Onja Grad (Slovenia)
1999	Karen Dunne Maxim & E.A. Dunne (USA)
2001	Sheila Clark (Australia)

THE FARBEROW AWARD CHAIRPERSON

Dr. Sheila Clark	Phone: +61 [4] 1259 4338
University of Adelaide	Fax: +61 [8] 8303 3511
Department of General Practice	Email: sheila.clark@adelaide.edu.au
North Terrace	
Adelaide, SA 5005. Australia	

Please send your nomination directly to Dr Sheila Clark, Chairperson of the Farberow Award Committee, and **attach a**

Task Forces: work in action

Task Forces have been established in response to the membership's requests and suggestions for specific topics to be addressed. People leading in the field have been invited to Chair the Task Forces and report to the membership in the newsletter and at the next IASP Congress.

1 Task Force on Guidelines for the Development of Suicide Prevention Agencies (established March 1994).

Aims:

- To describe the different sectors to be considered when preparing suicide guidelines (e.g. ethics, organisation, education, cooperation, evaluation);
- To define the essentials given these different sectors;
- To describe different types of suicide prevention agencies and their different needs;
- To collect samples of agencies from different countries in respect of how they have filled the different essentials mentioned above.

Strategies:

- Consultation of experts for special questions.
- Collection of different types of agencies all over the world by intensive contact with national representatives of IASP, specific members and institutions.
- Elaboration of a frame for guidelines, to be specified individually for different types of agencies and in different regions of the world.
- Publication of a Survey of Voluntary Agencies in Suicide Prevention.

2 Task Force on Survivors of Suicide (established September 2000).

Aims:

- To identify and compile a list of bereavement services offered in each country for survivors of a suicide by a loved one.
- To increase IASP's involvement with this important group.
- To increase awareness and further understanding of the needs of this group by the public, by health professionals and by government agencies.

Strategies:

- First survey will focus on European and Australian/New Zealand areas, where some activities already exist.
- After information is received a directory will be published and made available to relevant office agencies and persons.
- Similar directories for other parts of the world will be compiled after completion of the first phase. Eventually there might be a world directory, with divisions for the major parts of the world.

3 Task Force on Mobbing (established and awaiting terms of reference).

4 Task Force On Suicidal Acts Of Terrorism

(Motion from the Council of National Representatives to the Executive Committee of IASP, 2001).

Task Forces: work in action

Aims:

The aim of this Task Force is to formulate prevention and intervention strategies to discourage suicidal terrorism.

Strategies:

- Collect available data about suicidal terrorist acts.
- Study the processes that lead to suicidal acts of terrorism.
- Formulate profiles of suicidal terrorists.
- Formulate the most relevant theories or explanations of the aetiology of suicidal acts of terrorism.
- Study the role of pressure and education of potential suicidal terrorists by terrorist organizations as well as religious and peer influence.
- Study the media influences in reinforcing suicidal terrorism.

5 Task Force On Genetic Aspect Of Suicide Ideation And Behaviour

The task force will consist of a working group of three IASP members already active in this field. The Working group will liaise with all other experts from within IASP and will establish continuous communication with outside organisations and their experts in the field of psychiatric and behavioural genetics.

Aim:

The main aim of the Task Force will be to examine suicide ideation and behaviour as an interplay of genes and environment (the so called genome-environment interaction).

Strategies:

- Systematically review current knowledge in the field of suicidology genetics.
- Rethink possible new research strategies in suicidology. It is a view that populational and molecular genetic research is an obvious next move, since this may allow targeting of psychosocial or pharmacotherapeutic interventions at persons and population of high suicide risk.
- Establish contacts with associations and organisations in the field of psychiatric and behavioural genetics and invite their members interested in suicidology to join IASP. For example, the president of the World Association of Psychiatric Genetics has already published his paper in the most recent issue of Crisis.
- Organise regular meetings of experts in the suicidology genetics also as part of future world IASP congresses.
- Explain suicide ideation and behaviour as an interplay of genes and environment. At the same time, discourage some misconceptions about genetics, e.g. that genetic is only biological (e.g. the risk of marital problems and divorce is partially under genetic control) and that environment is only psychosocial (e.g. the environment appears to exert its biological influence even in the perinatal period, and thus affecting the ability to deal with stressors at a later age).
- Examine the most likely reactions of the community including the media to new hypotheses and theories of suicide behaviour as an interplay of genes and environment. Accordingly, suggest the most appropriate dissemination of results in the field.
- On the basis of the above suggest suicide prevention and intervention strategies: personal and populational levels.

All Task Forces will have the opportunity to submit an interim report at the IASP Congress in Stockholm, Sweden in September 2003.

Task Forces: work in action

6 Task Force on Identifying Mechanisms Underlying Falling Youth Suicide Rates

Workgroup Goals:

- I Develop common protocols to gather data across and within countries.
 - 1 Document change in adolescent rates across informative member countries.
 - 2 Document change within countries to note differences in the rate change in different ethnic SES, and urban/rural groups.
 - 3 Where data is available, track the change in rates among adolescents across time and within country against:
 - a. Appropriate local alcohol/substance use rates.
 - b. Significant changes in adolescent health policies, mental health resources and entitlements.
 - c. Changes in psychoactive medication prescription rates for adolescents.
 - d. Autopsy toxicology findings in adolescents who have suicided.
- II Seek collaboration/participation /analytic assistance from WHO, CDC and various governmental agencies for the above.
- III Seek funding for one or more face-to-face meetings and to cover other communication costs.
- IV Depending on preliminary findings, promote the funding of a naturalistic multi-site prospective, but open and uncontrolled study on a large representative sample of teen attempters/depressives to examine outcome correlates of different forms of management.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- **7th World Congress on Stress,**
Trauma & Coping: Crisis Intervention
in a Changing World.
February 12 – 16, 2003.
Baltimore, Maryland, USA.
Contact ICISF on www.icisf.org.
- **36th Annual Conference AAS**
Competent Communities: suicide prevention
through support, research & practice
April 23 – 26, 2003
Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA
Contact AAS on www.suicidology.org
- **IFOTES Congress**
The Joy of Living
July 10-14, 2003
Ljubljana, Slovenia Contact
Contact IFOTES on www.ifotes2003
- **XXII IASP Congress,**
Crossing Borders in Suicide Prevention -



XXII IASP Congress
September 2003
Stockholm, Sweden

Contact IASP Congress www.ki.se/suicid/iasp2003

Notice Board—Announcements

Election Committee

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The Rev Dr Sir Alan Walker

It is with sadness and with great respect that we inform you of the death of the LifeLine founder Rev. Dr. Sir Alan Walker at the age of 91 years.

Sir Alan, a remarkable man, was committed to a vision that has seen the development of an organisation with world acclaim.

Our condolences are conveyed to Sir Alan's wife and family.

LifeLine Sydney will celebrate their 40th birthday on 16th. March 2003, another mile stone in the history of the voluntary sector.

Would you like to Sponsor an IASP Associate Member?

Would you, or your institute, be prepared to pay the membership fee for one Associate Member this year?

There are over 40 Associates who would like the opportunity of full membership to IASP.

Many are working in economically deprived areas and full membership would enable them to participate fully in IASP activities (have voting rights, become a representative of their country) and receive the IASP journal, Crisis.

If you are interested in this scheme and can find \$90 for this special membership offer for Associates

USA: Annual meeting in Sante Fe, Mexico

Located between the high desert and the high mountains, Santa Fe, New Mexico is the oldest state capital in the United States and the site of the 36th Annual Conference of the American Association of Suicidology, April 23-26, 2003. Infused with the heritage of the desert Southwest, the traditions and beliefs of Pueblo Indians and Hispanic cultures, Santa Fe is also home to hundreds of artisans and the finest of cuisine. In this community, more than 700 are expected to attend the AAS conference which will feature close to 200 papers, panels, poster presentations, and workshops.

Featured speakers at this year's conference will focus on the latest in research on cognitive behavioural treatments, the relationship between alcoholism and suicide, and the role of culture in understanding suicide. Research hypotheses to explain recently observed decreases in suicide rates, both in the States and internationally, will be discussed and debated by IASP members David Shaffer, David Rudd, Lanny Berman, and Bob Goldney. Recent successes in preventing suicide in the U. S. Air Force will be extrapolated to the non-military community. Other presentations will range across a broad array of topics from best practices in suicide prevention and prevention program evaluation models, to impulsivity and suicide, help-seeking behaviours among males, ethical issues in suicide research, and youth suicide risk factors. Included in this year's program are a large number of half and full-day workshops intended to offer intensive training on subjects ranging from interview skills, to managing and treating self-injurious patients, treating dual diagnosis patients, and dealing with depression and suicide in the medically and terminally ill.

Special events are planned including annual golf and tennis tournaments as well as sightseeing opportunities throughout the region.

For more information, consult the AAS web site: www.suicidology.org

IASP: Elections 2003

Ballot papers for the election of an Executive Committee 2003 are now being prepared. A call for nominations has been made and all fully paid up members of the Association are requested to select future members of the Board.

Key dates are 15 April all nominations to be received by the Election Committee;
 20 August all ballot papers received by the Election Committee;
 13 September announcement of results in the General Assembly, Stockholm, Sweden.

The Executive Committee composes a President, a General Secretary, a Treasurer, three Vice-Presidents, the chairperson of the Council of National Representatives, and the chairperson of the Council of Organizational Representatives. The terms of office extend from one General Assembly to the next.

A member may be in the same position for two terms (ie. 2 years plus 2 years) and then can only be re-elected for one further period of 2 years in a different board position.

Please note therefore that the current Executive Committee have been in position for:

6 years	President	Diego de Leo	Term completed
6 years	General Secretary	Vanda Scott	Term completed
4 years	Vice Presidents	Lakshmi Vijayakumar	position change required – 2 years maximum
4 years		Onja Grad	position change required – 2 years maximum
4 years		Lanny Berman	position change required – 2 years maximum
4 years	Treasurer	Lars Mehlum	position change required – 2 years maximum

The Executive Committee represents IASP and conducts the business of the Association. It has the responsibility:

- calling the General Assembly, the Council of National Representatives, and the Council of Organizational Representatives into regular session;
- appointment of scientific, technical, and administrative bodies;
- decision over applications for membership;
- decision on expulsion and/or suspension of members;
- for all financial matters;
- maintaining full records of all meetings;
- engage in those activities which further the goals of IASP, and drawing up of its own order of business within the framework of the Constitution.

The roles of the Executive Committee Members are:

The President:

- represents the Association formally in dealing with authorities and third parties;
- will execute the decisions of the General Assembly, the Council of National Representatives,
- the Council of Organizational Representatives,
- and the Executive Committee;
- will preside in Executive Committee meetings; will preside in assemblies and meetings of the Association.

Vice Presidents:

- senior vice president deputises for the President whenever required;
- take responsibility to specific areas of Executive Committee work.

General Secretary:

- discharges all duties assigned by the General Assembly, the Council of National Representatives, the Council of Organizational Representatives, and the Executive Committee;
- provides regular presentations of administrative reports to the Executive Committee and to the members;
- maintains the archives of the Association.

The Treasurer:

National Representatives

In accordance to the IASP Constitution, the Executive Committee has called elections for national representatives in a number of countries. There is a requirement for a national representative elected for each nation represented by at least two individual members. The term of office for national representatives is four years; however they may be elected for a second term of office of four years.

The Role of the National Representative is:

- to communicate national needs, discuss national strategy and programmes in the journal and newsletter;
- to share information and models of good practice;
- to report on national trends, initiatives and specific projects.

These activities drawn together under the auspices of the Council of National Representatives will encourage active and effective representative leadership within the membership through the appropriate and legal selection as outlined in the Constitution. The Council will provide consultation to the elected representatives in the Executive Board.

When you receive ballot papers from Central Office, please consult your selected candidates and seek their willingness to stand as your national representative. Any questions regarding the election process should be forwarded to the Election Committee.

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National Representatives Elections: 2003

Australia	Dr Sheila Clark	Lithuania	Professor Danute Gailiene
Austria	Dr Reinhold Fartacek	Malaysia	Professor T. Maniam
Belgium	Professor Kees Van Heeringen	Mexico	Dr Alfonso Reyes Zubiria
Brazil	Dr Ellis D'Arrigo Busnello	Netherlands	Dr Rene Diekstra
Bulgaria	Professor Alexander Marinow	New Zealand	Dr Annette Beautrais
Canada	Dr Antoon Leenaars	Norway	Professor Oivind Ekeberg
Cuba	Professor Sergio A. Perez Barrero	Pakistan	Dr Murad Moosa Khan
Estonia	Dr Airi Varnik	P R of China	Professor Zhai Shu-Tao
Finland	Professor Jouko Lonnqvist	Puerto Rica	Dr Carmen E. Parrilla-Cruz
Germany	Dr Georg Fiedler	Romania	Dr Calin Scripcaru
Greece	Professor Alexander Botsis	Russia	Dr Ludmilla Arkhangelskaya
Hong Kong	Ms Betty Tsui Chi-Ying	Slovenia	Professor Onja Grad
Hungary	Dr Tamas Zonda	South Africa	Professor Lourens Schlebusch
Iceland	Dr Wilhelm Nordfjord	Sweden	Professor Danuta Wasserman
India	Dr Lakshmi Vijayakumar	Switzerland	Dr Konrad Michel
Indonesia	Professor A. Prayitno	Taiwan	Dr Chong Mian-Yoon
Iran	Dr Ghodrattollah Ansaripour	Turkey	Professor Isik Sayil
Ireland	Dr John Connolly	United Kingdom	Mr Simon Armson
Israel	Professor Israel Orbach	Ukraine	Professor Alexander Mokhovikov
Japan	Rev Yukio Saito	USA	Dr Morton Silverman
Liechtenstein	Dr Andreas Nagele	Yugoslavia	Professor Slavica Selakovic-Bursic

IASP

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The objectives of IASP are:

to provide a common platform for all representatives of different professions and volunteers who are engaged in the field of suicide prevention and crisis intervention;

to allow interchange of acquired experience in this area in various countries, especially through exchange of literature;

to promote the establishment of national organisations for suicide prevention;

to facilitate the wider dissemination of the fundamentals of effective suicide prevention, not only to professional groups and volunteers, but also to the general public;

to arrange for specialised training of selected persons in the area of suicide prevention, in selected training centres, where desired;

- to carry out programs of research, especially those which can be pursued through international joint co-operation.

The Executive board of IASP is elected each two years and at present comprises:

Diego de Leo (Australia)	President
Lakshmi Vijayakumar (India)	Vice President
Onja Grad (Slovenia)	Vice President
Lanny Berman (USA)	Vice President
Lars Mehlum (Norway)	Treasurer
Vanda Scott (France)	General Secretary
Simon Armson (England)	Chair, Council of National Representatives
Slavica Selakovic-Bursic (Yugoslavia)	Chair, Council of Organisational Representatives

Membership — IASP

Membership Fees for 2003

Individual membership in IASP, including a subscription to the journal CRISIS, US \$100.00 per year.

Organisational membership in IASP, including a subscription to the journal CRISIS, US \$100.00 per year.

Please remember that for an organisation to be a member of IASP, there must be two IASP individual members as representatives within the organisation.

Associate Membership

If you wish to sponsor an Associate Member of IASP to become a Full Member (therefore providing the opportunity for the Associate to receive the CRISIS journal and vote in the current elections) a discounted membership fee of US\$90 will be made available to you and also US\$90 to your Associate Member requiring from you a total of \$180.

Please take this opportunity while paying your 2003 membership fee to sponsor an IASP Associate Member.

Contact: Vanda Scott at the Central Administrative Office, Le Baradé, 32330 Gondrin, France.

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