



Dear member,

One of the strategic priorities of IASP for the period 2003-08 is to make more visible the problem of suicide and the need for prevention at a global level. This is one of the main reasons why IASP has created the World Suicide Prevention Day. However, it is also important that IASP as an organisation is visible to its external audience – the worldwide community in which it serves. In order to accomplish this, it is necessary to have a good working relationship with partners such as the World Health Organisation and other international organisations and NGOs. But even more importantly, we need to engage individuals and groups around the globe to take part in our working fellowship. Fortunately, the number of IASP members is currently developing favourably. We need, however, many more new members in all countries of the world. To make IASP more relevant and accessible to potential members around the globe, the board has developed information services and fora in several languages. Our website currently comes in three language editions; English, French and Chinese and the Spanish edition will soon be launched. We hope eventually to be able to provide useful suicide prevention information in all the major world languages through this channel. Furthermore, our conferences will provide special sessions for some of the major language communities when relevant and possible, for example at our upcoming World Congress in Durban next year. Hopefully, these services will prove attractive to larger groups of researchers, clinicians and volunteers who will choose to join IASP as members. Membership recruitment is, however, not a responsibility to the board alone. We need you, our members, to help us provide information about IASP nationally and locally and also to give us advice on useful membership recruitment approaches.

The need for collaboration on suicide prevention locally, nationally and internationally seems greater than ever. New regions of the world, such as Asia, are seeking solutions to their challenges combatting their huge public health problems relating to suicidal behaviour. Professionals and volunteers, governmental authorities and NGOs are looking for partners and collaboration. The need for exchange of research results, experiences and advice is constantly growing. Now is therefore the time for us to act, in the interest of the peoples of the world, to combat suicide - together.

Lars Mehlum
President

Durban 2005

**XXIII IASP World Congress
13 – 16 September 2005:
"Scaling the Summit: Suicidal
Behaviour in Diverse Cultures"**



The second announcement for the IASP 2005 Congress in Durban is about to be sent off. An exciting academic and social programme is being planned



There is a belief that those who touch the soil of Africa will always return! If you have never visited Africa, felt the warmth and seen the beauty of an African sunrise or sunset, then now is the time. South Africa is a land of incredible contrasts. We have mountains, deserts, lush forests, savannah plains and

exquisite coastlines. Our land can experience times of severe drought and times of floods. To watch our wild life is to humbly witness the resilience of nature. Our people are a vibrant kaleidoscope of cultures (aptly called our Rainbow Nation). We are living and working in times of incredible change full of opportunity as well as challenges. What will you be doing September 13th to the 16th, 2005? Mindful of the saying that 'Life is What Happens While You are Making Other Plans' may we remind you to plan to treat yourself to an event that we hope will be positive and inspiring. It will be a time for you to recharge your senses and your enthusiasm, so we look forward to seeing you at the IASP 2005 Congress!

May we already say: Sanibonani - Welcome to the XXIII IASP Convention in Durban, South Africa: 13th. – 16th. September 2005.

Warm Regards Lourens Schlebush (Congress President) and Sue Thonell (Member of the Organising Committee).



IASP Awards 2005



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.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Please send your nomination directly to the Chairperson of the appropriate Committee. Attach a brief summary of why you feel nominee is deserving.

DEADLINE: 31 January 2005

Nominees do not necessarily have to be IASP members

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 the IASP. This award is for outstanding research in the field of suicidology, and nominations can be made by any member of IASP.

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.
- 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)
2003 Israel Orbach (Israel)

The Stengel Research Award Chairperson

Prof. Keith Hawton, University of Oxford
Department of Psychiatry, Warneford Hospital
Oxford OX3 7JX, United Kingdom

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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 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.

Previous recipients

1995 Zhai Shu Tao (P.R. of China)
1997 Yukio Saito (Japan)
1999 Vanda Scott (France)
2001 Lars Mehlum (Norway)
2003 Jay Nagdimon (USA)

The Ringel Service Award Chairperson

T Maniam, Department of Psychiatry
National University of Malaysia, Hospital UKM
Jalan Yaacob Latif, 56000 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Fax + 603 91737841 Phone: + 603 91702226
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The Farberow Award

was introduced in 1997 in recognition of Professor Norman Farberow, a founding member and driving force behind the 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 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.

Previous recipient

1997 Onja Grad (Slovenia)
1999 Karen Dunne Maxim & E.A. Dunne (USA)
2001 Sheila Clarke (Australia)
2003 Gerald and Elsie Weyrauch (USA)

The Farberow Award Chairperson

Gerald (Jerry) and Elsie Weyrauch, Founders SPAN, USA
5034, Odins Way, Marietta GA 30068

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Phone +770-992-0482
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BOOK ALERTS - NEW SERVICE

IASP executive committee has decided that new books about suicide can be announced in the newsletter. Authors are encouraged to send a brief notice (no more than 50 words) and a picture of the front page to merete.nordentoft@dadlnet.dk