



Dear IASP member,

I think you would all agree with me that there is a great need for knowledge transfer in the field of suicide prevention. So many groups of responders and helpers in various part of the society could work more efficiently had they had access to more extensive and updated knowledge. Hence educational programmes in suicidology are important and we know that there are lots of them. Some are well integrated into curricula for various professional training programmes. Some are brief courses delivered wherever there is a need for them. What has been lacking until recent years are comprehensive programmes able to cover both the breadth and depth of the field of suicidology. For some years now, however, such programmes have emerged in centres in Australia (AISRAP), Sweden (NASP) and Norway (SRPC) and more will follow. These university centres are now offering masters degree programmes in suicide prevention after having gradually developed resources for it and content elements over several years. Masters programmes are commonly composed by modules developed in collaboration with other institutes so as to offer students an optimal mix of subjects suited to their individual interests and needs. This is the case with masters programmes in suicide prevention too and experiences so far are very favourable. Programmes such as these seem to open up an important way of expanding the societal basis for suicide prevention: To educate suicidologists in a more targeted, strategic, rapid and effective manner than before. Perhaps this is something that more of us should consider to do? It would certainly support the development of national strategies for suicide prevention. And perhaps some of you have more information on this topic to share? We would be delighted to help passing it on.

Lars Mehlum
President

Please be aware of election for the executive committee!

The Executive Committee composes of 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 positions of President, General Secretary, Treasurer, and three Vice-Presidents are elected by the members, in secret mail ballot.

The terms of office for the President, General Secretary, Treasurer, and three Vice-Presidents, as well as chairpersons and deputy chairpersons of the two Councils of the Association will extend from one General Assembly to the next.

A member may be in position for two terms (ie 2 years plus 2 years) and then can only be reelected for one further period of 2 years but this must in a different board position.

The Election Committee has requested I should draw your attention to: The President, Professor Lars Mehlum and the Treasurer, Dr Lanny Berman, are not eligible to stand for any position on the board as they have completed their full term in accordance with the Constitution. All other members of the Board are entitled to be nominated for a further two years but not to the same positions they are serving in at the current time.

Nominations close on 31 March 2005

A message about the nomination procedure has been sent out. If you do not receive a nomination paper for the election, it may be due to the fact that Central Administrative Office has not received payment for 2004 membership fees. If you have paid your dues and have not received the ballot paper, please contact central office as soon as possible and one will be mailed to you immediately.

Vanda Scott, Int. Association for Suicide Prevention,
Central Administrative Office, Le Baradé
32330 Gondrin, France.
Tel/Fax: +33 562 29 19 47 / Mobile: +44 7816 578 456
Email: iasp1960@aol.com www.iasp.info

Any questions regarding the election process should be forwarded to the Election Committee:

In the Americas:

Dr Morton Silverman, 4858 South Dorchester Avenue
Chicago, IL 60615 - 2012. USA
Tel: +1 [773] 550 8179 / Fax: +1 [773] 624 3995
Email: msilverman@edc.org

In the Rest of the World:

Professor Oivind Ekeberg, Ullevål University Hospital
Department of Acute Medicine,
No-0407 Oslo, Norway
Tel: +47 [22] 11 73 00 / Fax: +47 [22] 11 73 51
Email: oivind.ekeberg@uus.no

Merete Nordentoft, General Secretary

Post-Doctoral Fellowships Available



Post-Doctoral Fellows are being sought for the Strategic Interdisciplinary Research Training Programme on Suicide and Suicide Prevention at the Centre for Research and Intervention on Suicide and Euthanasia of the Université du Québec à Montréal. Candidates from any country who have recently completed their doctoral training and professionals with experience may apply for annual stipends of \$35,000-\$45,000 (CAD), funded by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research and the Quebec Health Research Fund. This transdisciplinary programme includes specialized seminars on contemporary research on suicide and euthanasia, workshops to develop practical research skills as well as supervised research activities with mentors. In the first year Fellows participate in seminars and conduct research with a Montreal research team in their area of specialization. In the second year Fellows may either continue in Quebec, or joining a collaborating research team in Australia (Griffith University), the United States (Rochester U.) or France (INSERM/UNPS). Some knowledge of spoken French is essential.

More information may be found on the CRISE web site at: www.crise.ca/eng/postdoctoral.asp

For further information please contact: Brian L. Mishara, Ph.D., Director, CRISE at:
CRISE/UQAM, CP 8888, Succ Centre-Ville, Montréal (Qc) H3C 3P8, Canada (mishara.brian@uqam.ca).

Applications for Fellowships beginning in September 2005 must be received by March 18, 2005.

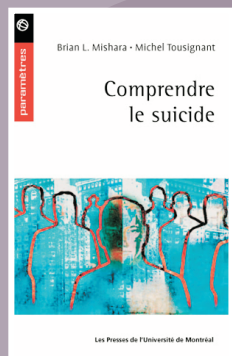
IASP Congress in Durban

LIST OF CONFIRMED PLENARIES AND SPEAKERS:

By now you should all have the second announcement for the IASP 2005 Congress in Durban on September 13th to the 16th. As you can see from it an exciting academic and social programme is being planned. Just a reminder about our city and province in South Africa. Apart from Durban being South Africa's most popular domestic tourist destination, it is also Africa's number one conference and incentive destination. Durban has all the First World facilities, necessary infrastructure and a proven track record to host international events and conferences of any nature while being poised for year-round tourism. It's a highly successful mix of first world technology and facilities with an African spirit. The province of KwaZulu-Natal experiences hot summers and mild winters in the low lying coastal areas (where Durban is). In September the weather is generally sunny and temperate with average temperatures between 15°C and 25°C.

The list of confirmed plenaries and speakers will give you an idea of the outstanding spread of themes. I am also delighted to tell you that we have now had several hundred abstracts submitted for consideration at the congress which also includes workshops and symposia. **We do hope to see you at the congress.**

Warm Regards
Lourens Schlebusch (Congress President)



Recent publications

Two recently published books in French may be of interest to French speaking IASP members: **Comprendre le suicide (Understanding Suicide)** by Brian Mishara and Michel Tousignant (Les Presses de l'Université de Montréal, 2004) summarizes contemporary research and theories for understanding suicidal behaviors.

The book **Évaluation de programmes en prévention du suicide (Program Evaluation in Suicide Prevention)**, edited by François Chagnon and Brian Mishara was published simultaneously by Les Presses de l'Université du Québec in Canada and by EDK-Éditions médicales et scientifiques in Paris, France (2004). The ten chapters present methods and issues in program evaluation from both the North-American perspective focussing on data on empirical effects and the French process-oriented approach. Ethical, practical and theoretical issues are presented.

Free weekly publications bulletin to IASP members:

IASP members interested in following recent publications in suicidology are invited to subscribe to the weekly bulletin of new acquisitions at the documentation centre of the Centre for Research and Intervention on Suicide and Euthanasia (CRISE). This specialized library receives xx new acquisitions in the area of suicide and euthanasia research and theory on average each week and a weekly selection of important recent articles is sent out to subscribers, classified by category. You may examine the most recent weekly bulletin at http://www.crise.ca/eng/dc_hebdo.asp?page=dc and if you wish to subscribe to the bulletin which will be sent to you by e-mail every week, you may simply do so by visiting: www.crise.ca/eng/dc_new_additions.asp?page=dc

Brian L. Mishara, Ph.D., Director Centre for Research and Intervention on Suicide and Euthanasia, University of Quebec at Montreal
Telephone: (1) 514 987 4832 / Fax: (1) 514 987 0350
e-mail: mishara.brian@uqam.ca

www.crise.ca

- Dr F Kigozi (Uganda)
Suicide in Africa: Epidemiological Trends
- Prof K Van Heeringen (Belgium)
Neurobiology & Genetics of Suicidal Behaviour
- Prof L Schlebusch (South Africa)
Potentially Life-Threatening Diseases & Suicide in Developing Communities within the South African Context: HIV/Aids & Cancer
- Prof L Mehlum (Norway)
Traumatic Stress and suicidal behaviour
- Dr B Stanley (USA)
Understanding & Treating Suicidal Behaviour in Borderline Personality Disorder
- Prof F Wood (USA)
Learning & Reading Disorders in Africa. A Hidden Cause of Suicidal Behaviour.
- Prof CC Jinabhai (South Africa)
Policy & Health Systems Responses to Suicide in South Africa.
- Prof B Mishara (Canada) and Prof M Gould (USA)
Prof L Berman (USA) – Moderator & Discussant
The Effectiveness of Crisis Hotlines
- Prof D Mkhize (South Africa)
Traditional Healers and Suicide in South Africa
- Prof K Hawton (UK)
Suicide Risk and Prevention in Bipolar Disorder
- Ass Prof M Nordentoft (Denmark)
Schizophrenia and Suicide
- Ms S Thonell (LifeLine International)
Ms V Scott (France) – Moderator & Discussant
The Role of Volunteers in Suicide
- Prof C Naidoo (South Africa)
The influence of Culture on Suicidal Behaviour in Developing Communities within the South African Context.
- Dr L Vijayakumar (India)
Global Overview of Suicide Prevention with Specific Reference to Developing Societies
- Dr J Bertolote (WHO)
Suicide & Public Health – The WHO Response
- Prof D De Leo (Australia)
Lessons Learnt and Integrative Summary of Impressions from the Congress



Welcome to
The IASP 2005 Congress,
Durban, South Africa
13 – 16 September 2005