



Dear IASP member,

These days IASP has initiated procedures which will ensure the election of a new Executive Committee for the term 2005-2007. To identify and select new officers for the EC is probably the most important strategic decision we make as an organisation and should be given thorough consideration by all our individual members and member organisations. As your president and based on experiences from the inspiring job of being an IASP EC officer for the last six years, let me share with you some of the things I consider to be important success criteria for selection of new EC members.

IASP needs knowledgeable, creative and hard-working people of high professional standing to promote suicide prevention on the international arena. There is a greater openness to suicide prevention than ever before. This calls for *active people* that nonetheless have *time to spare* to develop our organisation and *do the work*. Since IASP is an organisation both for researchers, mental health professionals, crisis workers, volunteers, and suicide survivors, officers for our Executive Committee should ideally represent as many of these member groups as possible. IASP needs to foster collaboration with other international organisations operating in the field of suicide prevention. We would benefit greatly from having EC members with knowledge and expertise from previous experiences working with other major organisations.

Thirty years have passed since the UN International Women's Year in 1975, but still it often seems difficult to achieve equal representation for women in governing bodies. The current IASP board has a 25% female representation which is not too bad. But in my view, it is not good enough, so let's increase this at the elections this year!

Suicide is a global burden. Fortunately, an increasing number of states have taken strategic initiatives to prevent suicide in recent years. Several countries in Asia, South America and Eastern Europe have shown an increased interest in suicide prevention and willingness to act. Therefore, IASP needs to reflect and promote the global perspective in suicide prevention through its government, task forces and other structures. The current Executive Committee has representation from Malaysia, Canada, SAR Hong Kong, Denmark, USA, Belgium, South Africa and Norway. We hope that you as members will nominate representatives from all corners of the world so that the next EC may become equally – or even more – representative of diverse cultures, languages and regions.

We are looking forward to an exciting nominations and elections process!

Lars Mehlum  
President

## IASP Task Force on: Suicidal acts of terrorism

(Chair: A. Apter)

The Task Force consists of experts from within IASP and outside experts including psychiatrists, military personnel, intelligence specialists and such other experts from specialties which the committee may deem appropriate.

### Goals:

- 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
- On the basis of insights obtained formulate prevention and intervention strategies to discourage suicidal terrorism

### Members:

Alan Apter (Israel), Ad Kerkhof (the Netherlands), David Rudd (USA) John Maltzberger (USA), Lars Mehlum (Norway), Fadi Hada (USA) Osama El Shaffi (USA), Shafiq Masalcha (Israel), Bob King (USA)

### Current state of things:

- Draft report of scientific research findings on the issue has been written and distributed among members for feedback
- .ppt presentation has been developed

### Planned activities:

- Finalization of report
- Presentation of findings at conferences



# Montréal's Second Summer Institutes on Suicide Research and Prevention

Two advanced four-day seminars will be offered this year, in French, by the Centre for Research and Intervention on Suicide and Euthanasia at the University of Quebec at Montréal as part of their Summer Institute on Suicide Research and Prevention supported by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research:

**Bereavement and Suicide in Children**, from May 2-5, 2005, will be mentored by Michel Hanus, M.D., Ph.D., President of the Société de thanatologie and the Fédération européenne "Vivre son deuil" and author of several seminal books on children, suicide and bereavement.

**Psychotherapeutic Approaches with Suicidal Youth and Best Practices in Mental Health Treatment**, from May 16-19, 2005, will be involve Réal Labelle, Ph.D. on cognitive-behavioural therapy, Mounir Samy, M.D. on psychoanalytic approaches and Martine Flamand, Ph.D. on the INSERM research results on best practices.

Further information on registering for either of these seminars, including information on academic credit, may be obtained at: [www.crise.ca](http://www.crise.ca) or by writing to: [crise@uqam.ca](mailto:crise@uqam.ca)



Agnès Batt-Moillo and Alain Jourdain. Preface by Michel Debout. Available from Éditions de l'École nationale de la santé publique. Rennes, France.

**The Suicide and its prevention: emergence of the concept and current programs** describes how suicide and its prevention finally came on the French political agenda in the 1990s and eventually became the object of a national strategy in September 2000.

The book is divided in three parts. Part one, describes the long way between the taboo and the public health question. Part two, let local actors relate how they can (cannot) put into practice the strategy at their level and question why? Part three, describes three international experiences (Finland, England, Québec) in view of comparison. In the end, the last chapter, by D. de Leo, discusses why, despite all efforts in the world, we are not getting closer to preventing suicide.

It is hoped that the reflection on the practices of the various actors of suicide prevention – whether politics, medical staff, NGO etc – will stimulate those who work at reducing the impact of suicide in France.

## New: Postvention page in IASP website

IASP website now includes a page on postvention and suicide survivors. The page aims to become a resource for everyone who is involved in the postvention field. Currently the page provides the contact address of the Chair of the Taskforce Postvention, the minutes of the meetings of the Taskforce, links to the websites of national survivor organisations or networks, and a few papers. In due time, the page will include a list of the members of the Taskforce and the database of the European Directory of suicide survivor services.

IASP members are invited to submit useful links or other information that could be considered for inclusion in the page. Web page: Karl Andriessen, Chair Taskforce Postvention

**Visit the IASP Website! To enter member's section you need to log in. ▶ Username: [iasp](#) ▶ Password: [oeled](#)**

## XXIII World Congress – IASP International Association for Suicide Prevention Durban September 2005

There are exactly 6 months to go before we; the organisers of this event, will be welcoming you to our home - the Coastal City of Durban, South Africa. The Organising Committee is extremely busy trying to co ordinate all the different aspects of the Congress so that you will find the presentation appealing and informative.

The venue is booked, the draft programme is in place, more than 200 hundred abstracts have been submitted for revue and the hosting of the social events negotiated. It is our intention to make this a truly African Congress with as many delegates as possible coming from the countries of this vast continent - professionals, volunteers and organisations. Visit our website for the exciting and magical things to see besides attending the congress.

**Don't miss this opportunity; submit your registration form by return of post. We hope to see you in September 2005.**

Lourens Schlebusch  
Sue Thönell



**Welcome to**

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