



Dear IASP member,

Conferences play an important role in the life of organizations such as IASP. Without them networks of researchers, clinicians, volunteers and survivors cannot work optimally. To organize world conferences has been a main *raison d'être* for the IASP since the founding in 1960 and remains a high priority to the present Executive Committee. Even though preparations for the upcoming conference in Durban in September is our current main focus, considerable attention is paid to the process of soliciting and assessing candidates for future world conferences. The IASP world congress 2011 is now up for decision – this decision will be made during the Durban conference by the Council of National Representatives. Should any of our members wish to bid for this conference, we would be glad to receive information about it as soon as possible. Guidelines for conference organizers are available from IASP upon request.

Over the last years IASP has emphasized the need to be on the move with regard to its world conferences – covering all continents. Since, however, only a limited number of countries and cities could ever organize one of these biennial congresses, IASP wishes to increase its conference activities through the development of regional conferences, in close collaboration with local partners. The hugely successful *First Asia Pacific Regional Conference of the IASP* in Bangkok October 2004 in collaboration with the Royal College of Psychiatrists of Thailand, was the first of these meetings. IASP also co-sponsored the *International congress on Innovative practices for suicide prevention* in Montreal, Canada, May 2004. These days, June 2-4 the 4th 'International Meeting on Suicide: The Interplay of genes and environment' is taking place in Ghent, Belgium, cosponsored by IASP. Currently, the IASP is planning a second regional conference in Asia to take place in Singapore March 2006 in collaboration with the Singapore Institute of Mental Health. We would encourage all of our members in general, and our national representatives and organizational members in particular, to consider what initiatives they might make in order to create more regional conferences like this under the auspices of IASP. We would certainly do our best to support good proposals and initiatives.

Lars Mehlum  
President

## Improved reporting of global suicide rates - new initiative from IASP

There is a lack of updated information on suicide rates for most countries of the world. Even though the WHO publishes important data on suicide rates on their website based on reports from member countries, only about 50 countries deliver such official information. Furthermore, there seems to be a delay of up to several years in the processing of this information in many countries. The IASP Executive Committee has decided to launch a new project with the aim of bringing forward more information on suicide rates – globally and in countries, regions and territories. Our national representatives, organisational members and other members of the organisation will be our important collaborators in this endeavour to collect as much data as possible.

Dr Danielle St-Laurent of the Institut national de santé publique du Québec in collaboration with professor Brian Mishara at the CRISE in Montréal and professor Lars Mehlum at the Suicide Research and Prevention Unit at the University of Oslo will coordinate the process of analysing and publishing the data on the IASP website. At a later stage the EC will investigate the possibility of establishing an "Atlas of suicide rates and suicide prevention resources" in collaboration with the WHO.



# IASP 2005:

The organising committee of IASP 2005 would like to thank all who have submitted abstracts, agreed to participate and assisted with the selection of the abstracts. The programme is now in its final stages and is incredible in its diversity. We have indeed succeeded in bringing together a wide range of topics covering our theme of preventing suicide in diverse cultures. It promises to be a unique experience, presented in a unique South African setting. **Scaling the Summit** implies overcoming fear, prejudice and requires a certain amount of effort. The reward is experiencing a new journey with a common goal and the view of new perspectives. We are ready to offer you the experience!

**Make the effort come to Durban and share it all !**

Professor Schlebusch was guest of honour at a *Love to Live* event that attracted more than 10 000 people over the past weekend. It is one of the biggest Edufairs locally and the aim is to help children and the public deal with serious health issues including suicide prevention and HIV/AIDS. The programme of the Durban IASP Congress was enthusiastically welcomed by the organisers of this event. We also have been invited by the Provincial Government to address the Cabinet on our congress. All these efforts will ensure that the Durban IASP congress will live up to your expectations.

**See you at the congress !**

## Future IASP congresses:

- **XXIII IASP World Congress Durban** 13-16 September 2005  
Contact person: Professor L. Schlebusch
- **2nd Asia Pacific Conference of the IASP, Singapore** March 2006  
Contact person: Professor T. Maniam
- **XXIV IASP World Congress, Ireland** August 2007  
Contact person: Dr J. Connolly
- **XXV IASP World Congress, Montevideo** 2009  
Contact person: Dra. S. Pelaez

## IASP BALLOT IS OUT!

As most of you have noticed, the ballot for the election of a new IASP Executive Committee is now distributed to all members. We hope that all of our members will take this important opportunity to decide on the future directions of our organisation.

**Make your vote count!**

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

There are exactly 5 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