



**11th European Symposium on Suicide and Suicidal Behaviour:
From Greenland to the Caucasus, from the Urals to Iberia
Portorož, Slovenia, 9-12 September 2006
and
5th International Meeting
“Suicide: Interplay of Genes and Environment; From Suicidal Mind to Brain”**

The 11th European Symposium on Suicide and Suicidal Behaviour (11th ESSSB) took place in Slovenia, from 9 to 12 September 2006. Parallel to the 11th ESSSB, suicidologists also had the chance to attend the 5th International Meeting “Suicide: Interplay of Genes and Environment” this year entitled “From Suicidal Mind to Brain”. In addition, the first International Suicide Postvention Seminar was very successfully held on the 8th September as a one-day pre-event of the 11th ESSSB.

Around 350 researchers, clinicians, practitioners and media representatives working in the field of suicidology and related sciences gathered to deliver their knowledge and share experiences. Participants were mostly from European countries, but some were also from other parts of the world (e.g. United States, New Zealand, Australia, Japan). The 11th ESSSB took place in two European languages, Russian and English, since our aim was to help build bridges between the two. The scientific programme was divided into six topics: vulnerability to suicidal behaviour, development of the suicidal behaviour, life events, treatment of suicidal behaviour, interventions and policy making. The morning plenary sessions were followed by parallel sessions and specially organized symposiums. The 11th ESSSB took place at the same time as World Suicide prevention Day, 10 September 2006, when Brian Mishara, president of the International Association for Suicide Prevention and John Bowis, Member of the European Parliament once again stressed that suicide is a major public health problem, but is also preventable.

We hope that we have met your expectations and that you have found the organisational matters as optimal and the suggestions of new scientific directions/divisions as positive. We hope that everyone benefited from the event. It is our belief that the exchange of knowledge which was facilitated throughout the symposium will help in advancing the state of art and will significantly contribute to further research and prevention directions.

Andrej Marušič

On behalf of the Scientific and Organising Committee 11th ESSSB

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