



FROM THE PRESIDENT

IASP Proposed Initiative in Education and Training in Clinical Suicidology

The International Association for Suicide Prevention is currently seeking funding for a project to adapt existing training curricula into 2 day face-to-face training workshops that may be provided to clinical professionals in different countries where clinical suicidology training is not available. This project has been spear-headed by Board Members Mark Williams and Morton Silverman and if funded, this will allow IASP to provide competency-based training that will be adapted to specific needs in different countries and translated into local languages. Since IASP is not interested in "reinventing the wheel" or entering into competition where clinical suicidology training is available, we plan to focus upon countries where resources are not available to pay for international training workshops and there is interest and a need for such training of clinical professionals adapted to local cultures. I will let you know in this column if funding is obtained.

We specifically asked for funding to translate and adapt material for 2-4 countries where risk of suicide is of particular concern and where there are established links between mental health organizations or leaders in the suicide prevention and mental health community that could make use of the material and develop ongoing training workshops on their own after IASP has provided the initial training. If funding is obtained, we will base our material upon competency-based educational workshops developed in the United States and in Quebec, Canada. Besides implementing the training in each country, we would evaluate the implementations as well as the effect of the trainings on improving attitudes, increasing knowledge and developing better clinical practices with suicidal clients. Key personnel in each country would be identified from the graduates of the training course so that they could train as instructors of the material and roll out the programme more widely. We have already obtained the support from several organizations who will allow us to use their material, including the Quebec Association of Suicidology, the Suicide Prevention Resource Center (SPRC) and the American Association of Suicidology (AAS) in the United States.

This initiative is part of the IASP development plan in which we will be seeking to actively identify unmet needs in suicide prevention around the world and works towards providing ways of meeting those needs. This programme is consistent with our policies of international collaboration, using existing resources to their fullest and developing suicide prevention capacity at the local and international levels. IASP members (both individual and organizational) from countries who may be interested in participating in this initiative are encouraged to contact me in order to examine the feasibility of your involvement. I will keep you posted about our attempts to finance this initiative. Additional comments and suggestions on this initiative from IASP members would be much appreciated.

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World Suicide Prevention Day 10th September 2007: "Preventing Suicide across the Lifespan"

As the new year begins IASP is preparing to mark World Suicide Prevention Day in 2007 on 10th September. The IASP Board will again observe this day with an international launch and press release, and around the world a range of individuals and regional, national and international groups are beginning to plan activities for WSPD.

The theme of WSPD in 2007 is "Preventing Suicide across the Lifespan". This theme was chosen for a number of reasons. First, we believe that examining suicide from a lifespan perspective can add to the understanding of suicidal behaviour.

Second, it now seems timely to focus on a lifespan approach to preventing suicide. In many countries recent interest in suicide prevention began in the 1980s and 1990s prompted by the dramatic increases in youth suicide rates that occurred in a number of countries. Those increases led to a justifiable and appropriate focus on youth suicide prevention.

However, more recently there has been emerging interest in suicidal behaviour in other population groups. Suicide amongst very young adolescents is emerging as a particular problem in indigenous cultures, for example. The progressive aging of populations in the developed world suggests that absolute numbers and rates of suicide and suicide attempts among older adults will rise as both the number and proportion of older people in the population increases. There has also been recent acknowledgement in a number of countries that adult men (aged from 25 to 50) constitute a significant fraction (in some countries, almost half) of all suicide deaths but suicide prevention activities tend not to be appropriately allocated to this group. We hope that increasing awareness of suicide in different age groups will encourage the extension of suicide prevention activities so that they become proportional to the burden of suicide across the lifespan.

A third reason for adopting a lifespan perspective for WSPD in 2007 is that it is congruent with the theme of the August 28-September 1 2007 IASP Congress in Killarney: Preventing Suicide across the Lifespan: Dreams and Realities (www.iasp2007.org). The conference organisers hope that this theme will provide an opportunity to assess how well our dreams and aspirations for suicide prevention correspond to the realities of trying to implement these activities.



An information flyer on the theme of "Preventing suicide across the Lifespan" will soon be available on the IASP website. The flyer will be available in several languages and may be downloaded and disseminated as part of WSPD activities. In the meantime we encourage you visit the WSPD website and register the activities you have are planning for WSPD in 2007 (www.iasp1960.org). This website also lists the wide range of activities that were undertaken around the world to mark WSPD in 2006, and provides ideas and inspirations for planning activities for 2007.

IASP Awards 2007



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.

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.

Chairperson

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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.

Chairperson

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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.

Chairperson

Prof. Keith Hawton, University of Oxford Department of Psychiatry, Warneford Hospital Oxford OX3 7JX, United Kingdom
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Please send your nomination directly to the Chairperson of the respective Award Committee and attach a brief summary of why you feel the nominee is deserving.

DEADLINE: 30 April 2007



XXIV IASP World Congress, Killarney, Ireland

"Preventing Suicide across the Life Span: Dreams and Realities"

August 28 – September 1, 2007

Congress web site: www.iasp2007.org/

The second announcement and call for papers are now available in the congress web site. The deadline to submit proposals for presentations is March 1, 2007 and persons submitting proposals will be notified of the decision by April 1, 2007.

Speakers include: Margarat Pabst Battin, Gregory Brown, Silvia Cannelto, Gregory Carter, John Conolly, Diego De Leo, Eric De Wilde, Keith Hawton, Ad Kherkof, John Mann, Brian Mishara, Jane Pirkis, Lakshmi Vijayakumar, Magda Waern, Mark Williams, Paul Yip and Mette Ystgaard

Please note that you may now register online for the conference via the conference website at www.iasp2007.org, where the appropriate forms for online submission of abstracts may also be found. Hotel accommodation may also be booked electronically.

Looking forward to seeing you in Killarney, Ireland between 28th Aug. and 1st Sept., 2007.

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 be in a different board position.

Nominations close on 31 March 2007

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 your 2006 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.

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

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Merete Nordentoft
General Secretary

Postdoctoral Fellowships Available

The Centre for Research and Intervention on Suicide and Euthanasia at the University of Quebec at Montreal (UQAM) is seeking Postdoctoral students and advanced professionals who want to specialize in suicidology for their Strategic Transdisciplinary Research Training Programme on Suicide and Suicide Prevention, funded by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research. This 2 year programme is open to applicants from any country and provides annual Fellowships of CAD\$ 36,750- \$47,250. Applicants should be aware that UQAM is a French speaking university and it is important to have some knowledge of French. For further information please contact Brian Mishara (mishara.brian@uqam.ca) or visit the Web Site: www.crise.ca