The 29th IASP World Congress “Preventing Suicide: A Global Commitment, from Communities to Continents” took place in Kuching, Malaysia from July 18th–22nd. The conference, which emphasized the expanding direction of mental health and suicide prevention services globally, attracted some 650 delegates from 50 countries and was a great success. The conference delivered an exciting scientific programme, providing up-to-date findings on research, training and educational needs applicable to academics and practitioners working in suicide prevention internationally. A particularly positive outcome of the conference was the commitment by Chief Minister Datuk Amar Abang Johari Tun Openg to increase the funding allocation to the Ministry of Welfare, Community Well Being, Women, Family and Childhood Development for future suicide prevention campaigns. The Chief Minister also called for more research in the area of suicide prevention, increased training among healthcare professionals in the detection of mental illness, and a concerted effort by society to deal with issues including drug and alcohol abuse, bullying and anxiety.

At the IASP General Assembly, which took place during the conference, the newly-elected Executive Committee was announced. I and all at IASP are honoured to welcome Professor Murad Khan into his esteemed position as IASP President. In Professor Khan’s short term absence from this role I am privileged to be the acting IASP President, before filling my newly elected role as 1st Vice President. I am delighted to welcome Professor Rory O’Connor and Professor Ping Qin to the committee as 2nd and 3rd Vice Presidents respectively. Professor Thomas Niederkrotenthaler, who was previously the Co-Chair of the Council of National Representatives will now be undertaking the role of Treasurer. Dr. Dan Reidenberg will be fulfilling the role of General Secretary.

I would like to congratulate and welcome Professor Madelyn Gould and Professor Jie Zhang as Co-Chairs of the Council of National Representatives. I also look forward to continuing to work with Professor Ella Arensman within her role as the Representative of the College of Presidents, and would like to thank Professor Diego De Leo for his previous enormous contribution to this role. Finally, I would like to thank Professor Steve Platt, Professor Maurizio Pompili and Professor Morton Silverman for their unwavering and inspiring commitment to the Executive Committee over the past number of years. The dedicated work of our past and present Executive Committee members is at the heart of all IASP activities.

We look ahead towards the 15th annual World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD), taking place on Sunday 10th September 2017. Each year, we at IASP are inspired by the dedication of people across the globe in marking this special occasion. The theme of this year’s World Suicide Prevention Day incorporates one simple message - Take a minute, change a life. This message is one of motivation and empowerment, and one that is relevant to us all.

This WSPD we will acknowledge the importance of community and maintaining relationships with others – be it with friends, family or complete strangers. By simply reaching out and checking in on someone who may be in distress we can all make a positive difference. There is an array of activities from which you can choose, including the annual Cycle around the Globe, our Light a Candle event or one of the many community activities listed on our website. Alternatively, you can also host your own event. This WSPD and every day, IASP encourages you as a society of professionals, carers, family and community members to take a minute to reach out to someone you may be concerned about, because this may change their life. For more information on WSPD and to find out about events in your area visit the IASP website on iasp.info/wspd2017/

Professor Jane Pirkis
Acting IASP President
As expanded upon by IASP Acting President, Jane Pirkis, the recent IASP World Congress "Preventing Suicide: A Global Commitment, from Communities to Continents" was a great success. The Congress was an exciting forum for knowledge sharing, networking and an opportunity to strengthen suicide prevention activities globally. To give you a taste of the Congress experience we here at IASP have put together a photograph collage of some of the Congress events. Thank you to all who sent in photographs, in particular Sally Spencer Thomas and Wendy Cliff for their contributions. If you have photographs which you would like to share please send them to research@iasp.info.
Following the recent elections, we are happy to introduce the new IASP Executive Committee, Co-Chairs of the Council of National Representatives and National Representatives.

Executive Committee, 2017–2019

President: Professor Murad Khan
1st Vice President: Professor Jane Pirkis
2nd Vice President: Professor Rory O’Connor
3rd Vice President: Professor Ping Qin
Treasurer: Professor Thomas Niederkrotenthaler
General Secretary: Dr. Daniel Reidenberg

Co-Chairs of National Representatives, 2017–2019:
Professor Madelyn Gould
Professor Jie Zhang

College of Past Presidents Executive Committee Member, 2017–2019:
Professor Ella Arensman

Welcome to the new IASP Executive Committee

New IASP Executive Committee.
L-r: Mrs Vanda Scott OBE (International Advisor to the Board); Executive Committee Members: Prof Zhang Jie (Co-Chair of the Council of National Representatives), Prof Ping Qin (3rd Vice President), Prof Rory O’Connor (2nd Vice President), Prof Jane Pirkis (1st Vice President), Prof Murad Khan (President), Prof Madelyn Gould (Co-Chair of the Council of National Representatives), Prof Thomas Niederkrothenthaler (General Secretary), Prof Ella Arensman (Representative of the Council of Presidents). Not shown: Dr Dan Reidenberg (General Secretary).
New IASP Executive Committee

Professor Murad Khan, President

I am Professor, Dept. of Psychiatry at Aga Khan University, Karachi, Pakistan. I was the chair of the department of psychiatry at my university from 2003 to 2013. I completed my basic medical degree (MBBS) from Karachi, Pakistan, residency and fellowship trainings (General & Old-age psychiatry) from the UK, obtaining the Membership of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, UK. I completed my PhD from University of London.

I have been researching suicidal behavior in Pakistan over the last couple of decades. My areas of interest include role of socio-cultural and religious factors in suicidal behaviors. I am the principal investigator of the Karachi Suicide Study (KaSS) and conducted the first psychological autopsy study in Pakistan and one of the few in the Islamic world.

I have published on suicide and deliberate self-harm in Pakistan and developing countries and have several book chapters including the Oxford Textbook of Suicidology and Suicide Prevention: a Global Perspective and the International Handbook of Suicide Prevention: Research, Policy and Prevention. I am also on the editorial board of a number of journals, including Crisis, International Journal of Social Psychiatry, Shanghai Archives of Psychiatry and International Review of Psychiatry. I was also an international contributor to the recently published report on suicide prevention, ‘Saving Lives: a Global Imperative’ of the WHO. My other research interests include mental health of women and elderly, psychosomatic medicine and medical ethics.

I have been a member of IASP since 1996 and have served as National Representative for Pakistan as well as the Chair, Council of National Representatives. I was elected Vice-President four years ago and re-elected as 1st Vice-President two years ago.

I am deeply committed to IASP’s vision and mission to prevent and reduce suicidal behaviors globally. As a member of the Executive Committee I have worked closely with colleagues from across the world on strategies for suicide prevention and gained valuable insights not only of the workings of IASP but also of the challenges we face. The challenges for suicide prevention in the 21st century are formidable but I feel I have the necessary experience and motivation to build on the excellent work done by my predecessors and lead IASP to meet these challenges.

As President, I would use IASP’s platform to work more closely with colleagues in countries where suicide prevention is neglected, for e.g. in many low and middle-income countries. I feel that it is only by working collaboratively, approaching suicide prevention, both from a scientific, evidence-based as well as a human rights and socio-cultural perspective, that we will be able to address suicide prevention globally.

Professor Jane Pirkis, 1st Vice President (Acting President)

Jane Pirkis is a psychologist and epidemiologist based at the University of Melbourne in Australia, and has longstanding experience in suicide prevention research. Much of her research has been in the area of suicide and the media, but she has also conducted evaluations of large-scale suicide prevention programs, trials of specific interventions, and epidemiological studies of suicide among at-risk groups.

Jane has been a committed member of IASP for about 20 years. She founded and previously co-chaired the IASP Suicide and the Media Task Force. The members of this Task Force have engaged in a number of collaborative projects, the most notable of which was the revision of the World Health Organization’s guidelines on responsible reporting of suicide. These guidelines, rebadged as a joint IASP/WHO publication, provided advice for journalists about ways of reporting suicide that minimise the risk of copycat acts. These guidelines are now being updated for a second time. Jane has also contributed to IASP in other ways. She has served as its General Secretary for the past four years. Prior to that, she was Australia’s National Representative on its Council of National Representatives. She has sat on the scientific advisory committees of a number of IASP Congresses. She also sits on the Editorial Board of Crisis, the journal auspiced by IASP.

Professor Rory O’Connor, 2nd Vice President

Rory O’Connor has a long-standing interest in suicide research and prevention; he has been working in the field since 1994. He is Professor of Health Psychology at the University of Glasgow in Scotland and Past President of the International Academy of Suicide Research. Rory leads the Suicidal Behaviour Research Laboratory (www.suicideresearch.info) at the University of Glasgow, one of the leading suicide and self-harm research groups in the UK. He has published extensively in the field of suicide and self-harm, specifically concerning the psychological processes which precipitate suicidal behaviour and self-harm. In addition, he is author of Understanding Suicidal Behaviour (with Noel Sheehy), co-editor of The Routledge Major Works Series on Suicide (with Keith Hawton) and co-editor of the International Handbook of Suicide Prevention (2nd edition with Jane Pirkis). He has also been the UK National Representative for the International Association for Suicide Prevention. He is co-organiser (with Barry McGale and Siobhan O’Neill) of the 30th IASP World Congress to be held in his native Derry (Northern Ireland) in 2019. He is passionate about mentoring the next generation of suicidologists, to this end, he is co-organiser of the Early Career Researchers’ Forum on Suicide and Self-harm (held in Glasgow). He is a member of the American Association of Suicidology, serves on the Scientific Review Board of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and is an Associate Editor of Archives of Suicide Research, Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior and Behavior Therapy. He is also on the editorial board of Crisis. Rory acts as an advisor to a wide range of national and international organisations including national governments on the areas of suicide and self-harm.
**New IASP Executive Committee**

**Professor Ping Qin, 3rd Vice President**

Dr Ping Qin is professor at National Center for Suicide Research and Prevention, University of Oslo in Norway, and leader of the research group for register-based study on suicide and deliberate self-harm. She is also distinguished visiting professor, co-founder and vice-director of Shandong University Center for Suicide Prevention Research in China. Previously, she was an associate professor at National Center for Register-based Research, Aarhus University in Denmark and earned her PhD there in 2002.

Professor Qin is a passionate advocate of rigorous research in Suicidology and has devoted her professional life to studying suicidal behavior for 20 years. Her primary research interest has been into quantitative investigation of the contextual effect of multifactorial exposures on risk for suicide and suicidal behavior. She has led a range of large-scale research projects funded by various funding bodies in Denmark, USA, China and Norway. Professor Qin has published more than 80 research articles and book chapters about suicide and suicidal behavior in the context of socio-economic disadvantages, physical and psychiatric illnesses, life stresses as well as biological and genetic vulnerabilities.

Professor Qin volunteers her time extensively. She is Associate Editor of *Suicidologi* and on the editorial board of two international journals, evaluates grant applications for a number of research foundations and assesses manuscripts for more than 50 academic journals. She has been in various scientific committees and organized a number of symposiums and workshops at international congresses. In recent years, she also supervises Chinese scholars studying suicide in China.

**Professor Thomas Niederkrotenthaler, Treasurer**

Thomas Niederkrotenthaler is an Associate Professor of Public Health at the Medical University Vienna, Austria.

Professor Niederkrotenthaler has served as the Co-chair in the Council of National Representatives since 2015. In this role, he has worked specifically on the implementation of a new communication process between National Representatives and Board. Since 2009, he has served as co-chair of the Suicide & Media SIG (https://www.iasp.info/suicide_and_the_media.php). His SIG team is currently revising the WHO/IASP media recommendations for suicide reporting.

Professor Niederkrotenthaler holds MD and PhD (Mental Health) degrees from the Medical University Vienna, and a Master’s Degree in Suicide Prevention (MMSc, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm). He received training and gained international experience as Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC, 2011–2012) with main focus on suicide/violence prevention.

**Professor Niederkrotenthaler’s research / prevention interests focus on 4 main areas: Protective roles of media in suicide prevention (Papageno/Werther effects); Familial risk factors for suicidal behaviour; labour market marginalization after suicidal behavior; and evaluation of suicide prevention measures. He is editorial board member of Crisis, member of the International Academy for Suicide Research, and founding chairman of the Austrian Suicide Research Platform Wiener Werkstaette (www.suizidforschung.at). He received the Erwin Ringel Award (Austrian Society for Suicide Prevention, 2011) and Hans Rost Award (German Association for Suicide Prevention, 2012) particularly for research on media effects and describing the suicide-protective Papageno effect. He has (co-)authored 70+ peer-reviewed publications and co-edited 2 books on suicide / suicide prevention.**

**Dr Daniel Reidenberg, General Secretary**

Daniel Reidenberg is the Executive Director of Suicide Awareness Voices of Education, Managing Director of the National Council for Suicide Prevention and the current US Representative to the IASP. He serves as Co-Chair of the IASP Media and Suicide Task Force, Chair of the American Psychotherapy Association Advisory Board and Chair of the Certified Relationship Specialists Board. He serves on the editorial advisory boards for The Journal of Clinical Psychiatry, Crisis, American College of Forensic Examiners, Annals of Psychotherapy and Integrative Medicine and Esperanza magazine and as a proposal reviewer for SAMHSA and the Royal Society of New Zealand.

He speaks internationally and has over 50 published articles and book chapters on mental health and suicide including Suicide Prevention. He developed one of only 3 evidence-based programs for schools listed on the National Registry of Evidence-based Programs; several Best Practice materials; and he leads the Social Media and Technology Summits developing the next generation of suicide prevention technology for the online industry.

Dan is interviewed 3–5 times a week by major media sources from around the world, serves on faculty of the Poynter Institute training journalists, runs a national Award for Excellence in Media Reporting on Suicide as well as the world's only Certification for Safe Messaging program. Dan led the development of and wrote the US Recommendations for Media Reporting on Suicide, Recommendations for Reporting on Mass Shootings, Blogging on Suicide and helped develop the Media Recommendations on Bullying. He also led the workgroup on Warning Signs for Suicide and helped develop the US National Strategy for Suicide Prevention and the National Research Agenda.

He has received numerous awards for his work as a Non-Profit Professional, Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Expert and Service to Humanity Awards. His goals are to help build and strengthen the organization as well as increase IASP’s recognition as being the primary resource for suicide prevention and bereavement information and leadership globally.
**Professor Madelyn Gould**

Dr. Madelyn Gould is a Professor of Epidemiology in Psychiatry at Columbia University Medical Center and a Research Scientist at the New York State Psychiatric Institute, where she directs the Community Suicide Prevention research unit within the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. During the past three decades, she has received continuous funding from the National Institute of Health (NIMH), Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) for her research in the area of suicide prevention.

Dr. Gould has a strong commitment to applying her research to program and policy development. She has participated in a number of U.S. government commissions on suicide prevention and her seminal articles on youth suicide risk and preventive interventions have laid the groundwork for the development of state and national-level suicide prevention programs in the U.S. Her research contributions have been recognized by her receiving numerous awards, including the Shneidman Award for Research from the American Association of Suicidology (AAS) in 1991, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) Research Award in 2006, the New York State Suicide Prevention Center’s Excellence in Suicide Prevention Award in 2011, and the AAS 2013 Dublin Award, which is a lifetime achievement award for outstanding contributions to the field of suicide prevention.

Dr. Gould has been a member of IASP since 2002. She is an active member of the IASP Media Task Force, having recently contributed to the updating of the IASP/WHO Media Guidelines for Suicide Reporting, and is also a member of the Helplines Special Interest Group (SIG).

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**Zhang Jie, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology**

I am a professor of epidemiology and the founding director of the Center for Suicide Prevention Research at Shandong University in China and am a tenured professor at State University of New York Buffalo State. I was educated in the United States of America with a Ph.D. degree in sociology. In the past decades, I have devoted my research and scholarship to suicide studies and suicide prevention in rural China with a number of NIMH grants and over 100 publications in both English and Chinese.

I have been active in IASP for over 20 years. This involvement includes faithfully presenting my research at annual meetings and serving on the Editorial Board of Crisis.

Over the last 15 years I have received support for my China research in a series of grants from NIMH. This support has funded large sample research designs each based on several hundred psychological autopsies of suicidal individuals with community based, matched control groups in China.

This work has been critical to my development of a social-psychiatric strain theory of suicide based on the interplay of psychiatric factors and cultural strains. My multi-disciplinary background will help me engage in dialogues with and represent a variety of research constituencies within the international community of suicide research.

Suicide in China remains a serious problem, although there has been a drop in the overall rates of suicide in the country. With its large population and relatively high rates of suicide, China should play a very important role in the world suicide prevention.
In accordance to the IASP Constitution, the elections for National Representatives from the following countries has been completed. The Representatives are as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>National Representative</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>Dr Ernesto Ruben Paez</td>
<td>2013-2021</td>
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<td>Australia</td>
<td>Dr Jo Robinson</td>
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<td>Austria</td>
<td>Prof Thomas Niederkrotenthaler</td>
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<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>Mr Syed Deedarul Alam</td>
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<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Dr Gwendolyn Pornzky</td>
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<td>Brazil</td>
<td>Prof Humberto Correa</td>
<td>2015-2019</td>
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<td>Canada</td>
<td>Dr Marnin Heisel</td>
<td>2017-2021</td>
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<td>Chile</td>
<td>Dr Alejandro Chamorro</td>
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<td>China</td>
<td>Prof Jie Zhang (Co-Chair)</td>
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<td>Colombia</td>
<td>Dr Marta Ardilla</td>
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<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Dr Annette Erlangsen</td>
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<td>Estonia</td>
<td>Dr Merike Sisask</td>
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<td>Finland</td>
<td>Prof. Erkki Isometsa</td>
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<td>France</td>
<td>Mr Philipe Carette</td>
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<td>Germany</td>
<td>Dr Reinhard Lindner</td>
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<td>Ghana</td>
<td>Dr Charity Akotia</td>
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<td>Greece</td>
<td>Dr Theodore Papaslanis</td>
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<td>Guyana</td>
<td>Dr Meenawattie Rajkumar</td>
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<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>Dr Frances Yik Wa Law</td>
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<td>Hungary</td>
<td>Dr Sandor Fekete</td>
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<td>Iceland</td>
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<td>India</td>
<td>Prof R Sateesh Nordfjord</td>
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<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>Prof. Nalini. Muhdi</td>
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<td>Dr Seyed Kazem Malakouti</td>
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<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Mr Brian Higgins</td>
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<td>Israel</td>
<td>Dr. Avshalom Aderet</td>
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<td>Italy</td>
<td>Dr Marco Innamorati</td>
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<td>Jamaica</td>
<td>Dr Loraine Barnaby</td>
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<td>Japan</td>
<td>Dr Chiaki Kawanishi</td>
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<td>Kenya</td>
<td>Miss Merab Mulindi</td>
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<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>Dr Paulius Skrubis</td>
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<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>Prof Thambu Maniam</td>
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<td>Mexico</td>
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<td>Moldova</td>
<td>Mr Liubu Ceban</td>
<td>2015-2019</td>
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<td>Nepal</td>
<td>Mr Drhuba Pathak</td>
<td>2013-2019</td>
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<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>Dr RFP De Winter</td>
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<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>Ms Silvia Huitson</td>
<td>2017-2021</td>
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<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>Dr Olatunde Ayinde</td>
<td>2015-2019</td>
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<td>Norway</td>
<td>Dr Erlend Mork</td>
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<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>Dr Uzma Irfan</td>
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<td>French Polynesia</td>
<td>Dr Stephane Amadeo</td>
<td>2013-2021</td>
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<td>Portugal</td>
<td>Dr Alexandre Teixeira</td>
<td>2013-2021</td>
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<td>Puerto Rico</td>
<td>Dr Linette Rodriguez-Figuero</td>
<td>2017-2021</td>
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<td>Qatar</td>
<td>Dr Layachi Anser</td>
<td>2013-2021</td>
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<td>Romania</td>
<td>Miss Dana-Christina Herta</td>
<td>2017-2021</td>
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<td>Singapore</td>
<td>Dr Peter Loke</td>
<td>2017-2021</td>
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<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>Dr Vita Postuvan</td>
<td>2017-2021</td>
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<td>South Africa</td>
<td>Dr Jason Bantjes</td>
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<td>Spain</td>
<td>Mr Andoni Anscan Ramos</td>
<td>2015-2019</td>
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<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>Chairman Anura Wijemanne</td>
<td>2015-2019</td>
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<td>Suriname</td>
<td>Prof Toby Graafsma</td>
<td>2013-2017</td>
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<td>Sweden</td>
<td>Dr Gergo Hadlaczky</td>
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<td>Suriname</td>
<td>Prof Toby Graafsma</td>
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<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>Prof Angela Castelli Dransart</td>
<td>2014-2021</td>
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<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>Dr Ying-Yeh Chen</td>
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<td>Thailand</td>
<td>Dr Prakarn Thomyangkoon</td>
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<td>USA</td>
<td>Prof Madelyn Gould (Co-Chair)</td>
<td>2017-2021</td>
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At the 29th IASP World Congress “Preventing Suicide: A Global Commitment, from Communities to Continents” Kuching, Malaysia (July 18th-22nd) IASP presented the 2017 Congress Awards to recipients. Thank you to those who submitted nominations this year. In this edition of the newsletter we honour the recipients of the Stengel Award, the Ringel Award, the Norman Farberow Award, the De Leo Fund Award and the Andrej Marusic Award. In the next IASP newsletter will we feature the poster award recipients.

Professor Steven Stack, IASP Stengel Award Recipient 2017

Dr. Stack is the first sociologist to receive the Stengel Award. His work follows the Durkheimian tradition and calls attention to “social disorders”, providing a useful supplement to “mental disorders”, a dominant paradigm in suicidology.

Dr. Stack has been publishing work on suicide for 39 years. Publications include 331 articles, many in high impact journals, and chapters, as well as 4 books. His research emphasis has been on social risk and protective factors including media impacts, culture, religiousness, economic strain, economic development, and family integration. Much of this work has followed a global orientation and has used data from up to 82 countries. Professor Stack’s research has received over 10,500 citations according to data in Google Scholar.

His most recent book, co-edited with Dr. Thomas Niederkrotenthaler of the Medical University of Vienna, was a collaboration with the IASP Media & Suicide Special Interest Group: International Perspectives on Research, Theory & Policy, and brings together the work of 34 suicide specialists from 8 different nations (2017. New Brunswick, NJ, USA: Transaction Publishers).

He is also a most sought after reviewer: in the past 15 years he has reviewed over 600 papers for over 100 different journals. He serves on the editorial boards of Archives of Suicide Research, Suicide & Life Threatening Behavior, and Crisis: J of Suicide Prevention &Crisis Intervention. His work has been supported by grants from the National Institute of Mental Health and Guggenheim Foundation. He has delivered plenary addresses on his research at international conferences including ones in Vienna, Tokyo, Seoul, Glasgow, Montreal, and China. Dr. Stack has served on over 20 national grant review panels in the last 10 years including ones in Austria, Canada, Israel and the U.S. He has been called by the mass media over 200 times concerning his work. This includes CNN, ABC, BBC, Korean Educational Television, London Times, New York Times, Psychology Today, USA TODAY, and Wall Street Journal.

Professor Stack’s previous awards include the Louis Dublin Award given annually by the American Association of Suicidology for lifetime contributions to research on suicide.

Dr Alys Cole-King, IASP Ringel Award Recipient 2017

The award committee for the Ringel Award for Distinguished Service in the field of Suicidology for 2017 has received and reviewed a range of nominations on highly deserved candidates. This time the recipient of the award is a woman who has worked tirelessly throughout her career to improve the compassion and response given to people at risk of suicide. Drawing her many years of clinical experience and research she led the development and dissemination of the Connecting with People approach – an evidence based clinical assessment framework –, initially implemented at her own hospital and then disseminated to a wide range...
Seán McCarthy, Citation for the IASP Norman Farberow Award 2017

Seán McCarthy (Ireland) has been actively involved in the field of postvention since 1996, founding one of the first suicide bereavement support groups in Ireland. In 1999, Seán became the first appointed Regional Suicide Resource Officer in Ireland and was responsible for overseeing the recommendations contained in the National Task Force on Suicide Prevention 1998. Tragically in January 2nd 2000, a close family member died by suicide and this changed his career significantly, leading to a very different perspective when addressing the issue of suicide prevention. To the forefront of his consciousness at all times now were the suicidal person and the families and loved ones living with a suicidal person or indeed bereaved by suicide.

Seán continued his work to support those affected by suicide through joining the International Association of Suicide Prevention which further strengthened his knowledge and passion for best practice support after suicide. He coordinated responses in the aftermath of suicide clusters creating one of Ireland’s first local suicide plans that included access to counselling and assertive outreach support. Such plans are now a central plank of the Irish Government’s current strategy “Connecting for Life”. Seán also assisted in writing the National Quality Standards for Suicide Bereavement Support in 2012 and has contributed to many national and international initiatives to guide the delivery of support after suicide.

In 2007 Séan became co-chair of the IASP Task Force on postvention following the IASP conference in Killarney, Ireland. His immediate objective was the establishment of a dedicated newsletter for postvention. He was editor of the newsletter from 2007 to 2016 and this provided a forum whereby people and organisations working in postvention could highlight the work they were involved in and too allow bereaved people to share their story and build greater collaboration and understanding amongst those bereaved and academics and researchers. Seán also assisted greatly to increase the profile of postvention at the biannual congress of IASP and during IASP supported events and ensure that a memorial service to remember the bereaved by suicide would be included in the conference agenda. The first such event was held in Oslo during the congress and subsequently followed up during the Montreal congress. Over the years there has been an appreciative increase in participation at the congresses around postvention thus amplifying the voice of those bereaved by suicide and those who seek to provide support and care to all who are affected by suicide loss.

Seán along with his colleague Karl Andriessen oversaw the move from being a Task Force (TF) to a Special Interest Group (SIG), overseeing two Task Forces on congress participation and the postvention research agenda with a paper presented at the Montreal Congress in 2015 on research findings.

In January 2017 Seán retired from his post as Suicide Resource Officer with the Health Service Executive. He now has a training and consultancy business working in the field of mental health. He has an affiliate partnership with the QPR Institute in Spokane, Washington and has set up QPR Ireland. He is a registered trainer with the Institute and is a member of their faculty having recently assisted the development of a new programme ‘QPR for Sport’ and one of the key training programmes ‘Bereavement Loss and Traumatic Death helping the Survivors’.

Seán maintains his passion and commitment to the needs of those bereaved by suicide and has touched many lives through his active involvement in developing and delivering programs for those affected, contributing to research and evaluation and demonstrating national and international leadership in his work with suicide survivors. Seán’s commitment to respond to the needs of those touched by suicide, driven by his sensitivity, care and personal experience of suicide loss and his humility that does not seek recognition, has rendered him most deserving of this award. Seán will continue to be involved in the area of support after suicide for the rest of his life and will continue to make a genuine difference to the field of suicide postvention.
Dr. Chan Lai Fong,  
IASP De Leo Fund Award 2017

Dr. Chan Lai Fong is an Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Consultant Psychiatrist at the National University of Malaysia. She trained in psychiatry at the National University of Malaysia and completed a Clinical Fellowship in Mood & Anxiety Disorders at the University of Toronto, followed by a Master of Science in Affective Neuroscience at Maastricht University. Dr. Chan’s research interests are in the area of gene-environment, as well as socio-cultural interactions in suicidal behaviour, within a wide-range of population groups such as adolescents, young adults and high-risk clinical populations, i.e. treatment-resistant depression and bipolar disorders. Another area of research interest is medical student/physician mental health and vulnerabilities to suicidal behaviour. In addition to receiving grant funding from national agencies, Dr. Chan has also been awarded international travel grants and scholarships for early career researchers such as the Spinoza Grant by the European Accreditation Committee in CNS (EACIC), the Travel Grant for Young Scientist by the Volkswagen Foundation and the Asian Psychiatrist Training Fellowship Travel Award at the 3rd World Congress of Asian Psychiatry. Dr. Chan is actively involved in organizations that focus on suicide prevention both nationally and internationally. She is a scientific committee member of the 29th World Congress of the International Association for Suicide Prevention. She is also a member of the International Initiative for Mental Health Leadership, lifetime member of the Malaysian Psychiatric Association & junior member of the Canadian College of Neuropsychopharmacology.

Congratulations to Dr. Chan Lai Fong!

Dr Duleeka Knipe,  
IASP Andrej Marusic Award 2017

Andrej Marusic award is open to young researchers in suicidology and aims to encourage innovative research ideas in the field. We received a number of very promising research proposals for the nomination this year. Among them for the 2017 Marusic Award the committee grants Dr Duleeka (Dee) Knipe.

Dee is a psychiatric epidemiologist working at the University of Bristol with a special interest in mental health, especially in low and middle income countries. In her past work - within Universities of Bristol and Cardiff (in UK) and Peradeniya (in Sri Lanka) she has shown a great capacity to conduct research work. She published a number of peer-reviewed articles, presented her work at international conferences, won several awards and grants. For a young professional, she already holds an impressive CV.

Her submitted project investigates the role of attempted suicide repetition in South Asian communities as an effective target for suicide prevention. Her work will combine several datasets to be able to assess the risk of suicide death over the time period following a suicide attempt. Moreover, following the quantitative measures, three focus groups will be conducted to build a richer understanding of the findings and to understand how risk factors unfold in the lives of people in the study area. These examples of the combination of qualitative and quantitative research measures are important steps that is the future of suicide research. In this regard, we are happy that Dee is receiving the award this year and hope she will continue to perform such high-standard research in the future.

In the name of IASP, Andrej Marusic Institute and Slovene Center for Suicide Research and in the name of Andrej’s family, we congratulate to Dr Duleeka Knipe and wish her all the best in the future work.
IASP Media SIG authors hold book celebratory dinner in Malaysia

The dinner was held during the IASP Congress in Kuching. The volume is the work of 34 authors from eight different nations including Austria, Australia, France, Germany, Hong Kong, United Kingdom, and the United States. The book brought together recent work of members of the IASP Special Interest Group, Media and Suicide co-chaired by Thomas Niederkrotenthaler and Dan Reidenberg.


Chapters include topics such as internet bullying as a contributor to suicide attempts, the gendered presentation of firearm suicide in the movies - providing a new explanation for male preference for gun suicides, media's role in mass shootings, critical reviews of the state of explanations of the link between media and suicide, and reports on the progress of suicide prevention efforts involving the media in the world’s nations including Austria, Australia, the U.K. and US.

The dinner was held in a leading Kuching restaurant, the James Brooke Bistro, named after the first Caucasian Rajah of Sarawak in 1842 and who served for 26 years. It was a delightful open air, early evening venue adjacent to lights flickering on the banks of the Sarawak river.

The authors aspire to produce a second edition after a few years of rest.

Thomas Niederkrotenthaler and Steven Stack

Suicide among Older Adults Special Interest Group Update

During the 2017 World Congress in Kuching (Malaysia), the IASP Special Interest Group (SIG) on Suicide among Older Adults organized a pre-conference workshop and two symposia. One of the symposia focused on protective factors, suicide risks, and intervention with older adults, while the other was dedicated to euthanasia and assisted suicide. The latter topic is currently discussed in many countries, particularly in the context of the aging of the population and the increased use of medical technology towards the end of life. However, the opinion of elderly persons has been under investigated in the euthanasia/assisted-suicide debates.

The SIG has formed a Task Force consisting of 24 members interested in the social, psychological, spiritual, physical, and sociodemographic predictors of older adults' attitudes toward and requests for medically assisted death. The Task Force is currently preparing a systematic review on this topic. Preliminary results indicate that a variety of variables are likely to play an important role in older adults' attitude towards assisted death.

Sylvie Lapierre and Annette Erlangsen SIG Co-Chairs
Suicide prevention in the workplace is a growing concern. Recently the CDC published a report ranking occupation and suicide (https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6525a1.htm), and this data has engaged many leaders of high risk industries to become more proactive in suicide prevention. Most notably, the construction industry.

Australia’s MATES in Construction (http://matesinconstruction.org.au/) program continues to expand the possibilities of prevention while keeping research on their effectiveness a high priority.

List of research

Interview with MATES CEO Jorgen Gullestrup

In the U.S. the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention’s Workplace Task Force (http://actionallianceforsuicideprevention.org/workplace-task-force) has been partnering with industry organizations like the Construction Financial Management Association (http://www.cfma.org/news/content.cfm?ItemNumber=4570) and the Sheet Metal Air Rail and Transportation (https://smart-union.org/smart-map/) Union to build capacity for suicide prevention through leadership engagement, training, community roundtables, and peer support.

In Canada, the Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention (https://suicideprevention.ca/understanding/workplace/becoming-a-suicide-safer-workplace/) has developed a wide range of tools for workplaces to become safer from suicide and to support employees bereaved by suicide.

At the World Congress in Malaysia, the Workplace Special Interest Group members held a meeting to discuss the annual report and future directions. Dr. Sally Spencer-Thomas (USA) presented twice on workplace topics: suicide and the rail industry (http://insurancethoughtleadership.com/union-pacific-leads-way-for-suicide-prevention/) and recent research on firefighters and suicide risk (https://www.firechief.com/2016/08/15/firefighter-suicide-tackled-in-new-studies/).

Sally Spencer-Thomas, Katrina Witt and Allison Milner
SIG Co-Chairs

IASP Newsletter piece from China

The Center for Suicide Prevention Research (CSPR) at Shandong University in China had its annual international symposium May 19-22, 2017 in Jinan, China. Mr David Covington, the AAS Elected President attended the meetings and gave a keynote speech. The Shandong University Center for Suicide Prevention Research, established in 2011, is one of the very few centers of this kind in China. At the conference, the center showcased its achievements since its inception, including publications, conferences, and workshops as well as the graduate students trained at the Masters and PhD levels.

Prof Jie Zhang
IASP National Representative for China
National Representative Co-Chair

Shandong University
Submit your World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD) Activity

If you are hosting a WSPD activity this September 10th let us know!

By sharing your activates with us online we can promote your event for you. Submit events directly to us at: https://iasp.info/wspd2017/wspd-activities-submission-form/.

If you are interested in hosting an event we have put together a list of suggested activities to inspire you: https://www.iasp.info/wspd/pdf/2017/2017_wspd_suggested_activities.pdf

If you would like to attend or participate in a WSPD activity keep an eye on our website to find an event near you: https://iasp.info/wspd2017/activities/.

There are activities which you can do alone also. Everyone is welcome to participate in our Cycle Around the Globe, just hop on your bike and don’t forget to submit your distance to us afterwards: https://iasp.info/wspd2017/cycle-around-globe/. There is no distance too short, this event is all about the taking part. You can also take part in our Light a Candle event, at 8pm by simply lighting a candle near a window this WSPD, in remembrance of a loved one or to show your support for the prevention of suicide worldwide: https://iasp.info/wspd2017/light-a-candle/.

However you will be getting involved in WSPD 2017 we here at IASP would like to thank you for your efforts and participation
Don't let me disappear

On the 10th of September 2017, in honour of World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD), the second campaign of Look… I am disappearing will take place in Poland. The campaign, organized by the Look… Here I am Foundation, aims to promote education on the topic of suicide prevention, overthrow stereotypes, promote positive mental health and increase social sensitivity of the topic in Poland. The campaign ultimately places emphasis on how to recognize distress and suicidal behaviour, how to start talking about it and how to cope with it, in the hope that the subject of youth suicide will no longer be considered a taboo subject.

The campaign is targeted to families and institutions, who are in direct contact with children and adolescents. This year through the campaign we will link in also with the theme of WSPD “Take a minute, change a life”.

On the campaign website (http://zobacznikam.pl/) you can find information and download some materials useful for relatives, friends and institutions and also information on how to become an ambassador of campaign - with 145 ambassadors already registered.

Marta Soczewka

National Suicide Prevention Month Activities in the United States

The National Lifeline’s Campaign for National Suicide Prevention Month: #BeThe1To Help Others

In the United States, suicide is the tenth leading cause of death. For years, we’ve told people that if they see someone in crisis, they should call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, take them to a doctor, or call emergency services. All good choices. But we also know that often the best way to prevent suicide is social connection. Encouraging people to connect with their friends and family during a crisis can make all the difference. They need to know that they don’t have to be mental health professionals to help someone in their lives.

#BeThe1To is the Lifeline’s message for National Suicide Prevention Month and beyond, sharing that we can all be the one to help someone in crisis. The five #BeThe1To steps provide concrete actions that guide a person through the process of helping someone that may be suicidal. These steps - Ask, Keep Them Safe, Be There, Help Them Connect, and Follow Up - are supported by suicide prevention research.

Last year, the #BeThe1To message reached over seven million people on social media, and over 40 organizations participated during National Suicide Prevention Month. This September, there are multiple ways for organizations and the public to participate in #BeThe1To. Participation options include:

- sharing the five steps using our plug-and-play message kit and graphics;
- creating your own five-step graphics to be featured as a downloadable kit on our website;
- joining us for one of our Twitter chats that will be held throughout September, or;
- contributing a story of action and hope to be featured on the website.

To create a more caring and connected world, one that prevents suicide, we need to become more caring and connected ourselves. #BeThe1To provides the blueprint to help us get there. For more information, message kits, and event details, visit bethe1to.com.

Dr. John Draper
Director, National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

http://zobacznikam.pl/
European Symposium on Suicide & Suicidal Behaviour

5th September–8th September 2018 Ghent - Belgium

Key dates for proposals, submissions and registration are:

- Proposals for symposia and workshops: 31 January 2018
- Submission of abstracts: 01 February 2018
- Final programme: 01 May 2018
- Early-bird registration: 01 June 2018
- On-site Registration: as of 15 August 2018
- ESSB17 opening: 5 September 2018

For more information, please visit: www.esssb17.org
IASR/AFSP International Summit on Suicide Research

November 5-8, 2017

Green Valley Ranch Resort, Spa, & Casino, Henderson, Nevada

New Horizons for Suicide Research: From Genes to Communities

This meeting will bring together suicide researchers studying topics ranging from neurobiology and genetics to prevention and intervention. In addition to plenary sessions with preeminent suicide researchers and symposia, the meeting will include a mentoring program, poster sessions, and workshops addressing methodological issues particular to suicide research, such as assessment of suicidal behaviour, strategies for research on low base rate outcomes, use of proxy measures, and maintaining the delicate balance between ethical and methodological concerns.

For more information, please visit: http://suicideresearchsummit.org/