



IASP Special Interest Groups (SIGs) Annual Report July 2019

Overview

A survey of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) was conducted during early 2019. A structured template was sent to all Co-chairs, with a view to collecting information relating to: rationale, objectives, main activities during 2018, proposed activities during 2019, and current challenges. Text on activities during 2018, for uploading to the IASP website, and details of members' names and email addresses were also requested.

There was a considerable range of activities across the 14 SIGs, all of which completed the survey. In line with procedures the survey was also completed by the Early Career Group (ECG) co-Chairs.

Activities for 2018 included:

- Delivery of and participation in symposia, workshops and presentations at national and international conferences and meetings, including, but not limited to the IASP, the ESSSB17 and the AAS conferences.
- Submission of over 10 peer reviewed articles and at least two systematic reviews on topics relevant to the respective SIG, in multidisciplinary of journals including Crisis, the British Medical Journal Open, the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health and the Journal of Affective Disorders.
- Authorship of one book, several book chapters, one thesis, and multiple newsletters IASP articles, bulletins and reports.
- Initiation of two new Task Forces (TFs) under the SIG for Lived Experience and an additional two within the ECG.
- Submission of funding and research grant proposals to facilitate SIG work.
- Provision of expert advice, evidence-based research and assistance by SIG Chairs, to partners, NGOs and organizations including the World Health Organization.
- Chairing and leadership of Advisory Groups relative to SIG topics by co- Chairs.
- Appointment and continued mentoring of ECG Assistants and other students working in the area of suicide prevention.
- Facilitation in the delivery of training programmes including a gatekeeper training in India.
- The development and circulation of IASP-led briefing documents, statements and letters in response to new social media which portray suicidal behaviour.
- The establishment and monitoring of social media pages for SIG members and interested public to exchange information pertaining to the relevant SIG topic areas.
- Hosting of public engagement outreach including the creation and sharing of SIG/ECG led podcasts, Twitter chats and videos.
- The ongoing recruitment of new SIG and TF members.

Future activities for 2019/20 include:

- Planning and delivery of pre-conference workshops, symposia and oral/poster presentations for the upcoming IASP Congress in Ireland, 2019 and other national and international conferences such as IASR/AFSP.
- Planning and writing of peer review articles and systematic reviews.
- Continue to foster new collaborations and partnership which will facilitate SIG objectives.
- Continuation of the Task Force work within SIGs.
- Recruitment of new SIG and TF members.
- Reviewing of SIG progress and activities and continued development of research collaborations and networking in the area.
- Ongoing business meetings and Chair communications to ensure delivery of SIG objectives.

Challenges to SIG have been shared and include the below:

- One SIG cited challenges with obtaining funding for SIG specific work.
- The international nature of an SIG is a barrier to progressing activities outside of conference meetings, for two SIGs.
- Two SIGs relayed challenges with engaging new and exciting members citing membership costs and difficulties in communications as causes for this.
- Two SIGs cited specific challenges related to their SIG topics, for example the criminalisation of attempted suicide as a barrier for the SIG on the Development of effective national suicide prevention strategy and practice.

The tables within this report provide summarised and selective information for each SIG.

Rory O' Connor, IASP 2nd Vice President

Caroline Daly, Research Officer, IASP Central Administration Office

July 2019

SIG: Development of effective national suicide prevention strategy and practice

Chairs (number of members)	Steve Platt & Mohsen Rezaeian (31 members)
Objectives	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To establish an active forum of international experts who will support the development of effective suicide prevention strategy and practice in countries (especially lower- and middle-income countries) where, historically, there has been little or no suicide prevention activity.2. To develop and maintain an online resource library which will include guidance on evidence-informed suicide prevention interventions (both top-down and bottom-up approaches), evaluation protocols and good practice manuals.3. To develop guidance for establishing, implementing and evaluating community-level suicide prevention activities in countries where a national strategy is not currently feasible.4. To support and mentor communities, regions and countries in their development of suicide prevention programmes (strategic and operational elements).5. To collaborate with relevant organisations, ministries and NGOs in LAMICs in the development of effective suicide prevention strategy and practice.	
Main activities - 2018	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organisation of, and participation in, symposia, seminars, workshops and oral and poster sessions at ESSSB17 conference and the IASP Asia Pacific conference and conferences in Netherlands, Poland, France, USA, India and other countries.• Authorship and editorship of bulletins, newsletters, reports, journal articles, book chapters and books.• Editorship of, and refereeing for, international journals on suicide prevention.• Leadership of the Centre de ressources de Suicidologie (CRES), Paris, France.• Chairing and membership of the Evaluation Advisory Group for Ireland's <i>Connecting for Life strategy to reduce suicide 2015-2020</i>.• Contributions and advice to initiatives of the World Health Organization relating to national suicide prevention strategies.• Consultancies to NGOs and governments on national suicide prevention strategies in several countries, including Scotland, England, Ireland, Iran and Namibia.• Provision of evidence-informed advice and support to national and international organisations and agencies.• Involvement in international research collaborations.• Tutoring/mentoring of postgraduate students.• Supervision of implementation of US national youth suicide prevention programme.• Participation in meetings of the Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention, USA.• Assistance in development of Defence National Strategy for Suicide Prevention and the Veteran National Suicide Strategy for Suicide Prevention, USA.• Assistance to several US states in updates of state strategies for suicide prevention.• Development and delivery of Lifeskills Dynamic Meditation for suicide prevention gatekeeper training, India.	
Proposed activities – 2019/20	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work will continue on the establishment of a resource library, the development of guidance relating to community-level suicide prevention, the provision of support to regions and countries, and international collaboration and co-operation.• Following discussion at the SIG business meeting at the World Congress in derry (September), there is likely to be some restructuring of the SIG in order to promote greater participation and involvement among members• A pre-Congress workshop and symposium are planned at the World Congress.	
Challenges	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• While steps have been taken towards developing a national suicide prevention strategy in a growing number of countries, including those countries that face major political and socio-economic challenges, there are ongoing challenges in several countries, including criminalisation of suicide, insufficient resources, ineffective co-ordination, lack of enforcement of guidelines, limited access to surveillance data, and lack of independent evaluation. There is also a need for greater attention to the content of national suicide prevention programmes, in particular the rationale for the selection and prioritisation of components and actions. The SIG will need to take cognisance of these challenges in the development of its work.	

SIG: The genetics and neurobiology of suicide

Chairs (number of members)	Dan Rujescu (20 members)
Objectives	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To promote studies of genetic aspects of suicide ideation and behaviour among suicidologists.2. To promote genetic studies of suicide ideation and behaviour among behavioural geneticists.	
Main activities - 2018	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Hosted a symposium during the ESSSB conference in Ghent, Belgium.	
Proposed activities – 2019/20	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Have submitted to host a symposium at the IASP 2019 conference.	

SIG: Suicide and self-harm in middle-aged adults

Chairs (number of members)	Ping Qin, Paul Yip & David Gunnell (18 members)
Objectives	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To provide a platform for exchange of knowledge regarding suicide and self-harm in adults of middle ages.2. To facilitate and develop international research collaboration and networking in this topic area.3. To provide statistic overview and conduct systematic reviews.4. To organize symposia on suicide in middle-aged adults at international conferences.5. To support and coordinate other SIGs for their initiatives relevant to middle-aged population.	
Main activities - 2018	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Organized a symposium formally launching the SIG at the ESSSB17, September 2018.2. Recruited 18 SIG members in 2018.3. Finalized the SIG objectives.4. Made the plan to write an overview article about suicide rates in the middle-aged population and three systematic reviews focusing on the middle-aged.	
Proposed activities – 2019/20	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To organize a SIG symposium at the IASP congress in Derry, 2019.2. To produce the overview article on suicide rates in the middle-aged population on the global basis.3. To conduct systematic reviews and write up three review articles.4. To continue the recruitment of SIG members.5. To review of SIG progress and activities and to develop research collaboration and networking in this area.	

SIG: Suicide in older adults

Chairs (number of members)	Annette Erlangsen & Sylvie Lapierre (135 members)
Objectives	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To create a network between researchers to facilitate joint research projects that focus on suicide in older adults.2. To increase IASP's involvement in suicide prevention of older adults.3. To increase awareness and understanding about suicide in older adults.	
Main activities - 2018	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Hosted three symposia at ESSSB17 in Ghent, Belgium. Symposium 1: Suicidal ideation and behavior in older adults with cognitive impairment and functional deficits. Symposium 2: Suicide prevention and decision-making in older adults. Symposium 3: Societal factors and suicidal behaviour in older adults: Prevalence and risk predictors.2. ECG Assistant Ms. Kylie Crnek-Georgeson prepared a newsletter presenting new studies in the field of suicide in older adults and the activities of the SIG.	

3. Twenty-five SIG members submitted a paper entitled "A systematic review of older adults' request for or attitude toward euthanasia or assisted-suicide". Prof. Dolores Angela Castelli Dransart and Sylvie Lapierre supervised the work which has been submitted for peer review.

Proposed activities – 2019/20

1. Three symposia, each with four presenters, from the IASP Special Interest Group on Suicide in Older Adults were submitted by Dimitris Kiosses and Elizabeth Arslanoglou for the 30th World Congress of the International Association for Suicide Prevention to be held in Derry-Londonderry, Northern Ireland (September 2019).

Symposium 1: Physical, Mental and Social Risk Factors in Late-Life Suicide.

Symposium 2: Cognition, Emotions, and Suicide Prevention in Older Suicidal Adults.

Symposium 3: Physical, Mental and Social Risk Factors in Late-Life Suicide.

2. One symposium was submitted and accepted by the next IAGG-ER (International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics European Region Congress, May 2019, Gothenburg, Sweden), entitled: "New Research on Suicidal Behavior in Older Adults: Interpersonal Problems, Social Factors, Cognitive Function, and Financial Security".

3. Prof. Amy Fiske of West Virginia University, USA is editing a Special Issue on Late-Life Suicide for the scientific journal, the Clinical Gerontologist and has encouraged members of the SIG to submit manuscripts.

4. Currently, a joint symposium at the IASR/AFSP Suicide Summit on suicide in older adults is being planned.

SIG: Suicide and the media

Chairs (number of members)	Daniel Reidenberg & Thomas Niederkrotenthaler (44 members)
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Objectives

1. To improve linkages between suicide experts and media professionals.

2. To systematically review research about suicide and the traditional as well as social media (including evaluations of media guidelines), to identify gaps in knowledge, to develop a research agenda to address these gaps, and to encourage relevant research.

3. To identify, collect and collate media guidelines which have been developed around the world, and examine and report on their content, development and implementation.

4. To work collaboratively with media professionals to develop recommendations for developing and implementing media guidelines.

5. To work collaboratively with media professionals to promote media guidelines to journalists, editors and other stakeholders.

6. To work on prevention of suicide using online media.

7. To provide an international body of experts that can provide authoritative comment on issues regarding suicide and the media, including issues surrounding media guidelines and both traditional and newer "emergent" media.

Main activities - 2018

1. Hosting symposia/workshops/meetings: Symposia hosted by the SIG were presented at ESSSB17 in Ghent. Four submissions were completed and submitted to IASP 2019.

2. Development of a book with contributions from SIG members on Media and Suicide: International Perspectives on Research, Theory and Policy. This task has been finalized and released (editors: Thomas Niederkrotenthaler and Steven Stack).

3. Start of collaboration with Early Career Group / Nicole Hill, regarding media frameworks for IASP media-related statements.

4. IASP Statements produced with SAVE on Momo Challenge and the Blue Whale Challenge.

5. Letter to Netflix (led by SAVE) regarding 13RW. A 13RW Toolkit was developed with input from the SIG members.

Proposed activities – 2019/20

1. Continue and finalize tasks listed above.

2. Provide an update on implementation strategies on Media Recommendations (initiative DR and TN). This work has already been started to inform the revision of the WHO recommendations. Currently a draft proposal is at WHO.

3. SIG members who have been involved in these tasks in their own countries will collaborate on defining a framework for media responses within IASP.

- Action items: Regarding above point, pre-written templates could be easily adapted when needed for specific media event. Templates discussed included three types:
 - o Widely disseminated entertainment industry product.
 - o Criminal issue / internet safety issue.
 - o Celebrity suicide.

4. Host symposia at suicide-related conferences.

Challenges

- Funding, requests have been submitted externally however no reply has currently been received.

SIG: Suicide bereavement and postvention

Chairs (number of members)	Myfanwy Maple, Sean McCarthy, Vita Postuvan & Sharon McDonnell (100 members)
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To hold a meeting of members at biannual world congress, to evaluate past activities and plan future goals and activities.2. To ensure appropriate representation of postvention at IASP and similar conferences.3. To contribute to the IASP newsletter.4. To ensure appropriate communication between members, with the TF established under the SIG umbrella.5. To identify initiatives to be undertaken by TFs, to be subsequently reported to the Board of IASP.
Main activities - 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coordination of symposia submissions to 2019 IASP conference.• Continued work on the TF on best practice in postvention guidelines.
Proposed activities - 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ongoing planning for bereavement and postvention involvement in the Derry 2019 conference.• Finalisation of the TF on best practice in postvention.• Revision of web content for SIG.

SIG: Helplines best practice

Chairs (number of members)	Alan Woodward & John Draper (44 members)
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To pursue a shared interest in Helplines and related online and social media services for suicide prevention, with a view to making a substantive contribution to improved understanding, practice or policy relating to their operation, effectiveness and impact.
Main activities - 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Obtained the valuable support from early career researcher, Emily Blackman, from the University of South Australia.• Two Symposia have been accepted (a total of 6 presentations on helplines research) for the IASP 2019 congress.• Coordination of several helplines presentations at the IASP Regional Conference in New Zealand in May 2018, including presentations from visiting delegates from China on the research undertaken about the Beijing Helpline.• Coordination of an informal meeting of helplines representatives at the European Symposium on Suicide and Suicidal Behaviour 2018, with several European and UK helpline representatives present - enabled cross-service discussion on data collection and analysis for research.• Establishment of a Facebook group site for SIG members to exchange information and make contact with each other. This followed the issuing of a survey to SIG members asking for feedback on what would be most useful for them. Unfortunately, the Facebook group site has not been utilised much. It seems that helplines group members are happier to make connections themselves if they can be provided with each other's details, rather than participate in a group discussion outside of conferences and set meetings.• Responses to inquiries on helplines matters from governments and helpline organisations as required - inquiries coming via IASP.• A survey of SIG members was undertaken in early 2017, with responses suggesting the current activities for the SIG are meeting expectations of members, generally.
Proposed activities - 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Similar to 2018/19, the SIG plans to continue to operate the Facebook group for informal networking and exchange of information, as well as identify and coordinate collaboration on research activities.
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The diversity and the geographic spread of SIG members makes it very difficult to undertake activities outside of the IASP Congress or regional conferences.

SIG: Culture and suicidal behaviour

Chairs (number of members)	Erminia Colucci & Joseph Osafo (54 members)
Objectives	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To share resources and information relevant to the topic of culture and suicidal behaviour (including publications and funding opportunities). 2. To discuss ideas and provide suggestions around culturally-sensitive suicide research and prevention activities. 3. To deepen knowledge about and advocate for a greater consideration of the socio-cultural context of suicidal behaviour and for the development of suicide prevention strategies. 4. To represent a point of reference for individuals and organizations seeking expertise on the SIG theme and sub-themes. 5. To identify potential funders and co-apply for financial support to initiate and carry out SIG specific research and prevention projects and organize themed meetings/conferences/workshops. 	
Main activities - 2018	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointed an early career researcher (ECR) to assist the group. • The Chair and vice-chair have submitted a major bid for a culturally-sensitive suicide prevention hub as Co-investigator but unfortunately after passing the first selection process and being shortlisted, it did not pass the second phase but together with other IASP members aim to resubmit for a future bid. • The SIG chairs and members have taken part in a workshop in Norway/Trondheim organized through HEIKO which focused, among other things, on proposing culture and suicide prevention activities. 	
Proposed activities – 2019/20	
None reported.	

SIG: Prevention of intentional pesticide poisoning

Chairs (number of members)	Keith Hawton, Michael Phillips & Melissa Pearson (30 members)
Objectives	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collate evidence, knowledge and information on the epidemiology, characteristics and prevention of intentional pesticide poisoning. 2. Facilitate collaboration between different projects currently underway. 3. Promote research and links between research projects. 4. Develop innovative research methodologies to evaluate different types of interventions. 5. Act as a focal point for the dissemination of information on the prevention of pesticide poisoning. 6. Identify potential funders that could support an IASP-supported multi-country project. 	
Main activities - 2018	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hosted co-Chair meetings via Skype. 2. Engaged with an early career researcher. 	
Proposed activities – 2018/20	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Working group being planned for the upcoming IASP Congress in Derry. 2. Advertise ECG vacancy. 3. Update the reference library. 4. Collate SIG projects. 	
Challenges	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The availability of busy co-Chairs can sometimes make it difficult to progress the agenda of this SIG. • The first ECG match did not work out however another is currently being recruited. 	

SIG: Nomenclature

Chairs (number of members)	Diego De Leo & Morton Silverman (8 members)
Objectives	
1. The main aim of this IASP SIG is to move towards an international standardization of definitions and terminologies that may render research more comparable across the globe, economize investment efforts, and favour meta-analytical evaluation.	
Main activities - 2018	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DDL has continued his tutoring of a PhD candidate covering the topic of the SIG as his PhD program. The candidate - psychiatrist, Dr. Benjamin Goodfellow – has finalised his doctoral dissertation, which has been submitted for evaluation to international referees. • One article was published in 2018: Goodfellow B, Kolves K, de Leo D: Contemporary definitions of suicidal behavior: a systematic literature review. <i>Suicide & Life-threatening Behavior</i>, 2018, March, doi: 10.1111/sltb.12457. • Another was sent to <i>Crisis</i>: Goodfellow B, Kolves K, De Leo D: Contemporary Classifications of Suicidal Behaviors: A Systematic Literature Review (under revision); • And another was sent to <i>British Medical Journal Open</i>: Goodfellow B, Kolves K, De Leo D, Silverman MM, Berman A, Mann JJ, Arensman E, Hawton K, Phillips M, Vijayakumar L: International Study of Definitions and Terms for Suicidal Behaviours: Protocol of an opinion survey. 	
Proposed activities – 2019/20	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of Dr Goodfellow dissertation. To facilitate the publication of subsequent materials and highlight the need for a common language between scholars in the area of suicide research and prevention. • Symposia and presentations will be organised in official meetings in order to raise the awareness of the ‘Babel of Languages’ problem and how this can negatively impact research efforts. • It is important to expand the survey on definitions and terminologies to various actors and environments transnationally, in order to obtain a reliable picture of the existing situation around the globe. • It is of great importance to sensitise young researchers to the importance of precise and standardised nomenclatures, terminologies and classifications. 	
Challenges	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This particular area of investigation is mostly perceived as confined to epidemiology and demography and does not appear as too appealing by many people in the field of suicide research. Given the statistical rarity of suicide, it is of paramount importance to have the possibility of summing up results from different research (geographical) areas. This would confer the statistical power to permit reliable extrapolations and appropriate generalisations. 	

SIG: Clusters & contagion in suicidal behaviour

Chairs (number of members)	Ella Arensman & Jo Robinson (17 members)
Objectives	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Share information on definitions and the methodologies used in identifying clusters and contagion in suicidal behaviour. 2. Share information obtained in research into clusters and contagion in different countries and facilitates comparative international research. 3. Share information on policy, response procedures and prevention strategies for clusters and contagion in suicidal behaviour from different countries and compare effectiveness. 4. Increase awareness of clusters and contagion in suicidal behaviour and associated risk factors. 5. Share and transfer expertise across countries when clusters in suicidal behaviour emerge. 6. Facilitate international collaborative grant applications to progress international comparative research, prevention and policy in this area. 7. Act as an expert group for individuals and organisations seeking information and advice. 	
Main activities - 2018	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture at the 17th European Symposium on Suicide and Suicidal Behaviour, Belgium • Symposium on suicide clustering and contagion at the 8th IASP Asia Pacific Conference in New Zealand • Facilitation of internships at the NSRF-UCC • Contributed blog for health insurance company • Initiated workshop with Press Ombudsman in Ireland 	

Proposed activities – 2019/20

1. Symposium on the topic taking place at the upcoming IASP Congress in Derry, 2019.
2. ECG Assistant Nicole Hill is coordinating a literature review and survey looking at best practice around the world when responding to a cluster. It is hoped that this work will lead to a template which IASP can use globally.
3. Chairs held meeting in countries including Australia to discuss national surveillance systems for suicide and suicide attempts.

SIG: Lived experience

Chairs (number of members) Bronwen Edwards & Chris Caulkins

Objectives

1. To develop and implement a strategic approach to the involvement of people with lived experience in IASP activities.
2. To improve understanding, practice and policy relating to the involvement of persons with lived experience in national and international suicide prevention organisations.
3. To share knowledge, information and good practice relating to lived experience with national and international suicide prevention organisations
4. To promote lived experience involvement and support the establishment of lived experience networks/communities globally.

Main activities - 2018

- Formation of SIG: Lived Experience and development of Terms of Reference and Planned activity 2018/19.
- Recruitment of SIG members.
- Focus is on two taskforces:
 - Lived Experience Literature Review
 - Grassroots Lived Experience Activity audit.

Proposed activities – 2019/20

- Continuation of Taskforces & preparation for World Congress 2019. Once taskforce work is complete it will feed into future activities.
- Relationship development with other SIG's.

Challenges

- Our greatest challenge is connecting with existing SIG members. Teleconferences do not appear to be working for people, and we are trialling a shared communication space. Part of the issue is our success in recruiting people from a wide array of geographic locations, which makes establishing meeting times across multiple time zones problematic.

SIG: Risk, resilience and reasons for living

Chairs (number of members) Bruce Bongar, Maurizio Pompili & Maryke Van Zyl (18 members)

Objectives

1. To study warning signs of suicidal behavior and protective factors that may vary or remain consistent cross-culturally. This is also referred to as cultural risk and resilience.
2. To adapt various measures used for the assessment of suicide risk to different cultures.

Main activities - 2018

1. Facebook page has maintained steady traffic with 50 + followers.
2. SIG members are currently collecting data in the US, France and Belgium on risk, resilience and reasons for living among LGBTQ adults.
3. Membership of the SIG has increased and email listserv was created.
4. Established centralized membership database.

Proposed activities – 2019/20

- Conclude current study and distribute findings to IASP community.
- Attend IASP Congress in Derry and present research findings.
- Business meeting to be held during IASP Congress.

Challenges

- New members are interested in the SIG, but associated membership costs appears to be an issue.

SIG: Suicide and the workplace

Chairs (number of members)	Sally Spencer-Thomas, Allison Milner (51 members)
Objectives	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To expand scholarship exploring suicide and workplace issues;2. To develop model policies and protocols for workplaces to adapt;3. To share promising practices of suicide prevention programs and training;4. To develop a community of researchers and practitioners interested in workplace suicide prevention.	
Main activities - 2018	
Conferences and meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members presented at 27 international conferences, including presentations, workshops, keynote addresses, training facilitation (detailed list of all available on request).	
Scholarly outputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nine peer reviewed publications published by members (detailed list of all available on request).	
International collaborations and Other Publications: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Associate Professor Milner contributing to international grants in France, Denmark, and Sweden on workplace suicide prevention. This demonstrates growing scholarly interest in the topic.• Mittag, A. (2018). What every HR exec needs to know about suicide in the workplace. Retrieved on June 6, 2019 from https://lifespeak.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/07-12-2018-BenefitsPRO-Workplace-Suicide.pdf• Andrus, D. (2018, September 11) A risky business—Examining suicide in construction: Why do so many construction workers take their own lives? https://coloradobuildermag.com/business-management/insurance/a-risky-business-examining-suicide-in-construction/	
Programmatic and Social Media activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Guidelines for Workplace Suicide Prevention (USA) — Strength and Needs Assessment (additional detail available on request).• Construction Working Minds www.ConstructionWorkingMinds.org.• LifeSpeak (Canadian HQ) — series of workplace suicide prevention videos (additional detail available on request).• Office of Resources Revenue (Federal Agency in US), 20th February, Dallas, Texas. How to Have Critical Conversations about Suicide. On-going national training program on suicide prevention in the workplace. Spencer-Thomas, S., trainer.• Suicide Prevention Training Needs and Strengths Assessment: A Report for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (Submitted December 13, 2018). Spencer-Thomas, S., facilitator.• Working Minds Training: Suicide Prevention in the Workplace (trained over 200 trainers nationwide in 2018). https://www.coloradodepressioncenter.org/workingminds/• Maron, D., Field, J. & Spencer-Thomas, S. (2018). What can we do to help Veterans' mental health? Hire them. Article: https://www.sallyspencerthomas.com/dr-sally-speaks-blog/2018/10/8/what-can-we-do-to-help-veterans-mental-health-hire-them• #ElevateTheConvo Twitter Chats (facilitated by S. Spencer-Thomas) (additional detail available on request).• Hope Illuminated Podcast (facilitated by S. Spencer-Thomas) (additional detail available on request).	
Grants: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NHMRC Targeted Research: Evidence for suicide prevention in planning transitions from employment to retirement in older age populations (APP1150655). 2018-2019, \$233,914.00. CIs: Page A, Milner A, Spittal MJ, Pirkis J.• Victorian Government and Biomedical Research Victoria: Victorian Health and Medical Research Fellowship. 2017-2021, \$800,000. CIs: Milner A.	
Proposed activities – 2019/20	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Cultivate Workplace SIG participation in the IASP World Congress in Derry, 2019.2. Update our webpage: https://www.iasp.info/suicide_and_the_workplace.php — new links to research, policy and programs.3. Engaging our members by highlighting their work: -Through a biannual newsletter (through Mail Chimp -- would be free at our size of group) highlighting members' work and upcoming events and asking for resources to share that have international relevance, so we can learn from one another, using Twitter chats, podcasts, webinars and Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/741277529250744/.4. Developing community: Holding a conference call or other video conferencing chat (Zoom).5. Sharing Resources: Helping members share IASP resources with workplaces in their communities (e.g., how applying World Suicide Prevention Day to the workplace).	

Challenges

- Opportunities to grow awareness of the SIG through collaborations with INSERM, MCRI, and others? How to convert these into memberships?
- Distance is a problem – but this is true of all international collaborations I think.

Early Career Group (ECG)

Chairs (number of members) | Caroline Daly, Carl-Maria Mörch & Olivia Kirtley (44 members)

Objectives

1. Encourage and provide a platform for knowledge exchange between ECG members and experts in suicidology.
2. Encourage and develop collaboration and networking between members nationally and internationally.
3. Provide information to members on available career-related opportunities, including jobs, conferences and funding.
4. Actively participate at IASP and other conferences in the area of suicide prevention.
5. Connect group members with Special Interest Groups (SIGs) in their area of interest.

Main activities - 2018

1. January 23rd: The ECG hosted its first live Twitter Q&A, joined by Professor Ellen Townsend, in which the theme for discussion was “Research out of the box – Starting out in public engagement for suicide prevention”.
2. February-December: The ECG facilitated the matching of ECGs to SIGs.
3. May 2nd: ECG member Tess Cutler represented the ECG at the IASP Asia Pacific Conference in New Zealand.
4. May 16th: The ECG launched the second edition of its newsletter, Engage.
5. May 30th: The ECG hosted its second live Twitter Q&A, joined by Dr Jo Robinson, in which the theme for discussion was “Growing up in Cyberspace-Suicide Prevention for Young People”.
6. August: The ECG got approval for two task forces, entitled: “Study of mental health and wellbeing among early career researchers” and “Incorporation of Registered Reports into Crisis”.
7. August 23rd: The ECG Hosted a group Skype call open to all Members and Associates, to discuss its progress.
8. September 5th-8th: The ECG had a presence at the ESSSB17 conference, with a stand and leaflets at the event.
9. September 6th: The ECG hosted an informal gathering at the ESSSB17, with reflections available at: <https://iasp.info/iasp-ecg/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/ESSSB17-ECG-Reflections.pdf>.
10. September 10th: The ECG hosted its WSPD 2018 Twitter event, discussing “Challenges to the emotional health of researchers and approaches to address these”.
11. October 24th: The ECGs began recruiting for its two approved Task Forces.
12. November 22nd: The ECG Chairs has an editorial (<https://econtent.hogrefe.com/doi/pdf/10.1027/0227-5910/a000575>) published in Crisis.
13. December 19th: The ECG launched the third edition of its newsletter, Engage.
14. December 31st: The ECG moved its Twitter account from @IASP_ECG to @IASPinfo.
15. January 2019: The ECG recognised two TF: The Emotional Health and Wellbeing of ECRs working in Suicide Research, and The Inclusion of Registered Reports in Journals of Suicide Research.
16. April 9th 2019: The ECG hosted #ElevatetheConvo Twitter chat “From Research to Practice: International Perspectives from Early Career Suicidologists”
17. May 2019: Ethics submission sent and survey items finalised for the TF on The Emotional Health and Wellbeing of ECRs working in Suicide Research.
18. June 13th 2019: Held a meeting for the TF on Registered Reports and began devising the submission for the Crisis Board.

Proposed activities – 2019/20

1. Submission of a proposal to the Crisis Board due for September 2019.
2. We have submitted a proposal to host three events at the 2019 IASP Congress in Derry. Proposed events include: hosting the Lunch with Experts event, hosting an ECR presentation and arranging a social gathering.
3. Following completion of our TF on RR we plan to start a TF on Open Science.
4. We also aspire to advance our website, to provide members and associates with certificates and to promote the ECG at as many events as possible.
5. We will continue to have regular Skype calls with Chairs to coordinate our activities.
- 6: Recruit a new co-Chair to replace Carl.

Challenges

- Membership fees are perhaps a barrier to joining this group. We will endeavour to address this in collaboration with the IASP CAO and Board.

IASP Special Interest Groups (SIGs)
Annual Report 2019

Rory O' Connor, IASP 2nd Vice President
Caroline Daly, Research Officer, IASP Central Administration Office
July 2019