



IASP Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

Annual Report 2020



**International Association
for Suicide Prevention**

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OVERVIEW

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

GENERAL ACTIVITIES

- SIGs recruited new co-chairs and members.

PUBLICATIONS, CONFERENCES, AND SURVEYS

- Delivery of and participation in symposia, workshops, and presentations at national and international conferences and meetings.
- Submission of peer reviewed articles, systematic reviews, and editorials in multidisciplinary journals, with particular attention to the COVID-19 context.
- Lived experience SIG developed survey to better understand the impact of COVID-19 on people with a lived experience of suicide. Nomenclature SIG published its initial survey results, the risk resilience and reasons for living have also concluded their survey.
- The ECG Task Force on Registered Reports implemented Registered Reports at Crisis, making Crisis the first specialist suicide research journal to take this important step towards greater transparency.

COMMUNICATION AND CAMPAIGNS

- SIGs maintained social media and communication activities.
- The Helplines SIG released the first of an ongoing Newsletter series.
- Continued emphasis on mental health and wellbeing, e.g., the IASP ECG Task Force on ECR mental health and wellbeing including WSPD hackathon on the topic of ECR wellbeing during COVID-19, and media SIG worked with national and international partners to raise awareness of mental health and mental wellness on the “How are you?” online campaign.

GUIDELINES AND CONSULTING ORGANISATIONS AND COUNTRIES

- Provision of evidence-informed advice and support on national suicide prevention strategy development, implementation and guidance to NGOs and governments.
- Supporting communities, regions, and countries to develop, implement and evaluate suicide prevention programmes, taking into account the context and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Contributed to World Health Organization implementation guide for suicide prevention in countries (*‘Live Life’*, published in 2021)
- Boys and men SIG Supported the Movember Foundation IASP workshop.
- Media SIG worked in partnership with Cisco to develop a tool for journalists to check their work against the best practices for reporting on suicide safely. Tool is free to any journalist with no information stored; embed code is available for any organization that will match their website.

- Worked with national media organizations to develop a new Entertainment Resource Guide for artists, producers, directors, writers in the entertainment industry.
- Wrote and disseminated best practice recommendations for reporting on suicide safely during a pandemic.
- Finished White Paper for technology industry on live-stream platforms and suicide prevention.
- Worked on specific IASP media guidelines for the reporting on suicide during the pandemic.

2021 ACTIVITIES

- Planning and delivery of pre-conference workshops, symposia and oral/poster presentations for the upcoming IASP Congress in Australia, 2021 and other national and international conferences.
- 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

- COVID-19 was a particular challenge experienced this year including difficulties managing additional workloads, cancelled conferences/workshops, working from home, and caring responsibilities.
- Engaging and recruiting members in general is also a challenge.

DEVELOPMENT OF EFFECTIVE NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION STRATEGY AND PRACTICE

CHAIRS

Professor Steve Platt

Professor Mohsen Rezaeian

AIMS/PURPOSE

To support the development, implementation, and evaluation of national suicide prevention strategies, particularly in low- and middle-income countries (LaMICs).

OBJECTIVES

- Establish an active forum of international experts who will support the development of effective suicide prevention strategy and practice in countries (especially LaMICs) where, historically, there has been little or no suicide prevention activity.
- To supplement WHO MiNDbank, 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.
- Support the WHO in the development of guidance for establishing, implementing, and evaluating suicide prevention in different country contexts.
- In collaboration with the WHO, governments, international and national NGOs, support and mentor communities, regions and countries to develop, implement and evaluate suicide prevention programmes (strategic and operational elements).

ACTIVITIES DURING 2020

The main SIG development during 2020 was the launch of a new initiative to establish regionally designated suicide prevention networks. The aims of this initiative are: to share experience in, and/or knowledge and learning about, suicide prevention strategies between countries within each region; to support the development of a strategic, cross-sectoral and evidence-informed approach to suicide prevention in countries within each region; to support collaboration, coordination and mutual support with respect to the development, implementation and evaluation of suicide prevention strategies between countries within each region and between regions; to promote learning and provide mentorship between countries with established suicide prevention strategies and countries which are at an earlier stage of suicide prevention strategy development; and to raise global awareness about the importance and potential positive impact of a comprehensive, national strategic approach to suicide prevention. Each regional network is coordinated by a member of the SIG. A Steering Group, comprising the regional network coordinators, IASP Executive Director, IASP International Advisor and SIG co-chairs, has been established to take responsibility for the successful

implementation of the initiative, guide and oversee the delivery of the work programme in each region, and provide mutual support to meet ongoing challenges and barriers to progress.

Mainstream activities continued throughout the year, although at a reduced scale due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, including:

- Contribution to World Health Organization implementation guide for suicide prevention in countries (*'Live Life'*, published in 2021)
- Supporting communities, regions, and countries to develop, implement and evaluate suicide prevention programmes, taking into account the context and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Authorship of research and evaluation publications on suicidal behaviour and suicide prevention, globally and in relation to specific countries, with particular attention to the COVID-19 context.

Highlights of activity in 2020 from SIG members include:

Fabrice Jollant (France) reports implementation of the Paris unit of the Vigilans national surveillance programme for the prevention of suicide attempt recurrence. Patients who have attempted suicide are registered in this programme and called by a specialised team over the following six months. He also reports implementation of a suicide prevention programme for the police of Paris and suburbs. The programme includes risk assessment training for physicians, psychologists and social workers; psychiatric outpatient consultation for police staff; development of a postvention team; and awareness programme for superintendents / captains.

Jerry Reid and Richard McKeon (USA) highlight the release of a [Call to Action](#) by the US Surgeon General and the co-chairs of the US National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention, focusing attention on key parts of the US national strategy for suicide prevention (released in 2012) where action is most warranted (<https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/sprc-call-to-action.pdf>). Jerry also draws attention to the US National Response [Action Plan](#) which, while developed in the context of COVID-19, works to advance aspects of the National Strategy (https://nationalmentalhealthresponse.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/national_response_action_plan_201123.pdf). This document is intended to capture the moment of opportunity to ensure mitigation of the mental health risks associated with COVID-19, just as has been attempted in respect of the physical health risks.

Alys Cole-King (UK) reports that *4 Mental Health*, an organisation that delivers programmes to meet the mental health training needs of a broad spectrum of sectors (<https://www.4mentalhealth.com/>), has collaborated with the Irish National Office for Suicide Prevention and the Irish College of General Practitioners to deliver training across Ireland. A combination of several Train the Trainer events, large face to face conference style training and remote webinar training conferences have ensured a broad coverage. The Connecting with People training has been accessed by GPs, trainee psychiatrists and specialist nurses across Ireland. In Australia, South Australia (SA), Tasmania, New South Wales (NSW) and the Australian Capital

Territory (ACT), under the leadership of their respective Departments of Health, have taken a strategic whole-of-Government approach to suicide mitigation. Train the Trainer Programmes ensure they deliver training across different professional groups, with an emphasis on compassion, suicide and self-harm mitigation and safety planning. *4 Mental Health* has also delivered training to professional staff groups in several large NHS Trusts.

Thomas Niederkrotenthaler (Austria) is a member of the expert committee informing the implementation of the Austrian National Suicide Prevention Plan (SUPRA <https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Gesundheit/Nicht-uebertragbare-Krankheiten/Psychische-Gesundheit/Suizid-und-Suizidpr%C3%A4vention-SUPRA.html>). SUPRA, established in 2012, is a multilevel national suicide prevention programme; its main objectives are to ensure support for risk groups, to restrict access to means of suicide, to raise awareness and develop media support for suicide prevention, to integrate suicide prevention programmes into other health promotion activities, and to support research on suicide. Thomas has been particularly involved in the promotion of responsible media reporting, preventive media effects and means restriction, and the development of new legislation on assisted suicide.

Lakshmi Vijayakumar (India) was invited by the World Health Organization (WHO) South East Asia Regional Office (SEARO) to develop a media guideline on reporting of suicide during the COVID-19 pandemic. Lakshmi enlisted the help of the Centre for Mental Health Law and Policy in Pune for this project. Twenty-five participants (mental health and public health professionals, representative WHO country officers, policy makers and media personnel) from eight countries participated. The final report will be published by WHO SEARO in due course. Lakshmi also contributed significantly to the development of a first national strategy for suicide prevention in India which was presented to the Honourable Minister for Health and Family Welfare in April 2021. The national strategy awaits publication.

Jane Pirkis (Australia) was a member of the Expert Advisory Group to the Prime Minister's Suicide Prevention Adviser (appointed by the National Suicide Prevention Task Force) in 2020, as was Helen Christensen. Jane reports that the Prime Minister's Adviser has since delivered her final report (<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/national-suicide-prevention-adviser-final-advice>). \$12.8 million was committed in the 2021 Federal Budget to set up a National Suicide Prevention Office. The Office will help address funding allocations, reduce duplication, support the even spread of services, enable continuity of care and increase accountability across all areas of government, not just health.

Bronwen Edwards (Australia) adds that approximately 3000 people with lived experience of suicide were engaged by the National Suicide Prevention Task Force to inform the recommendations. As a result, lived experience of suicide has been recognised as a critical component of all suicide prevention system reform initiatives in the country. "The report *Compassion First* (<https://www.mentalhealthcommission.gov.au/getmedia/a94121af-3f1b-4ea7-9879-977ad04f5cbb/Compassion->

[First](#)) sets the scene for the full integration of lived experience in all Australia does moving forward – it is beyond exciting.”

Annette Erlangsen (Denmark), noting the absence of a Danish national action plan for suicide prevention, reports that the government is writing up a new agenda for the care of people with mental disorders. Annette is sceptical that plans to include some funds for suicide prevention will be realised. The Danish Research Institute for Suicide Prevention is trying to mobilise interest from the political parties which support the government to put suicide prevention on the political agenda, and to publicise the issue in the public media. The Nordic Council has issued a recommendation that the Nordic countries should work for a 25% reduction in the numbers of suicide death by 2025 with or without COVID-19.”

Raphael Ogbolu (Nigeria) reports on the activities of the Suicide Research and Prevention Initiative (SURPIN) in Nigeria. SURPIN partnered with the University of Lagos on an awareness campaign for new entrants as part of the university’s orientation programme. SURPIN organised a 30-day challenge on Twitter and Instagram in May, aimed at promoting resilience and mental well-being in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Members of the public were invited to participate in one daily activity that would promote mental wellbeing, and post evidence of this on social media. SURPIN also promoted mental health awareness through the circulation of educational fliers on the possible mental health impact of the pandemic. In September, SURPIN held its national conference to mark World Suicide Prevention day, with the theme *‘Together towards collaborative resilience’*. SURPIN organised an Enlightenment Video/Drama Contest which was intended to get Nigerians tell the story of suicide and the factors contributing to it in their own creative way, that would also serve to educate the general population.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 2021

Key tasks relating to the Regional Suicide Prevention Networks initiative, to be completed in 2021-22, include:

- undertaking a situational analysis in each country, covering: epidemiology of suicidal behaviour, stage of development of suicide prevention strategy and action, and the social, political and cultural context
- identification of key contacts in countries within each region, prioritising LMICs without a suicide prevention strategy
- establishment of good working relationship and mutual understanding between the regional coordinator and key country contacts
- acquisition of resources
- supporting the establishment/maintenance of national teams and collaborative activity under the leadership of the key contact in each country
- administration of a global survey, with a view to updating knowledge about the activities, gaps and potential for suicide prevention and development/maintenance of a national strategy in each country.

- Organisation of workshop on national suicide prevention programmes at the 31st IASP World Congress, Gold Coast, Australia (September 2021)

Regular activities that are expected to continue during 2021 (pandemic permitting) include:

- Organisation of, and participation in, symposia, seminars, workshops and oral and poster sessions at the 31st World Congress in Australia and other conferences
- Authorship and editorship of bulletins, newsletters, reports, journal articles, book chapters and books
- Editorship of, and refereeing for, international journals on suicide prevention
- 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
- Provision of evidence-informed advice and support on national suicide prevention strategy development, implementation and guidance to NGOs and governments
- Involvement in international research collaborations.

CHALLENGES

The main challenge faced by the SIG in 2020 was the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on members' regular activities.

HELPLINES BEST PRACTICES

CHAIRS

Dr. Gillian Murphy

Dr. Elizabeth Scowcroft

AIMS/PURPOSE

The purpose of the SIG is to promote and share emerging research findings on the effectiveness and impact of helplines.

OBJECTIVES

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.

ACTIVITIES DURING 2020

- Former SIG Co-Chairs, Drs. John Draper and Alan Woodward identified and recruited two new Co-Chairs: Drs. Gillian Murphy (of Lifeline U.S.A.) and Elizabeth (Liz) Scowcroft (of Samaritans U.K.). In addition, Alena Goldstein (of Lifeline U.S.A.) was recruited as SIG Coordinator to assist with membership maintenance and other activities.
- In 2020, the SIG Co-chairs held meetings to revision information sharing across the SIG. In March, 2021, the SIG released the first of an ongoing Newsletter series. The purpose of the newsletter is to share announcements, spotlight new research and program updates across helplines.
- The SIG submitted three symposia to the IASP's World Congress, including submissions from members originating in a diversity of countries. Two of the symposia focused on helpline insights from COVID-19.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 2021

- The SIG will continue to collate research and programmatic updates and opportunities from SIG members to be shared via the newsletter and potentially other online platforms.

CHALLENGES

- Upon the release of the SIG's first e-mail newsletter, we found that a number of e-mails to members bounced, or were undelivered. We were able to identify errors when possible, and/or obtain the correct information from the members' organizations directly. However, some contacts could not be recovered.
- We suspect that COVID-19 related challenges may have limited members' ability to engage with the SIG over the past year. In addition, it may take time to build momentum and reach optimum engagement with a new online platform.

LIVED EXPERIENCE

CHAIRS

Bronwen Edwards
Dr Karolina Kryszynska

AIMS/PURPOSE

To enhance the involvement of people with lived experience of suicidal behaviour in the organisation at both strategic and operational levels.

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.

ACTIVITIES DURING 2020

List of activities proposed last year:

The SIG Lived Experience Facebook page has been set up and members invited. We hope that this will provide people with an easy way to stay connected.

In May 2021 Chris Caulkins stepped away from the role of co-chair and Dr Karolina Kryszynska took up the position.

- We have requested people contribute to a document about the perceived or actual if data exists at this stage of the impact of COVID-19 on people with a LE of suicide.
- Work will commence with SIG: Workplaces re Developing Guidelines for Lived Experience of Suicide in the Workplace
- Connect with all other SIG Chairs to enquire about how the SIG: LE could integrate with their work, either through individual SIG: LE members contributing or as a SIG on the whole.
- We will continue to encourage engagement and contribution to the growing compilation of LE activity and research through the Taskforces.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 2021

In the 2021/22 financial year we aim to address Objective 1. To develop and implement a strategic approach to the involvement of people with lived experience in IASP activities.

We plan to:

- Develop and circulate a survey to all SIG Chairs to disseminate to their members requesting input as to their appetite for LE engagement and ideas as to how they would feel this could be achieved for them.
- Establish a mechanism through which IASP and individual SIGs can request input from the SIG Lived Experience members and engage the SIG in various suicide prevention initiatives, activities and research projects.

CHALLENGES

We continue to struggle to engage SIG members outside of face to face meetings at IASP conferences. We have established a shared document site, set up two foundational projects requiring contribution from individual members of the work occurring in their country, set up a facebook page and endeavor to engage members through email correspondence. Previous attempts at phone/ zoom meetings were unsuccessful due to time zone challenges. The only engagement to date is from Australian based members.

NOMENCLATURE

CHAIRS

Professor Diego de Leo
Dr Morton Silverman

AIMS/PURPOSE

The aim of this IASP SIG is to move towards an international standardization of terminologies that may render research more comparable across the globe, economize investment efforts, and favour meta-analytical evaluation.

OBJECTIVES

- To increase attention on nomenclatures in the area of suicide through the international distribution of a survey on use and attitudes towards current terminologies.
- To produce high-level publications in the area, inclusive of volumes, booklets and articles, in addition to all other forms of diffusion (e.g., conferences, media, etc.)

ACTIVITIES DURING 2020

List of activities proposed last year:

- We hope for an increased collaboration among scholars belonging to this group. All IASP members interested in this topic are welcome to join the SIG.
- The topic is historically difficult: cultural barriers and consolidated habits have hindered all previous efforts in this direction.
- However, we have now an initial survey results published and it is our hope that the study may become larger and establish the bases for a much wider survey in the future.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 2021

Unfortunately, the pandemic has decreased remarkably the opportunities for personal meetings during 2021. Even the next IASP conference will be hybrid and contacts will continue to be via email only. We hope for an improvement of the general vaccination process.

CHALLENGES

Apart from the pandemic, we need to draft a new project involving the biggest possible number of interested parties. This would be done in consultation between co-chairs and members of the SIG.

SUICIDE PREVENTION FOR BOYS AND MEN

CHAIRS

Dr Kylie King
Dr Zac Seidler

AIMS/PURPOSE

Men account for three-quarters of deaths by suicide in many countries. A gendered approach to suicide prevention is needed that considers the sociocultural context of suicide by men and boys. However, few suicide prevention interventions do so, and this work is hampered by a lack of knowledge regarding the key ingredients needed for successful suicide prevention for boys and men. This SIG will bring together researchers, practitioners and people with lived experience who have a common interest and expertise in suicide prevention for boys and men with the goal of expanding the evidence base and informing future suicide prevention efforts.

OBJECTIVES

1. To expand scholarship related to suicide prevention for boys and men.
2. To develop a community of researchers, practitioners, and people with lived experience who have a common interest and expertise in suicide prevention for boys and men.
3. To support students and early career researchers who are working in suicide prevention for boys and men.
4. To disseminate knowledge regarding suicide prevention for boys and men to IASP members and the broader community.

ACTIVITIES DURING 2020

List of activities proposed last year:

- Foundation and development of SIG.
 - Recruitment of members to the SIG.
- Collaborative creation of further SIG objectives and activities with SIG members.
- Support of Movember Foundation IASP workshop in 2021.
- Production of review article regarding the outcomes of interventions aimed at suicide prevention for boys and men via a focus on masculinity.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 2021

List of activities proposed this year:

- First meeting of SIG (online), second meeting of SIG (face-to-face) at IASP conference.
- Creation of quarterly online 'International Seminar Series on Suicide in Boys and Men'

- Gauging interest from international audience
- Recruitment of expert presenters for first seminar
- Discussion of key interest areas for future events (ATSI men; sexual minority men etc)
- Ongoing support of Movember breakout day workshop at IASP 2021 conference.
- Build a network of current PhD students working in the space for sharing of findings and future collaboration.
- Production of further research articles and book chapters with SIG member collaborators aimed at guiding research in the field.

SUICIDE PREVENTION IN PRIMARY CARE

CHAIRS

Dr Maria Michail
Dr Faraz Mughal
Dr Pooja Saini
Dr Hayley Gorton
Professor Jo Robinson

AIMS/PURPOSE

Primary care has a vital role to play in a system wide approach to suicide prevention. Primary care settings, such as general practice and community pharmacy, are important in identifying, communicating with, and supporting people who self-harm and might be at-risk of suicide. Enhanced and integrated primary care and community mental health services provide the platform for coordinated, inclusive and personalised care for those at-risk of suicide.

This special interest group (SIG) will provide the platform for bringing together a cross-disciplinary group of researchers, clinicians, people with lived experience, commissioners, and policymakers to identify opportunities for optimising the role of primary care and community-based services in suicide prevention.

OBJECTIVES

1. Develop an international, cross-disciplinary network of researchers, clinicians, people with lived experience, commissioners and policymakers dedicated to the study and prevention of suicide in primary care.
2. Work in collaboration with our network members to identify research priorities that will inform the work of this SIG, informed by patient and public input.
3. Facilitate international collaborative grant applications (e.g., Global Challenges Research Fund) to progress international comparative research, prevention, and policy in this area.
4. Use research resulting from the SIG to facilitate impact in policy and practice at a national and international scale.
5. Disseminate (e.g., conferences, online workshops, webinars, peer-reviewed publications) the work of the SIG in order to raise awareness of the key role of primary care in the prevention of suicide.
6. Act as an expert reference group for individuals and organisations seeking information in relation to suicide prevention in primary care.

ACTIVITIES DURING 2020

List of activities proposed last year:

- Set up an inaugural SIG meeting to take place at the upcoming European Suicide and Suicidal Behaviour conference in Rome, September 2020 – this was delayed due to Covid-19
- Editorial introducing the SIG is in press in Crisis journal - due July 2021

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 2021

Current and proposed activities for 2021

- Launch SIG at the IASP Gold Coast Annual Symposium 2021
- Set up first meeting with SIG members in October 2021
- Promote the SIG through national and international primary care research networks (The Society for Academic Primary Care and European General Practice Research Network)

CHALLENGES

Recruiting membership to the SIG is operationally challenging as there is no online platform to collate members' details. It would be helpful if IASP could create a sign-up electronic form, which includes the correct consent and permissions to allow us to contact members directly.

RISK, RESILIENCE AND REASONS FOR LIVING

CHAIRS

Professor Bruce Bongar
Professor Maurizio Pompili
Dr Maryke van Zyl

AIMS/PURPOSE

To bring together an international group of researchers who will adapt suicide risk assessment measures to different cultural communities while collaboratively sharing information with one another.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this SIG are 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. This SIG will adapt various measures used for the assessment of suicide risk to different cultures.

ACTIVITIES DURING 2020

List of activities proposed last year:

- Conclude current study and distribute findings to IASP community.
- Business meeting will be held over Zoom.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 2021

Plan to elect a new co-chair since Professor Maurizio Pompili will be stepping down. We will be inviting applications for a social media correspondent in order to keep our members connected and updated. We also plan to have our annual meeting during the summer of 2022.

CHALLENGES

It has been difficult to progress work in the area due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

SUICIDE AND SELF-HARM IN MIDDLE-AGED ADULTS

CHAIRS

Professor Ping Qin
Professor Paul Yip
Professor David Gunnell

AIMS/PURPOSE

Suicide is among the leading causes of death in middle-aged adults worldwide, and suicide rate in the middle-aged adults is the highest among suicide age-specific rates in many countries. However, suicide research, as well as prevention priority, focusing on this age group has been insufficient when compared with the efforts invested to the other age groups. This SIG aims to enhance our understanding of suicide and self-harm in middle adulthood as important health and social problems, and to support research and network between researchers dedicated to the study and prevention of suicide and self-harm in this age group of population.

OBJECTIVES

- To provide a platform for exchange of knowledge regarding suicide and self-harm in adults of middle age.
- To facilitate and develop international research collaboration and networking in this topic area.
- To provide statistic overview and conduct systematic reviews.
- To organize symposia on suicide in middle-aged adults at international conferences.
- To support and coordinate other SIGs for their initiatives relevant to middle-aged population.

ACTIVITIES DURING 2020

- Writing up a systematic review and meta-analysis of research on suicide in the middle-aged.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 2021

- To continue the work on review articles about suicide in middle-aged adults.
- To continue the recruitment of SIG members.
- To review of SIG progress and activities and to develop research collaboration and networking in this area.

SUICIDE AND THE MEDIA

CHAIRS

Professor Thomas Niederkrotenthaler

Dr. Daniel Reidenberg

AIMS/PURPOSE

Media-related suicide contagion sometimes referred to as "Werther effect" or copycat behaviour, is a significant public health problem. In recent years, most countries which have developed national suicide prevention strategies have included the development of guidelines that have attempted to promote accurate, responsible and ethical reporting of suicide in the media. These guidelines have arisen from a substantial body of evidence that suggests that incautious media reporting and portrayal of suicide has the potential to encourage imitative behaviour among vulnerable individuals. They are designed to promote responsible reporting of suicide, but have sometimes been misinterpreted by media professionals as promoting censorship. Such misunderstandings about these media guidelines have led to reluctance among many journalists to adopt them. There is a need for improved collaboration with media professionals to reach a consensus on this issue. The IASP Suicide and the Media Task Force is taking up this challenge.

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.

ACTIVITIES DURING 2020

Activities undertaken in 2020:

1. Worked in partnership with Cisco to develop a tool for journalists to check their work against the best practices for reporting on suicide safely. Tool is free to any journalist with no information stored; embed code is available for any organization that will match their website.
2. Worked with national media organizations to develop a new Entertainment Resource Guide for artists, producers, directors, writers in the entertainment industry.
3. Worked with national and international partners to raise awareness of mental health and mental wellness on the “How are you?” online campaign.
4. Wrote and disseminated best practice recommendations for reporting on suicide safely during a pandemic.
5. Published articles on 13 Reasons Why and (Thomas to include publications).
6. Continued international, universal message development project.
7. Finished White Paper for technology industry on live-stream platforms and suicide prevention.
8. Conducted media trainings throughout the US. Helped US national public television develop a documentary on finding solutions to suicide prevention (to film in 2021 and air in 2022).
9. Worked on specific IASP media guidelines for the reporting on suicide during the pandemic
10. Submitted three SIG symposia proposals for IASP 2021.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 2021

Current and proposed activities for 2021

1. Develop focus group procedure, finalize message map and research project for universal message development project. Conduct focus groups in fall, 2021.
2. Work with technology companies on suicide and self-harm content.
3. Work with technology companies on online games/challenges to develop best practice response plans and general public information for parents, youth, educators and professionals.
4. Continue dissemination and networking activities at world and regional conferences.

CHALLENGES

1. 2020 was a challenging year due to the pandemic which limited everyone’s ability to do their normal work. This limited our SIG as well relative to presentations, panels and symposia that were scheduled in 2020 and in 2021.

SUICIDE AND THE WORKPLACE

CHAIRS

Dr Sally Spencer-Thomas
Carmen Betteridge
Rex Uche Ndubisi-Nwankwo

AIMS/PURPOSE

To develop policy, protocols, and programs to address suicide in the workplace

OBJECTIVES

- 1) To expand scholarship exploring suicide and workplace issues;
 - 28 professional conference and meeting presentations in five countries reported
 - 9 peer-reviewed journal articles reported.
 - Over \$1M (Australian) in grant funding secured
- 2) To develop model policies and protocols for workplaces to adapt;
 - New efforts in the US for National Guidelines for Workplace Suicide Prevention underway (a partnership among the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention, and United Suicide Survivors International)
- 3) To share promising practices of suicide prevention programs and training;
 - New Construction Suicide Prevention efforts in the US: Construction Working Minds www.ConstructionWorkingMinds.org and the Construction Industry Alliance for Suicide Prevention preventconstructionsuicide.com
- 4) To develop a community of researchers and practitioners interested in workplace suicide prevention.
 - Podcasts, webinars and blogs emerging highlighting workplace suicide prevention efforts.

ACTIVITIES DURING 2020

- Developing Guidelines for Lived Experience of Suicide in the Workplace
 - Meetings between SIG members have occurred between Carmen and Bronwen Edwards (LE SIG)
 - Confirmed mutual interest in establishing/developing a benchmark/framework against which suicide prevention is integrated into workplaces, with the specific inclusion of lived experience

- Carmen also met with Simon Pont, Suicide Prevention Australia, referencing IASPs interests and SPA noted that they are also developing a framework, including undertaking a literature review and evaluating models
- We confirmed that we are all interested in working together to achieve these outcomes
- Initial survey too the Workplace SIG membership
- Rex Uche Ndubisi-Nwankwo has detailed suicide prevention campaigns undertaken in Nigeria in 2020
- Australia National Leadership in Suicide Prevention Research is investing effort in understanding the impacts of Covid-19 in the workplace, whereby this is being monitored nationally here - <https://lifeinmind.org.au/research/australian-covid-19-suicide-research>
- Workplace SIG will assist in consolidate data gathering from other international organizations on the question of Covid-19's impact on the workplace

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 2021

In this 2021, Rex UNN with NALDEF -Nwankwo Akubuiro Leadership & development Foundation are working in Suicide Prevention Research is investing effort in understanding the impacts of Covid-19 in the workplace, to be monitored internally in Nigeria.

CHALLENGES

1. Global best practice Models for SIG workplace
2. Funding for Suicide Research for middle Level and early starter in suicide work
3. Travel restriction to IASP Event centres due to Covid-19
4. The Virtual IASP programmes not more often

SUICIDE BEREAVEMENT AND POSTVENTION

CHAIRS

Dr Vita Postuvan
Dr Diana Sands
Professor William Feigelman

AIMS/PURPOSE

The aim of this Special Interest Group is to promote collaboration and evidence in research and practice in the fields of suicide exposure and bereavement and postvention services.

OBJECTIVES

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.

ACTIVITIES DURING 2020

List of activities proposed last year:

- Consider nomenclature standardisation for suicide exposure, bereavement, postvention in line with Silverman et al., 2007 → Myfanwy Maple would be the one to evaluate this task
- Plans for SiG website information – stalled – but continue to be a priority

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 2021

To reengage the SIG members and to prepare the new workplan

CHALLENGES

Change of management

EARLY CAREER GROUP

MEMBERS

CHAIRS

Dr Caroline Daly
Dr Olivia Kirtley
Dr Tiago Zortea

AIMS/PURPOSE

This Early Career Group (ECG) provides a forum where group members can network with peers and experts alike, engaging in international research and interventions in the area of suicide prevention. Furthermore, the ECG community will contribute to the sustainability and effectiveness of suicide prevention strategy and action in the future.

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.

ACTIVITIES DURING 2020

- Made efforts to expand ECG membership base by circulating a revised membership proposal to the membership committee. This aims to allow for a more diverse programme of activities to be realised.
- The ECG Task Force on Registered Reports, led by ECG co-chair Olivia Kirtley, Tiago Zortea and Caroline Daly together with Crisis Editor-in-Chief Jane Pirkis implemented Registered Reports at Crisis, making Crisis the first specialist suicide research journal to take this important step towards greater transparency.
- Work continued on the IASP ECG Task Force on ECR mental health and wellbeing, led by Nicole Hill and Eleanor Bailey.
- Collaborated with Nicole Hill and Jo Robinson to organise the provision of ECR activities at the IASP World Congress 2021.
- Host a WSPD hackathon on the topic of ECR wellbeing during COVID-19.
- Maintained our social media and communication activities.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 2021

- Expand on current ECG membership, to allow for a greater range of activities to be undertaken and achieved.
- Coordinate a mentor/mentee programme between ECG Associates and IASP members.
- Produce a range of resources for ECRs based on the outputs of the 2020 hackathon, which explored ECR wellbeing during COVID-19.
- Produce a review paper detailing the research pertaining to wellbeing of ECRs engaged in suicide research, during COVID-19.
- Organise an informal zoom get together with ECG members to check in on the group's activities.

CHALLENGES

- The greatest challenge remains cost barrier attached to ECG Associate membership. However, a revised membership proposal has been sent to the membership committee for follow-up.
- Member engagement can sometimes be low. To address this, we plan to have an informal zoom chat to encourage participation and a sense of community.