



IASP Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

Annual Report 2019



**International Association
for Suicide Prevention**

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OVERVIEW

SIG Highlights in 2019

A survey of the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) was conducted June 2020. A structured template was sent to all Co-Chairs, to collect information relating to rationale, objectives, main activities during 2019, proposed activities during 2020, and current challenges. Text on activities during 2019, additional information needing to be uploaded 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 and the ECG.

Activities for 2019 included:

- Delivery of and participation in symposia, workshops, and presentations at national and international conferences and meetings.
- Submission of peer reviewed articles, meta-analyses, and systematic reviews in multidisciplinary journals.
- Authorship of book chapters and contributions to IASP newsletters, bulletins, and reports.
- Several Task Forces (TF) focused on projects under SIGs.
- 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 organisations 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, developing internship opportunities, and supervising students working in the area of suicide prevention.
- The development and circulation of IASP-led briefing documents in response to the 'Momo Challenge' and 'A Star is Born'.
- Launching of National Guidelines for Workplace Suicide Prevention in USA and developing resources for Construction Suicide Prevention.
- Collation of a survey sent to SIG members on workplace suicide prevention activities and impact of COVID-19 pandemic.
- Development of COVID-19 related workplace suicide prevention programmes/services including the Global Workplace Peer Support Network.
- Hosting of public engagement outreach, hosting podcasts, and making use of social media platforms.

- The ongoing recruitment of new SIG and TF members.

Future activities for 2020/2021 include:

- Planning and delivery of pre-conference workshops, symposia, and oral/poster presentations for the upcoming IASP Congress in Australia, 2020 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 to SIG have been shared and include the below:

- 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.

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



DEDICATED IN LOVING MEMORY TO DR. ALLISON MILNER

1983-2019

We would like to recognise all the contributions that our friend and colleague, Dr. Allison Milner, made to suicide prevention particularly as Co-Chair of the Workplace SIG.

“Over her short academic career, Allison did more to establish the link between working conditions and suicidality than any other single author worldwide.” The Medical Journal of Australia.

<https://insightplus.mja.com.au/2019/42/a-tribute-to-allison-milner-brilliant-colleague-loving-mum/>

DEVELOPMENT OF EFFECTIVE NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION STRATEGY AND PRACTICE (37 MEMBERS)

Name of SIG:	<i>Development of effective national suicide prevention strategy and practice (37 members)</i>
Co- Chairs	<i>Steve Platt, Mohsen Rezaeian</i>
Aims/Purpose	<i>To support the development, implementation, and evaluation of national suicide prevention strategies, particularly in low- and middle-income countries (LaMICs).</i>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>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.</i> • <i>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.</i> • <i>Support the WHO in the development of guidance for establishing, implementing, and evaluating suicide prevention in different country contexts.</i> • <i>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).</i>
Activities during 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>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.</i> • <i>Following discussion at the SIG business meeting at the World Congress in Derry / Londonderry (September), there is likely to be some restructuring of the SIG in order to promote greater participation and involvement among members.</i> • <i>A pre-Congress workshop and symposium are planned at the World Congress.</i>

**Proposed
activities 2020**

- *Identify and invite colleagues (especially in LaMICs) to become active members of the SIG and contribute to the fulfilment of its objectives.*
- *Establish suicide prevention networks within each WHO region.*
- *Continue to work on the development of an online resource library.*
- *Continue to work actively with the WHO in developing guidance for establishing, implementing, and evaluating suicide prevention, especially in countries without established programmes.*
- *Continue to offer support to communities, regions, and countries to develop, implement and evaluate suicide prevention programmes, taking into account the context and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.*
- *Organise workshops/symposia on national suicide prevention programmes at the 31st IASP World Congress, Gold Coast, Australia (September 2021) and at other international conferences.*
- *Co-author publications on suicide prevention, globally and in relation to specific countries, with particular attention to the COVID-19 context.*

THE GENETICS AND NEUROBIOLOGY OF SUICIDE (20 members)

Name of SIG:	<i>The Genetics and Neurobiology of Suicide (20 members)</i>
Chairs	<i>Dr. Dan Rujescu (Germany)</i>
Aims/Purpose	<i>To provide a forum where scientists interested in genetics of suicidal behaviour can easily get in contact with each other, can cooperate and stimulate the whole field with new studies and results.</i>
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. To promote studies of genetic aspects of suicide ideation and behaviour among suicidologists.</i> <i>2. To promote genetic studies of suicide ideation and behaviour among behavioural geneticists.</i>
Activities during 2019	<p><i>Submitted two symposia to the ESSSB 20 in Rome.</i></p> <p><i>Conference postponed to 2021.</i></p>

SUICIDE AND SELF-HARM IN MIDDLE-AGED ADULTS (18 members)

Name of SIG:	<i>SIG: Suicide and self-harm in middle-aged adults (18 members)</i>
Chairs	<i>Ping Qin, Paul Yip & David Gunnell</i>
Aims/Purpose	<i>Suicide is among the leading causes of death in middle-age 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.</i>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>To provide a platform for exchange of knowledge regarding suicide and self-harm in adults of middle ages.</i> • <i>To facilitate and develop international research collaboration and networking in this topic area.</i> • <i>To provide statistic overview and conduct systematic reviews.</i> • <i>To organize symposia on suicide in middle-aged adults at international conferences.</i> • <i>To support and coordinate other SIGs for their initiatives relevant to middle-aged population.</i>
Activities during 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Organized a SIG symposium at the IASP congress in Derry / Londonderry, 2019.</i> • <i>Had the first SIG business meeting in Derry / Londonderry, 2019.</i> • <i>Finalized the SIG objectives.</i> • <i>In progress of producing an overview article about suicide rate in the middle-aged population and a systematic review and meta-analysis of research on suicide in the middle-aged.</i>

**Proposed
activities
2020/2021**

- *To organize a SIG symposium at the IASP congress in Australia, 2021 and one at the IASR summit in Spain, 2021.*
- *To write up the review article 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 IN OLDER ADULTS (135 Members)

Name of SIG	<i>Suicide in Older Adults (135 Members)</i>
Chairs	<i>Annette Erlangsen & Sylvie Lapierre</i>
Aims/Purpose	<i>To increase awareness and understanding about suicide in the elderly (from TF)</i>
Activities during 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Hosted symposia at IASP World Conference in Derry / Londonderry, UK. Led by Dimitris N Kiosses</i> • <i>Hosted a network meeting for the SIG- suicide and older adults at the conference as well.</i> • <i>Hosted a symposium at the IASR / AFSP world congress in Miami.</i> • <i>Published a joint review paper entitled “A systematic review of older adults’ request for or attitude toward euthanasia or assisted-suicide: Recommendations for future research.” The project was led by Prof. Dolores Angela Castelli Dransart and Sylvie Lapierre and 25 SIG members contributed to the paper. The study is published in Aging and Mental Health. Link: https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13607863.2019.1697201</i>
Proposed activities 2020	<p><i>Submission of symposia at the ESSSB in Rome if this conference will go ahead.</i></p> <p><i>Plans of a joint systematic review on suicide in retirement homes (potentially to be led by prof. Reinhard Lindner)</i></p>
Challenges	<p><i>At the IASP conference in Derry / Londonderry, we submitted 3 symposia, but none were accepted. Only when we contacted the organisers, did they agreed to let us have one symposium. Given that other SIG’s had a better acceptance rate, we wonder if there should be a clear policy on this point.</i></p> <p><i>Clearly, it is not ideal for conference organisers having to fit in some 15 symposia from all the IASP SIG’s, as there will be no availability for others. Still, it could be good with a general guideline on what to do in these instances.</i></p>

SUICIDE AND THE MEDIA (44 Members)

Name of SIG:	<i>Suicide and the media (44 Members)</i>
Chairs	<i>Daniel Reidenberg & Thomas Niederkrotenthaler</i>
Aims/Purpose	<i>To promote responsible reporting of suicide by improved collaboration with media professionals</i>
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Improve linkages between suicide experts and media professionals.</i> 2. <i>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.</i> 3. <i>Identify, collect, and collate media guidelines which have been developed around the world, and examine and report on their content, development, and implementation.</i> 4. <i>Work collaboratively with media professionals to develop recommendations for developing and implementing media guidelines.</i> 5. <i>Work collaboratively with media professionals to promote media guidelines to journalists, editors, and other stakeholders.</i> 6. <i>Work on prevention of suicide using online media.</i> 7. <i>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.</i>
Activities during 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Entertainment guide for WHO.</i> • <i>Briefing Statement on Momo Challenge.</i> • <i>Briefing Statement on A Star Is Born film.</i> • <i>Renewed proposal to WHO for Media Reporting activities.</i> • <i>Presentations and panels at World Congress in Derry / Londonderry.</i> • <i>Submissions to ESSSB conference</i>
Proposed activities 2020	<i>Mental Health Coalition/Kenneth Cole project.</i>

SUICIDE BEREAVEMENT AND POSTVENTION (100 Members)

Name of SIG:	<i>Suicide bereavement and postvention (100 Members)</i>
Chairs	<i>Myfanwy Maple, Vita Postuvan & Sharon McDonnell</i>
Aims/Purpose	<i>To promote collaboration and evidence in research and practice in the fields of suicide exposure and bereavement and postvention service and so increase the awareness for postvention and survivor issues within IASP and its allied organisations.</i>
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>To hold a meeting of members at biannual world congress, to evaluate past activities and plan future goals and activities.</i> 2. <i>To ensure appropriate representation of postvention at IASP and similar conferences.</i> 3. <i>To contribute to the IASP newsletter.</i> 4. <i>To ensure appropriate communication between members, with the TF established under the SIG umbrella.</i> 5. <i>To identify initiatives to be undertaken by TFs, to be subsequently reported to the Board of IASP.</i>
Activities during 2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Meeting of the SiG at Derry / Londonderry world congress - ~30 members present. Decisions to establish a listserv which has been completed. Initial interest in the listserv was quite good, although since beginning 2020 activity has been low.</i> 2. <i>Sean McCarthy stood down as co-chair</i> 3. <i>Updated contact list</i> 4. <i>Coordinated presentations from the taskforce for symposia for the conference.</i> 5. <i>Coordinated remembrance service at Derry / Londonderry conference ~200 people in attendance</i> 6. <i>Continued discussion about the taskforce on minimum requirements for suicide postvention.</i> 7. <i>Prepared an editorial for Crisis Journal on the state of postvention (published)</i>
Proposed activities 2020	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Consider nomenclature standardisation for suicide exposure, bereavement, postvention in line with Silverman et al., 2007</i> 2. <i>Plans for SiG website information – stalled – but continue to be a priority</i>
Challenges	<p><i>Engagement with the members of the SiG continues to be a challenge.</i></p> <p><i>Taskforce on generic guidelines for postvention still holds appeal to the membership, however, co-chairs have struggled to find time/involvement to complete this task</i></p> <p><i>Co-chairs have all had external pressures resulting in slower progress in 2020 than past years – Maple (sabbatical), McDonnell (business responding to COVID) and Postuvan (Maternity leave).</i></p>

PREVENTION OF INTENTIONAL PESTICIDE POISONING (30 MEMBERS)

Name of SIG:	Prevention of intentional pesticide poisoning (30 members)
Chairs	<i>Keith Hawton, Michael Phillips & Melissa Pearson</i>
Aims/Purpose	<i>To directly address the issues of prevention of intentional poisoning with pesticides.</i>
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Collate evidence, knowledge and information on the epidemiology, characteristics, and prevention of intentional pesticide poisoning.</i> <i>2. Facilitate collaboration between different projects currently underway.</i> <i>3. Promote research and links between research projects.</i> <i>4. Develop innovative research methodologies to evaluate different types of interventions.</i> <i>5. Act as a focal point for the dissemination of information on the prevention of pesticide poisoning.</i> <i>6. Identify potential funders that could support an IASP-supported multi-country project.</i>
Activities during 2019	<p><i>In 2019 we held a SIG meeting at the Derry / Londonderry Conference where we had a small turnout. We presented an update on the library and highlighted the potential for the broadening the focus of the group.</i></p> <p><i>There was an increased media coverage on pesticide suicides around WSPD and the SIG and IASP had contributed to some of these efforts.</i></p>
Proposed activities 2020	<p><i>We proposed in the meeting to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Discuss potential areas of collaboration with Centre for Pesticide Suicide Prevention based at University of Edinburgh</i> <i>• Update the library by attracting a student explore the possibility of a University of Copenhagen student</i> <i>• Consider Asia-Pacific meeting to target more relevant audience.</i>
Challenges	<i>We have not been able to attract a young investigator to work on the group. We would like the group to become more active with the members, but this has been a challenge.</i>

NOMENCLATURE (8 Members)

Name of SIG	Nomenclature (8 Members)
Chairs	<i>Diego de Leo & Morton Silverman</i>
Aims / Purposes	<p><i>Nowadays, marked discrepancies exist in data recording procedures, in addition to multiple perspectives and opinions on the interpretation and correct definition of different forms of suicidal (and non-suicidal) manifestations.</i></p> <p><i>The need for an internationally shared labelling of suicide ideation and behaviours has for a long time been recognized. However, all previous efforts to provide an acceptable basis for a cross-culturally agreed-upon nomenclature have failed.</i></p>
Objectives	<i>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.</i>
Activities during 2019	<p><i>Dr. Benjamin Goodfellow, a psychiatrist from New Caledonia, has been the PhD candidate primarily responsible for carrying out an international survey. He has recently achieved his degree of Doctor of Philosophy.</i></p> <p><i>During 2019 two international papers were produced on the topic:</i></p> <p><i>Goodfellow B, Kölves K, De Leo D, Silverman M, Berman A, Mann JJ, Arensman E, Hawton K, Phillips M, Vijayakumar L: "International study of definitions of English-language terms for suicidal behaviours: Protocol and an opinion survey." BMJ Open, 2019; 9:e025770. doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2018-025770</i></p> <p><i>Goodfellow B, Kölves K, De Leo D: "Contemporary classifications of suicidal behaviours," Crisis, epub, March 2019.</i></p> <p><i>A book chapter has been written by Dr Goodfellow for a book being edited by Dr Kölves, et al. ("Advancing Suicide Research"). Its publication by Hogrefe is expected by autumn 2020.</i></p> <p><i>Another paper has been submitted for publication, which, when published, foresees recruiting a larger participation to the SIG on nomenclature. The paper is entitled, "International Study of Definitions of English-Language Terms for Suicidal Behaviors ©: Study Results," and is co-authored by Diego De Leo, Benjamin Goodfellow, Kairi Kölves, Morton M. Silverman, Alan Berman, J. John Mann, Ella Arensman, Keith Hawton, Michael Phillips, Lakshmi Vijayakumar, Karl Andriessen, Ana-Maria Chavez-Hernandez, & Marnin Heisel.</i></p>

<p>Proposed activities during 2020/21</p>	<p><i>It is hoped that the new year will witness an increased collaboration among scholars belonging to this group. All IASP members interested in this topic are welcome to join the SIG.</i></p> <p><i>The topic is historically difficult: cultural barriers and consolidated habits have hindered all previous efforts in this direction.</i></p> <p><i>However, we have now an initial survey and it is our hope that the study may become larger and establish the bases for a much wider survey in the future.</i></p>
<p>Challenges (especially meeting revised terms of reference for SIGs)</p>	<p><i>Using the same terminology and set of definitions would be of paramount importance for all surveillance programs and large cooperative research projects. The nature of the task (standardising the nomenclature) is, in itself, a challenging one.</i></p>

CLUSTERS & CONTAGION IN SUICIDAL BEHAVIOUR (17 members)

Name of SIG:	Clusters & contagion in suicidal behaviour (17 members)
Chairs	<i>Ella Arensman & Jo Robinson</i>
Aims/Purpose	<i>To bring together interested people in research, prevention, and policy, who can share information and expertise in clusters and contagion effects in suicidal behaviour worldwide.</i>
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Share information on definitions and the methodologies used in identifying clusters and contagion in suicidal behaviour.</i> 2. <i>Share information obtained in research into clusters and contagion in different countries and facilitates comparative international research.</i> 3. <i>Share information on policy, response procedures and prevention strategies for clusters and contagion in suicidal behaviour from different countries and compare effectiveness.</i> 4. <i>Increase awareness of clusters and contagion in suicidal behaviour and associated risk factors.</i> 5. <i>Share and transfer expertise across countries when clusters in suicidal behaviour emerge.</i> 6. <i>Facilitate international collaborative grant applications to progress international comparative research, prevention, and policy in this area.</i> 7. <i>Act as an expert group for individuals and organisations seeking information and advice.</i>
Activities during 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Workshop for HSE Communications Managers in Ireland, May 2019</i> • <i>Workshop: Early identification of emerging suicide clusters, IASP 3rd Regional Caribbean Symposium, Port of Spain, May 2019</i> • <i>Keynote lecture at the 30th IASP World Congress, Derry / Londonderry, September 2019</i> • <i>Symposium on suicide clustering and contagion at the 30th IASP World Congress, Derry / Londonderry, September 2019</i> • <i>Facilitation of internships at the NSRF-UCC</i> • <i>Systematic review: Statistical methods to detect suicide and self-harm clusters: a systematic review (under review).</i> • <i>Hill et al (2020). Understanding the characteristics and mechanisms underlying suicide clusters in Australian youth: a comparison of cluster detection methods. Epidemiology and Psychiatric Sciences, (29), e151.</i>

Proposed activities 2020

- 1. 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.*
- 2. Chairs held meeting in countries including Australia to discuss national surveillance systems for suicide and suicide attempts.*
- 3. Planning of workshop and symposium for 31st IASP World Congress at the Gold Coast, Australia*

LIVED EXPERIENCE (16 Members)

Name of SIG:	Lived experience (16 Members)
Chairs	<i>Bronwen Edwards & Chris Caulkins</i>
Aims/Purpose	<i>To enhance the involvement of people with lived experience of suicidal behaviour in the organisation at both strategic and operational levels.</i>
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. To develop and implement a strategic approach to the involvement of people with lived experience in IASP activities.</i> <i>2. To improve understanding, practice and policy relating to the involvement of persons with lived experience in national and international suicide prevention organisations.</i> <i>3. To share knowledge, information and good practice relating to lived experience with national and international suicide prevention organisations</i> <i>4. To promote lived experience involvement and support the establishment of lived experience networks/communities globally.</i>
Activities during 2019/2020	<p><i>The SIG: Lived Experience group met at the World Congress in Ireland and a number of new members joined. Email correspondence was had with these members since and invitations to contribute to the two taskforces extended.</i></p> <p><i>SIG co-chair in Australia is part of the organising committee for World Congress 2021 in Australia, and one of our local LE representatives spoke at the launch event on the Gold Coast.</i></p> <p><i>The SIG: Lived Experience activity has been hampered by two key issues – lack of engagement by members and the diversion of resources due to COVID-19. Both the SIG chairs have been significantly involved in COVID-19 related activity – be that in frontline services (Chris) and through the call for the development of virtual services to navigate lockdown laws and physical distancing restrictions to enable suicide prevention work to continue & establishing additional LE Peer warm line service (Bronwen).</i></p> <p><i>In early June Co-Chair Bronwen Edwards met with SIG: Workplaces (Carmen Betteridge – Australia) and have determined to work together on Developing Guidelines for Lived Experience of Suicide in the Workplace. There is work complete here in Australia with a mental health focus but not specifically suicide prevention. This will occur in 2020/21 FY.</i></p>

<p>Proposed activities 2020/21</p>	<p><i>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.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>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.</i> • <i>Work will commence with SIG: Workplaces re Developing Guidelines for Lived Experience of Suicide in the Workplace</i> • <i>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.</i> • <i>We will continue to encourage engagement and contribution to the growing compilation of LE activity and research through the Taskforces.</i>
<p>Challenges</p>	<p><i>Engagement and availability of members remains the key barrier to progress</i></p>

RISK, RESILIENCE, AND REASONS FOR LIVING (23 Members)

Name of SIG:	<i>Risk, resilience, and reasons for living. (23 Members)</i>
Chairs	<i>Bruce Bongar, Maurizio Pompili & Maryke van Zyl</i>
Aims/Purpose	<i>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.</i>
Objectives	<i>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.</i>
Activities during 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Facebook page has maintained steady traffic with 50 + followers.</i> • <i>SIG members are currently collecting data in the US, France and Belgium on risk, resilience, and reasons for living among LGBTQ adults.</i> • <i>SIG business meeting occurred in Derry / Londonderry.</i> • <i>Membership of the SIG has increased.</i> • <i>Facilitated frequent peer review and group discussion.</i>
Proposed activities 2020	<p><i>Conclude current study and distribute findings to IASP community.</i></p> <p><i>Business meeting will be held over Zoom.</i></p>
Challenges	<i>COVID-19 has made it challenging for members to be engaged due to responsibilities to work and family.</i>

SUICIDE AND THE WORKPLACE (70 members)

Name of SIG:	<i>Suicide and the workplace (70 members)</i>
Co-Chairs	<p><i>Sally Spencer-Thomas, Carmen Betteridge, Rex Uche</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>70 members from 18+ countries (16% USA, 14% Australia, 10% Canada, 10% Ireland)</i>
Aims/Purpose	<i>To develop policy, protocols, and programs to address suicide in the workplace</i>
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. To expand scholarship exploring suicide and workplace issues;</i> <i>2. To develop model policies and protocols for workplaces to adapt;</i> <i>3. To share promising practices of suicide prevention programs and training;</i> <i>4. To develop a community of researchers and practitioners interested in workplace suicide prevention.</i>
Activities since last report (submitted June 2019)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tragically the Workplace SIG's Co-Chair Dr Allison Milner died unexpectedly August 2019. We honoured her at the World Congress in Derry / Londonderry, Ireland a month later.</i> • <i>Workplace SIG Convened at the World Congress 30+ people attended.</i> • <i>Symposium in Suicide Prevention in the Workplace (Sept. 18th) at the World Congress</i> • <i>New Co-Chairs on-boarded in January 2020 as we prepared for the IASP Pacific/Asia (Taiwan) and ESSSB (Rome) conferences that were postponed due to COVID-19.</i> • <i>USA launched National Guidelines for Workplace Suicide Prevention following models from Canada and Australia: www.WorkplaceSuicidePrevention.com</i> • <i>International Twitter Chats on Workplace Suicide Prevention</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>July 25th, 2019 "Workplace Suicide Prevention Training" (115 participants 14.6 million impressions)</i> ○ <i>Nov 21, 2019 "Workplace Suicide Postvention" (138 participants, 10 million impressions)</i> • <i>International Podcasts on Workplace Suicide Prevention</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Leadership's Role in Workplace Mental Health -- Inspiring a Collective Mindset of Care: Interview with Cal Beyer (USA) March 31, 2020 https://www.sallyspencerthomas.com/hope-illuminated-podcast/57</i> ○ <i>Workplace Suicide Prevention Training: Interview with Gabriela Malafaia (Brazil) July 13, 2020 https://www.sallyspencerthomas.com/hope-illuminated-podcast/65</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>New Resource Launched Globally: www.ConstructionWorkingMinds.org – a construction suicide prevention resource translated/transcultured for 8 countries with the support of several SIG members.</i> • <i>Brief survey sent to the SIG members:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>18 people from 8+ countries participated</i> ○ <i>44% stated there had been significantly more demand for workplace suicide prevention efforts changed since the onset of the Coronavirus and COVID-19</i> ○ <i>39% were collecting data related to the workplace impact of COVID-19 on suicide risk or emotional wellbeing and/or the effectiveness of workplace programs/services to mitigate this risk</i> ○ <i>New COVID-19 related workplace suicide prevention programs/services offered by SIG members included:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Educational programs on how the consequences of the pandemic may potentially impact emotional health and suicide risk. 20%</i> ▪ <i>Skill-building training to improve suicide prevention/intervention to workplace groups impacted by the pandemic. 27%</i> ▪ <i>Increasing quantity or quality of mental health services and peer support to workplaces concerned about workers psychological health. 33%</i> ▪ <i>10 SIG members signed up to participate in Global Workplace Peer Support Network (an initiative co-supported by the Workplace and Lived Experience SIGs of IASP)</i>
<p>Proposed activities 2021</p>	<p>Developing Guidelines for Lived Experience of Suicide in the Workplace</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Meetings between SIG members have occurred between Carmen and Bronwen Edwards (LE SIG)</i> • <i>Confirmed mutual interest in establishing/developing a benchmark/framework against which suicide prevention is integrated into workplaces, with the specific inclusion of lived experience</i> • <i>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</i> • <i>We confirmed that we are all interested in working together to achieve these outcomes</i> • <i>Initial survey too the Workplace SIG membership resulted in</i> <p>Rex UNN has detailed suicide prevention campaigns undertaken in Nigeria</p> <p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Workplace SIG will assist in consolidate data gathering from other international organizations on the question of Covid-19's impact on the workplace</i>

	<p><i>USA with Evaluate the Implementation Efforts of the National Guidelines for Workplace Suicide Prevention www.WorkplaceSuicidePrevention.com</i></p> <p><i>Develop significant workplace symposia streams for rescheduled IASP/ESSSB conferences and the World Congress 20201.</i></p>
<p>Challenges</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Covid-19 has presented a particular challenge in terms of increased workload individually, but also creating opportunities to connect generally.</i> • <i>IASP Asia/Pacific and ESSSB conferences postponed.</i> • <i>Needing administrative support for SIG from ECG member interested in workplace suicide prevention.</i>

SUICIDE PREVENTION IN PRIMARY CARE

Name of SIG	Suicide prevention in primary care
Co-chairs	<i>Dr Maria Michail, Dr Faraz Mughal, Dr Pooja Saini, Dr Hayley Gorton & A/Professor Jo Robinson</i>
Aims / Purposes	<p><i>Primary care has a vital role to play in a system wide approach to suicide prevention. General practice, community pharmacy are key settings for identifying, communicating with, and supporting people who self-harm and might be at-risk of suicide. Enhanced and integrated primary and community mental health services provide the platform for coordinated, inclusive and personalised care for those at-risk of suicide.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p>
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>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.</i> <i>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.</i> <i>3. Facilitate international collaborative grant applications (e.g., Global Challenges Research Fund) to progress international comparative research, prevention, and policy in this area.</i> <i>4. Use research resulting from the SIG to facilitate impact in policy and practice at a national and international scale.</i> <i>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.</i> <i>6. Act as an expert reference group for individuals and organisations seeking information in relation to suicide prevention in primary care.</i>
Proposed on-going activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Set up and gradually grow SIG membership by attracting new IASP members but also consolidating links with existing IASP members.</i> <i>• Set up annual meetings with SIG members to report SIG progress and review ongoing work.</i> <i>• Through virtual workshops and/or webinars, identify SIG research priorities and plan grant pipeline to facilitate collaborative research across different countries and contexts.</i> <i>• Develop a dissemination plan in line with SIG objectives and priorities.</i>

**Proposed activities for
2019/20**

- *Set up an inaugural SIG meeting to take place at the upcoming European Suicide and Suicidal Behaviour conference in Rome, September 2020.*
- *Produce a SIG position statement (e.g., Crisis journal) on the role of primary care in suicide prevention introducing the new IASP SIG.*

SUICIDE PREVENTION FOR BOYS AND MEN

Name of SIG	<i>Suicide prevention for boys and men</i>
Co-chairs	<i>Kylie King & Zac Seidler</i>
Aims / Purposes	<i>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.</i>
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="596 646 1465 672">1. <i>To expand scholarship related to suicide prevention for boys and men.</i> <li data-bbox="596 683 1814 743">2. <i>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.</i> <li data-bbox="596 755 1829 815">3. <i>To support students and early career researchers who are working in suicide prevention for boys and men</i> <li data-bbox="596 826 1814 886">4. <i>To disseminate knowledge regarding suicide prevention for boys and men to IASP members and the broader community.</i>
Proposed on-going activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="596 914 1787 974">• <i>Tri-annual meetings of members of the SIG hosted in Melbourne, Australia either in person or via electronic means.</i> <li data-bbox="596 985 1608 1011">• <i>Joint production of research articles related to suicide prevention in boys and men</i> <li data-bbox="596 1023 1434 1049">• <i>Webinars and blogs related to suicide prevention for boys and men</i> <li data-bbox="596 1060 1881 1120">• <i>Contribution to a broader community of practice regarding changing masculinities for mental health and suicide prevention.</i> <li data-bbox="596 1131 1787 1192">• <i>Social media activities to facilitate knowledge dissemination to a public audience and connection between those with an interest in suicide prevention for boys and men globally.</i> <li data-bbox="596 1203 1835 1263">• <i>Involvement of industry partners, such as the Movember Foundation, in SIG activities and knowledge dissemination to a wider academic and public audience.</i>

***Proposed activities for
2020/21***

- *Foundation and development of SIG*
 - *Recruitment of members to the SIG*
 - *First meeting of 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.*

EARLY CAREER GROUP

Name of SIG:	Early Career Group
Chairs	<i>Tiago Zortea, Olivia Kirtley and Caroline Daly</i>
Aims/Purpose	<i>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.</i>
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Encourage and provide a platform for knowledge exchange between ECG members and experts in suicidology.</i> <i>2. Encourage and develop collaboration and networking between members nationally and internationally.</i> <i>3. Provide information to members on available career-related opportunities, including jobs, conferences, and funding.</i> <i>4. Actively participate at IASP and other conferences in the area of suicide prevention.</i> <i>5. Connect group members with Special Interest Groups (SIGs) in their area of interest.</i>
Activities during 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• ECG released two editions of the periodic newsletter Engage.</i> <i>• ECG hosted an #ElevateTheConvo Twitter chat on April 19th discussing: “From Research to Practice: International Perspectives from Early Career Suicidologists”.</i> <i>• ECG welcomed a new Chair, Tiago following the step-down of Carl-Maria.</i> <i>• ECG Task Force on ‘Registered Reports’ achieved its aim to incorporate the format into Crisis.</i> <i>• ECG Task Force on ‘The Emotional Health and Wellbeing of ECRs working in Suicide Research’ disseminated its survey online to relevant researchers.</i> <i>• ECG hosted and co-hosted three events at the Derry / Londonderry conference, including a ECR keynote, lunch with experts and a social meet up.</i> <i>• IASP ECG Chairs agreed to assist in the facilitation of IASP webinars.</i>
Proposed activities 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Expand our membership base to allow for a more diverse programme of activities to be realised.</i> <i>• Coordinate a mentor/mentee programme between ECG Associates and IASP members.</i> <i>• Coordinate the provision of the activities suggested for the World Congress 2021.</i> <i>• Host a WSPD hackathon, potentially on the topic of decriminalisation.</i> <i>• Devise a structure of content for sharing articles under the auspice of the previous Engage newsletter.</i> <i>• Maintain and expand upon our social media activities.</i>

Challenges

- *The greatest challenge to our work is the cost barrier attached to ECG Associate membership. This hinders our membership numbers which as a result inhibits the breath of work we can undertake and the assistance we can provide to IASP. Undoubtedly the group could achieve a significant amount more if this cost did not exist and our contributions to the areas of suicide research and prevention, as well as to IASP would be much greater.*
- *It would be beneficial if we could get access to some of the systems which IASP use to host and share our materials.*