



I A S P

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Reflecting on IASP's activities and developments over the past year, we can conclude that 2015 was a positive and successful year for IASP in terms of key activities, such as the 29th IASP World Congress in Montreal, World Suicide Prevention Day 2015 and the recent 2nd Symposium on Suicide Prevention in the Caribbean region.

In addition, we've seen IASP's membership increasing and the work of the IASP's Special interest Groups and Task Forces expanding. Also, IASP Board members are increasingly involved in advising and supporting suicide prevention initiatives with Government representatives and relevant stakeholders in many different countries. I am also pleased to note the increasing collaborative activities between IASP and other international organisations, such as the World Health Organization and the International Academy of Suicide Research.

Early December, IASP organised the 2nd IASP Regional Symposium on Suicide Prevention, in the Caribbean region, which this time took place in the Cayman Islands, and which was a successful event in many ways.

Our excellent host, Dr Loraine Barnaby, who is also Co-Chair of the IASP Council of National Representatives, had managed to get all relevant Government representatives and stakeholders together, and most of the Caribbean and some South American countries were represented. A major outcome of this Symposium was the acceptance of a Declaration on Suicide Prevention for the Cayman Islands by Government representatives. A detailed report is provided by Dr Barnaby in this News Bulletin.

The Symposium clearly stimulated representatives from other countries to initiate or progress the development of a national suicide prevention programme, and I was very pleased to learn that Guyana, a country with high suicide rates, now has a National Suicide Prevention Plan. After having been involved in several regional IASP Symposia on suicide prevention, I am convinced that the format of a smaller scale event involving relevant Government representatives and key stakeholders, can accelerate the development of national or regional suicide prevention programmes.

IASP's next major event this year is the 7th IASP Asia Pacific Regional Conference in Tokyo, 18–21st May 2016: *Building Bridges for a New Start Beyond Borders* <http://www2.c-linkage.co.jp/iasptokyo2016/en/>.

Rev. Yukio Saito and I look forward to meeting many IASP members at this important conference!

Ella Arensman, PhD

Dignity in mental health in Pakistan

The theme for this year's Mental Health Day on October 10 was 'Dignity in Mental Health'. According to WHO, dignity refers to *'an individual's inherent value and worth and is strongly linked to respect, recognition, self-worth and the possibility to make choices'*.

In Pakistan (pop. 200 million), studies show that 15–20% of the adult population suffer from common (CMDs) and 1–2% from serious mental disorders (SMIs). About 3 million people are addicted to drugs and the number of people with dementia is increasing. Almost 14,000 people die by suicide and 10–20 times the number attempt it each year.

The psychiatrist to population ratio is about one psychiatrist to half to one million people. Mental health professionals and facilities are few and limited to large cities. There is no separate budget for mental health and government facilities are poorly resourced and overwhelmed by the sheer numbers of patients. Private psychiatric care is unaffordable by the vast majority.

Many people in Pakistan are caught up in the vicious cycle of poverty, poor mental ill-health and the economic impact of this.

These factors contribute to poor management of psychiatric patients and the indignity many of them suffer. This leads to further stigmatization and marginalization of psychiatric patients in Pakistan.

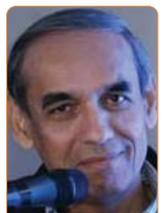
Ideally, as recommended by WHO, there is a need to provide better support and care for people with mental health conditions by providing community-based services, encompassing a recovery approach that inspires hope and supports people to achieve their

goals and aspirations; respecting people's autonomy, including their right to make their own decisions about their treatment and care; and ensuring access to good quality care which promotes human rights, is responsive to people's needs, and respects their values, choices and preferences.

Civil society organisations have an important part to play through advocacy, networking, lobbying government for better funding and legislation and education of the public through seminars and electronic and print media.

Creating dignity in mental health in Pakistan poses formidable challenges but by working together, the government, mental and public health professionals and civil society organisations can address this important issue.

Dr Murad Khan



Murad Khan





Protecting our Youth: Suicide Prevention in the Caribbean Region

George Town,
Cayman Islands

December 3 - 5, 2015



International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) Regional Symposium in the Caribbean



Report on the 2nd Caribbean Regional Symposium on Suicide Prevention, The Westin Hotel, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands, December 3-5, 2015 & Training Workshops, St. Matthews University Medical School, December 5, 2015

Introduction/Overview

The International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) held its 2nd Caribbean Regional Symposium on Suicide Prevention at the elegant Westin Grand Cayman Resort and Spa at Seven Mile Beach from December 3-5, 2015. The Symposium attracted participants from The Caribbean including Guyana, French Guiana, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Lucia, Belize, Jamaica, Cuba and Canada as well as IASP International experts - President Prof. Ella Arensman from Ireland; Secretary, Prof. Jane Pirkis and Dr. Jo Robinson from Australia and Prof. Brian Mishara of Canada.

Over seventy regional and local persons, including those from Education and Guidance, the Clergy, Physicians and Specialists in Accident and Emergency, Family Practice, Psychiatry, Clinical Psychologists, the RCIPS and Jamaican Constabulary Force, Epidemiologists and the Public, participated over the three day Symposium and one day post Symposium Training Workshops.

Government Attendees

In attendance and giving addresses at the official opening ceremony were the Acting Governor, the Hon. Franz Manderson; the Acting Premier, the Hon. Moses Kirkconnell, Minister of District Administration, Tourism and Consumer Affairs; and the Acting Premier, Mr. Roy McTaggart, Councillor for Health in the Ministry of Health and Culture. Also in attendance was the Hon. Osbourne Bodden, Minister of Community Affairs, Youth and Sports, who was selected to officiate at the Closing Ceremony. Councillor Joey Hew of the Tourism Division, Chief Officer Ms Jennifer Ahearn and Senior Policy Advisor Ms. Janett Flynn of the Health Ministry, were also in attendance.

Media Coverage

The event was covered by the Government Information Service (GIS), The TV channel Cayman 27 and the Cayman Reporter newspaper.

Plenary and other presentations

The presentations over the duration of the Symposium revealed the Epidemiology of suicide and suicidal behavior in the CARICOM Region vis-à-vis the other territories in the WHO Region of the Americas and globally, as well as specifically via country reports from Cuba, French Guiana, Suriname, Guyana, Jamaica, Cayman and Belize. The Plenary speakers from the WHO Regions of the Americas (Prof. Brian Mishara, Ms. Debbie Wilson Denard of Canada), Europe (IASP President Ella Arensman from Ireland) and the Western Pacific (Prof. Jane Pirkis, Dr. Jo Robinson of Australia).

These presenters addressed the following important subjects. Best Practices in suicide prevention; Building Resilience: Two prevention programmes for Primary School students; The role of new media in suicide prevention; Media campaigns for Suicide Prevention in young People; CBT interventions among children and adolescents who engage in self-harm; Suicide Clustering and Contagion in Young People: Early Identification, Responding and Interventions to prevent suicides by young people and adults at known suicide 'hotspots'.



Highlights

A major highlight of the symposium was that of Mr. Fitzroy Williams of Jamaica, who discussed his daughter's death by suicide. In this he reminded the audience that sometimes the usual impressions of causation and precipitants such as personality disorder, depression, psychosis did not seem operative in his daughter's situation. He posited a theory based on his retrospective analysis of her Facebook, poetry and other personal but not previously disclosed items, as well as of her life of great altruism and work with the disadvantaged, helpless and voiceless.

The situation with suicidal behavior and nonfatal self harm in the Cayman Islands was discussed by a panel comprising persons involved in the management of individuals affected, viz. Dr. Nigel Boothe (the Accident and Emergency Department, Cayman Islands Hospital), Det. Sgt. Michelle Miller (The Family Support Unit), Dr. Arline McGill (Psychiatry and Behavioural Health Services, Cayman Islands Hospital), and Rev. Dr. Dave Hazle (Counsellor and Rector of Elmslie United Church, Grand Cayman). Dr. Elma Augustine, Clinical Psychologist, was Moderator.

In summary, there was recognition that a problem existed in Cayman, with increasing numbers of young person's presenting to emergency services with non-fatal self harm.

Family disharmony, school-related bullying, school failure, relationship difficulties and spread of rumours or photos via social media were also cited as problem areas which needed to be addressed. Counselling and medication were important secondary and tertiary prevention strategies which were in use.

However, Prevention and Postvention strategies and planning needed to be developed. A nascent Crisis intervention service needed to be strengthened and made a part of a national public suicide prevention policy.

Training Workshops

Persons in School Counselling, Law enforcement, the general public, Psychologists, Occupational therapists, Clergy, Medical doctors participated in this. There were two workshops - a morning Gate-keeper training workshop and a follow-up Train-the-Trainer one in the afternoon. Participants were provided with a workbook and certificate.

The Special Session on Pesticide Suicides

This was led by Prof. Tobi Graafsma, Dr. Ricardo Haarloo of Suriname and Dr. Verrol Simmons from Trinidad and Tobago. The subjects included a follow up on the developments since the 1st Caribbean Regional Symposium which was held in Suriname in 2013; the role of Poison Centres in Suicide mitigation – the Trinidad and Tobago experience and a neuro-developmental study of the effects of Paraquat on infants in Suriname.

Round Table on the Suicide Prevention strategies to restrict access to pesticides

Several strategies emerged when the participants brain-stormed on this issue. The “LOCK BOX” strategy has been proven to work in India and other nations in that part of the world. However, the possibilities of addressing the manufacturers of these chemicals and other strategies also emerged.

The Cayman Declaration (prepared by Dr. Loraine Barnaby and Prof. Ella Arensman) was a very important product of the Symposium.

The Cayman Islands Declaration on Suicide Prevention

On this day, December 5, 2015, at the Closing of the International Association for Suicide Prevention's 2nd Caribbean Regional Symposium on Suicide Prevention it was declared that:

The Cayman Islands are a multicultural, multi-ethnic group of islands.

Major Depression, non-fatal self harm and suicidal behavior are significant issues, especially among adolescent girls, as indicated in the Adolescent Health And Sexuality Survey (Cayman Islands, 2013) -

A PAHO/ EC Project and the Report of the Cayman Islands Hospital Accident and Emergency Department.

It is therefore considered a key priority for the Cayman Islands:

To establish a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary Committee or Working Group, including representatives from both public and private, governmental and non-governmental organizations in: Education, Employee Assistance (EAPs), Unions, the Ministry of Community Affairs, Youth and Sports, the Judiciary, Police force (RCIPS) and the Cayman Ministers' Association, with leadership provided by the Ministry of Health, working via the Mental Health Commission, with the aim to develop a national Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Post-vention plan, strategy and overall policy within the next 16 months.

The development of a national suicide prevention programme for the Cayman Islands would be in line with recommendations of the WHO Report: Suicide Prevention - A Global Imperative (WHO, 2014) and the WHO Global Mental Health Action Plan, 2013–2020 to which Health Ministers of all WHO member states have signed.”

Dr. Loraine Barnaby, December 2015



Loraine Barnaby

Experts: Cayman needs national suicide prevention strategy



IASP's 2nd Caribbean Regional Symposium on Suicide Prevention, December 3rd, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands. Panel Discussion on “Suicide Prevention in the Cayman Islands”. From left, Moderator Dr. Elma Augustine; Panelist: Dr. Nigel Boothe, A&E Consultant physician; Rev Dr. Dave Hazle, Counsellor and Rector Elmslie United Church; Dr. Arline McGill, Consultant Psychiatrist; and Sgt Michelle Miller of the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service and the Family Resource Centre.

Photo Credit: “Experts: Cayman needs national suicide prevention strategy” by Monique Spence in the 'Cayman Reporter' newspaper of December 8, 2015.

Special Interest Group on Suicide among Older Adults

The main goal of this Special Interest Group (SIG) is to support research and network between researchers dedicated to the study and prevention of suicide in older adults. We organize symposia on suicide in older adults at international conferences, conduct systematic reviews, and facilitate international research projects as well as other initiatives.



Following publications have appeared based on the group's joint efforts:

1) Erlangsen, A., Nordentoft, M., Conwell, Y., Waern, M., De Leo, D., Lindner, R., Oyama, H., Sakashita, T., Andersen-Ranberg, K., Quinnett, P., Draper, B., Lapierre, S. & the International Research Group on the Elderly and Suicide (2011). Key considerations for preventing suicide in older adults: Consensus opinions of an expert panel. *Crisis*, 32(2), 106–109.

Summary: The studies disseminates key considerations for interventions addressing senior suicidal behavior. An international expert panel reviewed and discussed key considerations for interventions against suicide in older adults based on existing evidence. The suggestions span a wide range and are offered for consideration by local groups preparing new interventions, as well as large scale public health care planning.

2) Lapierre, S., Erlangsen, A., Waern, M., De Leo, D., Oyama, H., Scocco, P., Gallo, J.J., Szanto, K., Conwell, Y., Draper, B., Quinnett, P., and the International Research Group for Suicide among the Elderly (2011). A systematic review of elderly suicide prevention programs. *Crisis*, 32(2), 88–98.

Summary: A systematic review of interventions aimed at suicidal elderly persons was carried out. A total of 19 studies with an empirical evaluation of a suicide prevention or intervention program designed especially for adults aged 60 years and older was reviewed. Innovative strategies were identified; these included: improving resilience and positive aging, engagement of family and community gatekeepers, use of telecommunications to reach vulnerable older adults, means restriction, and education of physicians.

3) Mellqvist Fässberg, M., Van Orden, K., Duberstein, P., Erlangsen, A., Lapierre, S., Bodner, E., Canetto, S., De Leo, D., Draper, B., Szanto, K., Waern, M. (2012). A systematic review of social factors and suicidal behavior in older adulthood. *International Journal of Environmental Research*

and Public Health. Special issue on Suicide Prevention and Public Health, 9(3), 722-745.

Summary: A systematic analysis of studies with comparison groups that examined the associations between social factors and suicidal behavior was carried out. The majority of the social factors identified could be conceptualized as indices of positive social connectedness - the degree of positive involvement with family, friends, and social groups. Findings indicated that at least in industrialized countries, limited social connectedness is associated with suicidal ideation, non-fatal suicidal behavior, and suicide in later life.

4) Shah, A., Zarate-Escudero, S., Bhat, R., DeLeo, D., & Erlangsen, A. (2014). Suicide in centenarians: The international landscape. *International Psychogeriatrics*, 26(10), 1703-1708
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S1041610214001112>

Summary: The study aimed to calculate the suicide rate for centenarians. Using data from 17 countries, it was found that the suicide rate was 57 (95% confidence interval 45-69) per 100,000 person-years in men aged 100+ and 6.8 (95% confidence interval 5.1-8.5) per 100,000 person years in women.

5) Shah, A., Bhat, R., Zarate-Escudero, S., DeLeo, D., & Erlangsen, A. (2015). Suicide rates in five-year age-bands after the age of 60 years: The international landscape. *Ageing and Mental Health* (2015).
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13607863.2015.1055552>.

Summary: This study examined suicide rates in eight five-year age-bands between the age of 60 and 99 years. In men, suicide rates increased from the 60-64 years to 90-94 years age-band, and then declined slightly for the 95-99 year age-band. In women, suicide rates continued to increase from 60-64 years to 85-89 years age-bands, and then declined slightly for the 90-94 years and 95-99 years age-bands.

6) Mellqvist Fässberg, M., Cheung, G., Canetto, S. S., Erlangsen, A., Lapierre, S., Lindner, R., Draper, B., Gallo, J. J., Wong, C., Wu, J., Duberstein, P., & Wærn, M. (2015). A systematic review of physical illness, functional disability, and suicidal behaviour among older adults. *Ageing and Mental Health. Special issue on suicidal behavior in older adults*.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13607863.2015.1083945>.

Summary: A systematic review of studies that examined associations between physical illness/functional disability and suicidal behaviour was conducted. Results from 59 quantitative studies suggest that suicidal behaviour is associated with functional disability and numerous specific conditions including malignant diseases, neurological disorders, pain, COPD, liver disease, male genital disorders, and arthritis/arthrosis. Six qualitative studies contextualized these findings, providing insights into the subjective experiences of suicidal individuals.

Ongoing and plans for future projects include:

A systematic review on predictors of requests of euthanasia and assisted-suicide from older adults. Leaders: Dolores Angela Castelli Dransart (University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland- School of Social work, Fribourg, Switzerland) and Sylvie Lapierre (Department of psychology, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières, Québec, Canada) Joint symposium on suicide in older adults at the Pacific regional conference of the IASP (May 18-21 2016, Tokyo, Japan).

Joint symposium on suicide in older adults at the 16th European Symposium on Suicide and Suicidal Behavior (September 8-10 2016, Oviedo, Spain). This SIG counts more than 100 members from more than 22 different countries. It is free of charge to be a member of the group.

For enquiries, please contact the co-chairs of the group:

Annette Erlangsen (Annette.Erlangsen@regionh.dk)
Sylvie Lapierre (Sylvie.Lapierre@uqtr.ca)

Performed or ongoing activities on suicide prevention program in Iran



Active studies since 2012 examined:

1. Mental health services use among people that attempt suicide by taking a drug overdose during the last year before their suicide;
2. Mental health services use among people that attempt suicide by self-immolation during the last year before their suicide;
3. Qualitative study on the motivation of individuals with suicide attempt;
4. The effect of preventive interventions of "social emergency of welfare organization (123 services)" and "telephone follow-up" services on suicidal behaviors;
5. The determination of axis I & II on individuals with suicide attempt.

Articles since 2012 described:

1. The effects of discharge planning strategies on the frequency of re-attempt suicide;
2. Alcohol Abuse and Suicide Attempt in Iran: A case crossover study;
3. Mental health services use among people that attempt suicide by taking a drug overdose during the last year before their suicide;
4. The epidemiology of suicide behaviors among the countries of the Eastern Mediterranean Region of WHO: a Systematic Review;
5. The Integration of suicide prevention programs into the primary health care network: a field clinical trial in Iran.

Book publications included:

- Suicide epidemiology, 2012. By Prof. Mohsen Rezaeian. Member of IRSSSP.

Administrations activities included:

1. Founding of the Iranian Scientific Society for Suicide Prevention (ISSSP) in 2013: (Details available at: <http://lrssp.iuims.ac.ir>);
2. The celebration of World Suicide Prevention Day;
3. Founding of the research unit of suicide behaviors in the School of Behavioral Sciences and Mental Health, Iran University of Medical Sciences (Details available at: <http://tip.iuims.ac.ir>).

The future planning:

- Planning for meeting of WHO Collaborating Centers for Mental Health of WHO/EMRO (4 centers) in 10-11 SEP, 2015 in Tehran. To discuss about the Terms of References and planning for the future shared projects on mental health and suicide prevention which is one of the priorities of mental health in WHO/EMRO;
- Planning of holding the regional seminar in WHO/EMR most probably supported by IASP in 2016.

Seyed Kazem Malakouti MD, MBA, IASP Representative of Iran

Suicide and Suicide Prevention in The Netherlands

Unfortunately, the suicide rate in The Netherlands has increased from 1,353 in 2007 to 1,854 in 2013. To date, the incidence is 11 per 100,000. Various kinds of efforts have been initiated to prevent further increase, which are supported by the Dutch government. In 2016, research grants will be available to support individual researchers and research groups to pursue clinical research on this topic.

Key role players in Dutch suicide prevention

The VU University in Amsterdam is the host of suicide related research in the Netherlands. The 113 Online Foundation is the executor and distributor of evidence-based prevention strategies.



The Dutch guideline

In 2012, the Dutch multidisciplinary guideline on diagnosis and treatment of suicidal behavior was issued. Dissemination of the guideline has been supported by the PITSTOP SUICIDE study in which the effectiveness of an e-learning supported train-the-trainer program versus usual guideline implementation was examined. Considering the beneficial effects of this program, the e-learning supported train-the-trainer program is further disseminated in mental health care institutions all over the country, of which more information can be found at: www.pitstopsuicide.nl

In addition, a large-scale study on the effectiveness of gatekeeper training in suicide prevention skills is being carried out.

Suicide prevention via telephone and the internet: 113 Online is an operational online platform for people with suicidal tendencies, their relatives and for those who have lost a loved one through suicide.

Status of suicide research

Between 2007 and 2015, over 14 PhD dissertations have been written and more than 20 other projects enrolled.

These projects principally focus on the effectiveness of mental health care practices toward suicide prevention. Fundamental research on the etiology of suicidal behaviors however, is under represented. To achieve this, at least national collaboration is needed. Also, there is a wish to collaborate with research groups throughout Europe and the rest of the world to achieve a joint approach.



Remco de Winter

Remco de Winter MD PhD,
IASP National Representative of the
Netherlands

As mentioned in the previous IASP newsletter the 2015 IASP Awards and Prizes were recently awarded at the IASP Biennial Congress in Montréal. Recipients and awards included:

Stengel Research Award:	Professor David Gunnell
Ringel Service Award:	Dr Lakshmi Vijayakumar
Faberow Award:	Dr Sally Spencer-Thomas
De Leo Fund Award:	Dr Joseph Osafo
Honorary Membership:	Mrs Vanda Scott OBE
Certificate of Appreciation:	Mr Kenneth Hemmerick



[L-R] Professor David Gunnell; Mrs Vanda Scott OBE; Dr Sally Spencer-Thomas; Dr Lakshmi Vijayakumar; Mr Kenneth Hemmerick; Dr Joseph Osafo

Dr Sally Spencer-Thomas – 2015 Faberow Award Winner

It's indeed my great honour, to announce the awardee of the Farberow Award 2015. The Farberow Award was introduced in 1997 in recognition of Professor Norman Farberow, a founding member and driving force behind the IASP. This award is presented every two years during the biennial world congress of IASP for a person who has contributed significantly in the field of work with survivors of suicide. The selection criteria include the awardee must have demonstrated, over a significant period of time, that he/she:

- Has been actively involved in the establishment and operation of bereaved by suicide/survivor programs.
- Has demonstrated national leadership in the area
- Has contributed to the research and evaluation of such programs.
- Will continue to involve themselves in this important area of work.

This year, we have received a total of 11 nominations on 10 nominees; every one of them far exceeds the four criteria that I have mentioned. The selection therefore was competitive. I have to thank the hard work contributed by all the selection committee members. They are Frank Campbell, Jill Fisher and Angela Castelli.

The awardee who's going to receive the Award was nominated by another Farberow Awardee in 2005 Mr Karl Andriessen. Karl speaks highly of the

awardee, who has for some time, and continues to, put her whole heart and soul into works with suicide survivors. The awardee is a clinical psychologist, the CEO of the Carson J Spencer Foundation, and the Survivor of Loss Division Director for the American Association of Suicidology. She began actively involved in the establishment and operation of a number of suicide prevention and postvention programs and research projects about ten years ago when she lost her beloved brother, a successful entrepreneur, to suicide back in 2004. Since then, she has worked tirelessly, locally, nationally and internationally to transition suicide from a conversation that ends in tragedy to a conversation that includes grief support, prevention, hope and recovery. She has demonstrated how community should join hands together in searching for scientific answers and overcoming unexpected obstacles and stigma on the issue. Few journeys can surpass these painful experiences to the realm of capacity building endeavors. But, in the name of her brother, the awardee co-founded the Carson J Spencer Foundation with a mission of elevating the conversation to make suicide prevention a health and safety priority. She also brings awareness to employees' mental health among employers by setting up Working Minds (www.WorkingMinds.org), the first program in the U.S. to help workplaces proactively address suicide prevention through a comprehensive approach and training. She' also helped high school students to

participate in education programs of suicide prevention and identify the root cause of distress among their peers, and explore best practice prevention strategies. She also applied her professional knowledge and skills in business management in directing and soliciting resources for suicide prevention and postvention in an impactful way.

She is selected out of the other nine worthy nominees because not only she meets all of the four selection criteria with high scores, but also she has demonstrated a organized and strategic method in leading to significant contributions to the field of working with people bereaved by suicide.



Ladies and Gentlemen, the lady who is going to receive the Farberow Award 2015, is, Dr Sally Spence-Thomas. Please join me in congratulating Sally for receiving this honorable award. I would now ask Ella Arensmen, IASP president to present Dr Sally Spencer-Thomas with the Farberow Award.

Dr Frances Yik Wa Law, Chair

Erminia Colucci – The Andrej Marusic Prize 2015

Erminia Colucci (PhD Cultural Psychiatry), is a Lecturer at the Centre for Psychiatry, Wolfson Institute of Preventive Medicine, Queen Mary University of London and Honorary Research Fellow, Global and Cultural Mental Health Unit, School of Population and Global Health, The University of Melbourne (Australia).

Key area of her interest since Honours studies at University of Padua was suicide and suicide prevention in different socio-cultural contexts. After graduation she continued her work doing an internship at the Australian Institute for Suicide Research and Prevention (Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia) and finished her PhD in Cultural Psychiatry (University of Queensland, Australia) with a doctoral

dissertation titled "The cultural meanings of suicide: A comparison between Italian, Indian and Australian students".

In recent years she carried out several national and international projects as well as delivered training and lectures. Her work both in Europe and the Asia-Pacific region focuses on topics ranging from the epidemiological studies of suicide deaths and attempts, to suicide prevention in different cultures, human rights and mental health, violence against women, suicide in detention centres, the improvement of mental health services for young refugees, and spiritual well-being. She has also done qualitative fieldwork and has collaborated with people who have made a suicide attempt to provide an

insiders' perspective on suicidal behavior. That included a research-based arts exhibition recently showed at the University of Melbourne.

Dr Colucci's work is innovative. She is a skilled scientist, who integrates in her work qualitative and quantitative research methods and manages to involve intuition, arts skills, ethnographical principles into her passion to understand and prevent suicide and to diminish injustice in the world. Therefore, we are happy to recognize her achievements with the Andrej Marusic Award.

The Andrej Marusic Prize was collected by Prof Diego de Leo on behalf of Erminia Colucci.

Recommendations on Suicide Reporting & Online Information Dissemination for Media Professionals

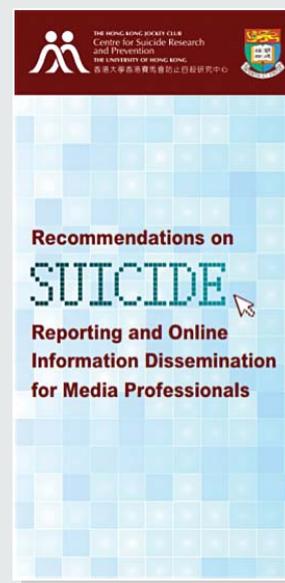
The Centre for Suicide Research and Prevention, Hong Kong have published a revised and updated version of the "Suicide and the Media: Recommendations on Suicide Reporting for Media Professionals" handbook of 2004. The aim of this handbook is to empower media professionals to appropriately report on news or disseminate information in relation to suicide via traditional and online media. This handbook includes valuable feedback from media professionals themselves and has also considered other worldwide media guideline documents in its revisions.

The handbook outlines in detail the Principles for reporting on suicide, which are listed below:

- Protect privacy and consider the risks borne by vulnerable individuals;
- Take the opportunity to educate the public about mental health and suicide prevention;
- Practice self-care in the community of media professionals.

Also detailed in this handbook are Recommendations on suicide reporting, including specific recommendations for traditional media, websites, search engines, and social media; frequently asked questions and Social Resources, including many helpful web based resources. Case reviews are also provided to facilitate media professionals to apply the recommendations to their daily work. To access this handbook please visit: <http://csp.hku.hk/media/>

Professor Paul Yip



New IASP Member Question and Answers

Sebastian Scherr

1. *Why did you become a member of IASP?*

Because I want to get involved with researchers that work on the interplay of mass media and suicide prevention.

2. *What did you know of IASP before becoming a member?*

Only what I had read in the journal online.

3. *What do you expect from IASP as a member?*

The chance of getting in touch with other researchers on suicide and the media, and the chance to commit myself to IASP!

4. *What areas of suicide prevention are you most interested in (eg. prevention, postvention, intervention etc.)?*

Suicide prevention and mass media, as I am a research associate in the field of communication science and media research. In my PhD thesis I focus on the role of depression for the so called Werther-Effect, i.e. suicide contagion through mass media role models. I am also interested in research methods and statistics.

5. *Does being an IASP member compliment the area of work you are currently working in?*

Actually, in the area of communication research, people do not know too much about IASP. I do, and IASP is a chance for me to get in touch with people who do research on the interplay of suicide and the media.

6. *What do you see as the benefits of being an IASP member?*

Now, I can read the journal in print and getting in touch with people and "becoming visible" in IASP Task Forces or Special Interest Groups.

7. *Why would you recommend becoming an IASP member to others?*

It is the world's largest organization for those who research suicide and suicide prevention.

8. *Will you be attending any future IASP conferences?*

I am totally willing to do so, nevertheless, due to the question of travel funding it's always a little bit tricky. As soon as there is a possibility to finance my attendance to a IASP conference I will be there 100%!

7th Asia Pacific Regional Conference of the International Association for Suicide Prevention

jointly held with the
40th Japanese Association for Suicide Prevention (JASP)

May 18-21, 2016 TOKYO JAPAN

7th Asia Pacific Regional Conference Tokyo Convention Hall, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan May 2016

The upcoming 7th Asia Pacific Regional Conference will be a jointly hosted conference by IASP with the Japanese Association for Suicide Prevention (JASP). Taking place in Tokyo, this conference will involve the sharing and exploration of the most current evidence and knowledge in the prevention of suicide around the world.

Registration for this exciting conference is now open and for more information please go to: www2.c-linkage.co.jp/iasptokyo2016/en/registration/. Pre-conference registration is available until April 25th 2016, however onsite registration is also available. Abstract submission is now also open with a submission deadline of January 28th 2016. For more information on how to submit an abstract please go to: www2.c-linkage.co.jp/iasptokyo2016/en/call-for-papers/free-papers/.

General information can be found on the conference website at the following link www2.c-linkage.co.jp/iasptokyo2016/en/.

We hope to see you there!





Slovene
Centre for
**Suicide
Research**

TRIPLE i
in suicidology



intuition
imagination
innovation

**Invitation to 7th TRIPLE i Conference:
Intuition, Imagination and Innovation in Suicidology
5th – 6th May 2016, Piran (Slovenia)**

We are pleased to invite you to the 7th international **TRIPLE i Conference: Intuition, Imagination and Innovation in Suicidology** in Piran, Slovenia. The topic of this year's conference is **The multi faces of suicidal behaviour: imagine innovative interventions.**

The size and setting of the conference allow us to create a friendly environment for fruitful discussions between distinguished experts and young and perspective suicidologists or other eager professionals.

Students, professionals, scholars, practitioners and others interested in the topic of suicidal behaviours from different fields and different parts of the world are invited to join the conference.

Participants are also invited to submit abstracts for oral or poster presentations at the conference. Please, find all the information on our website zivziv.si/triple-i-2016.

Let the TRIPLE i be an opportunity to express and practice your intuition, imagination and innovative ideas in suicidology!

Warm welcome! Prijazno vabljeni!

Prof. Diego De Leo
Dr. Vita Poštuvan



zivziv.si/triple-i/
zivziv.si/triple-i-2016/



THE XXIX WORLD CONGRESS OF
THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR
SUICIDE PREVENTION



XXIX IASP World Congress

*Preventing Suicide: A Global Commitment,
from Communities to Continents*

18-22 July, 2017

The International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) is pleased to invite you to participate in the XXIX IASP World Congress. The overall theme for this conference is “Preventing Suicide: A Global Commitment, from Communities to Continents”.

This exciting congress will take place in Kuching, the capital state of Sarawak on the island of Borneo, Malaysia.

For more information on the congress programme and further details please refer to the webpage:
<https://www.iasp.info/index.php>.

For any queries regarding the congress please contact any of the following:

Prof Maniam (Chair, Organising Committee (tmaniam@yahoo.com))

Prof Mohd. Fadzillah Abdul Razak- Local Organising Committee Chair (mofadzdr@hotmail.com)

16th European Symposium on Suicide and Suicidal behaviour



On September 8th-10th 2016 the 16th European Symposium on Suicide and Suicidal behaviour will be held in Oviedo, Spain.

The ESSSB16 will be a tailored symposium with an integrative and holistic focus on suicide and suicidal behaviours. This symposium will combine a high-level scientific program with in-depth discussion on in vogue topics of suicidology.

For more information on the conference and further details please refer to the webpage: <http://esssb16.org/>.



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF SUICIDOLOGY

Suicide Prevention is *Everyone's Business*
AAS is a charitable, nonprofit membership organization

The American Association of Suicidology is hosting its 49th Annual Conference from March 30 to April 2, 2016 in Chicago, Illinois. This conference is specifically designed to meet the diverse interests and needs of attendees while creating a powerful opportunity for networking, learning, and moving the field of suicidology forward.

For more information and to register your attendance please see:

<http://www.suicidology.org/annual-conference/49th-annual-conference>