

World Psychiatric Association Update

Dear Colleagues,

Greetings! As many of you are probably aware, the World Psychiatric Association (WPA) held a successful XIII World Congress of Psychiatry for the first time in over 50 years in Africa - Cairo, Egypt 10 - 15 September. There was a record attendance as from the statistics below; e.g.

- 5,500 delegates representing 119 countries with
- 110 Presidents of Member or affiliated societies.

Africa especially Sub-saharan Africa was well represented and many of us presented scientific papers which were appreciated because of their scientific content. Thanks for the excellent preparations by many of you.

As part of the World Congress of Psychiatry, elections were concluded for key offices including that of:-

- President Elect - Prof. Maj Mario (Italy)
- Secretary for Sections - Prof Miguel Jorge (Brazil)
- Secretary for Publications - Prof. Hellen Herrman (Australia)
- Secretary for Education - Prof. Allan Tasman (USA) and many Zonal Representatives.

Thanks for your support and encouragement. I was also re-elected unopposed for the last term which will expire in 2008, during the next XIV World Congress of Psychiatry in Prague - Slovakia.

With your support and participation, we should together continue to contribute to the improvement of the welfare and mental health of our numerous clients in our Zone 14. A lot needs to be done in networking among the professionals, improve the quality of care for our clients, contribute to human resource development and research in Psychiatry and Mental Health as a whole.

My effort will certainly be devoted towards those

areas in addition to encouraging Member countries in our Zone who have no Psychiatric Association to set up one and those who are not yet WPA Member Societies will be guided and facilitated to acquire this status.

The Zone is also supposed to contribute some ideas towards the next WPA STRATEGIC PLAN 2005 - 2008 and what you should wish to see being done by your Zonal Representative within the WPA Strategic objectives. This will have to be communicated to the WPA Board in my Zonal Workplan before 16th October 2005.

Kindly send in your ideas or wishes. Setting up a Zonal Newsletter for our Zone for instance is very high among my priorities. Are Members Societies and their membership ready to contribute regularly as a way of sharing valuable knowledge and activities in addition to those items suggested above towards my vision in the next three years? Can we set up manageable collaborative research projects between the various member Associations or individual psychiatrists, etc?

Kindly forward to me any of your suggestions with which together, we can contribute to the development of psychiatry and mental health in our region.

In view of the above deadline for me to communicate the Triennial Workplan, I will appreciate your response by 10th October, 2005.

Cordially yours,

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