

**MESSAGE FROM THE WPA PRESIDENT 2005-2008
(From WPA Electronic Bulletin February 2008)**



***The Paris Conference and Psychiatry for the Person:
Journey and Commitment***

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The Initiative of the World Psychiatric Association on Psychiatry for the Person, since its establishment by the General Assembly in Cairo, has been taking shape along conceptual, diagnostic, clinical care and public health streams. Through them, the objective of promoting a psychiatry of the person, for the person, by the person and with the person is taking hold. At the same time, the various components of the WPA family have been gradually engaged in the program and other international health organizations are taking notice.

These steps gained momentum with the **London Conference on Person-centered Integrative Diagnosis and Psychiatry for the Person** in October 2007. Its organization by both the WPA Institutional Program on Psychiatry for the Person (IPPP) and the Health Department of the United Kingdom represented a powerful opportunity for synergism between person-centered care and Britain's Shared Vision Project. In addition to reviewing and advancing the four core components of the IPPP, initial discussions took place towards delineating a Person-centered Integrative Diagnostic (PID) model as a crucial basis for achieving in due course a psychiatry for the person.

The widely perceived need to advance further in this process led to the decision to organize the **Paris Conference on Psychiatry for the Person** this early February. The city and the professional community that served 58 years ago as geographic and social setting for the birth of WPA, offered auspices to a very special type of conference, clearly focused and intensely interactive, without commercial accompaniments. To set a proper tone, visits to locations fundamental to the history of our field were organized. These included Esquirol Hospital; the Salpêtrière Hospital and its Bibliothèque Charcot, Allée Sigmund Freud, Pavillion Babinsky, Chapelle Saint-Louis, and Statue de Philippe Pinel; St. Anne Hospital and its Historical Museum, Bibliothèque Henri Ey (WPA First Secretary General) and Museum Singer Polignac; and Bicetre Hospital.



LtoR: Profs. Yves Thoret, Antoine Besse, Roger Montenegro, Jean Francoise Allilaire, George Christodoulou, Juan Mezrich, Jean Garrabe, Dusica Lecic-Tosevski, and Helen Herrman visiting on February 5, 2008 the Salpêtrière Hospital and its Bibliothèque Charcot in front of the famous painting depicting Philippe Pinel liberating mental patients from their chains.



LtoR: Profs Yves Thoret (between two librarians), Jean Garrabe, Michel Botbol, Michael Linden, Juan Mezzich, George Christodoulou, Roger Montenegro, and Antoine Besse at the Bibliothèque Henri Ey, St. Anne Hospital, February 6, 2008.

The core program started with welcoming words from the Conference President (JE Mezzich), Conference Organizer and WPA French Member Societies Association President (Michel Botbol), WHO Europe Representative (Matt Muijen), and the St Anne Hospital Medical President (Gerard Masse), in the company of the IPPP Component Chairs and WPA European Zonal Representatives. A set of overview lectures followed, in the third of which Dr. Jean Garrabe illustrated that the notion of psychiatry for the person was already implicitly present as an aspiration since the beginnings of WPA history.



Participants at the Opening of the Paris Conference on Psychiatry for the Person. St. Anne Hospital Ambitheatre. February 6, 2008.

A session ensued in which Selected Key Projects on Psychiatry for the Person were outlined and discussed. The first one reviewed Psychiatrists Identity in Person-centered Psychiatry, the second Person-centered Curriculum for the Training of Psychiatrists, the third and fourth, Guidelines for Person Centered Clinical Care and Clinical Services, respectively, the User as a Person in Mental Health Care and Research, and Guidelines for Person-centered Health Promotion.

The morning of Day Two was devoted to a lively European Panel on Psychiatry for the Person and the Helsinki Mental Health Action Plan. It was animated by Dr. Matt Muijen (WHO European Office) and included the participation of the WPA President, Secretary General and European Zonal Representatives as well as presidents and representatives of a number of WPA European Member Societies and Affiliated Associations. The need for greater communication between psychiatric organizations and public health agencies and the value of articulating pointedly psychiatry for the person and the Helsinki Mental Health Action Plan were major conclusions.



LtoR: M. Amering, S. Filliol, M. Muijen, W. Rutz, J. Mezgich, W. Gaebel, M. Schmolke, M. Botbol, J. Wallcraft, G. Christodoulou, and A. Besse among the participants of the European Panel on Psychiatry for the Person and the Helsinki Mental Health Action Plan, St. Anne Hospital, Paris, February 7, 2008.

Two sessions followed dealing, one, with Research on Psychiatry for the Person (Biological, Subjectivity, Socio-cultural, Psychosocial Treatment, and Developing Countries Perspectives) and another with Women's Mental Health and Psychiatry for the Person.

The last part of Day Two and all Day Three were devoted to Designing the Person-centered Integrative Diagnostic (PID) Model. It began by outlining the emerging two major components of the model, i.e., an Illness Domain (Pathology, Disabilities and Suffering) and a Positive Health Domain (Quality of Life, Self-awareness, Resilience, Resources, and Protective Factors). Each of these domains was to be examined concerning content as well as categorical, dimensional and narrative appraisals, as needed. A third session dealt with PID Overall Organization and Critical Issues (Multilevel Schemas and Formulation, Evaluators' Collaborative Process, Treatment Planning, and Research for and Validation of PID).



LtoR: Profs. John Cox, J.K. Trivedi, Juan Mezgich and Yrjö Alanen, at a discussion moment, Paris Conference on Psychiatry for the Person, February 7, 2008.

The last full session was an Inter-Sectional Symposium on Collaboration with the Development of ICD-11 and Person-centered Integrative Diagnosis. It was co-chaired by Ihsan Salloum and Miguel Jorge, and included the enthusiastic participation of the Sections on Classification, Addiction Psychiatry, ADHD, Biological Psychiatry, Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, Epidemiology & Public Health, Immunology, Impulsivity, Literature, Measurement Instruments, Old Age, Perinatal & Infant Psychiatry, Psychoanalysis, Schizophrenia, Sexual Health, Suicidology, and Transcultural Psychiatry. The rich discussion evidenced how much the various Scientific Sections of WPA can contribute to improving international classification and diagnostic systems.

The concluding session outlined a Conference Summary and discussed next programmatic steps. One of these was further work on the delineation of the theoretical model for Person-centered Integrative Diagnosis, a matter for a workshop the day that followed and additional efforts in the following weeks and months. Other steps involved continuous work on the Conceptual, Clinical Care and Public Health components of the IPPP. Last but not least was a **Geneva Conference on Person-centered Medicine** to take place at the University Hospital of Geneva on May 29-30, 2008, coorganized by the IPPP and a number of major international medical and health organizations.



Geneva Conference on Person-centered Medicine

May 29 - 30, 2008

Auditorium of the University Hospital of Geneva

Organized by the World Psychiatric Association Institutional Program on Psychiatry for the Person (IPPP) in collaboration with the World Medical Association (WMA), the World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA), the World Federation of Neurology (WFN), the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME), the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS), the World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH), and the International Alliance of Patients' Organizations (IAPO), and with the auspices of the Geneva University Hospital.

Organizational Support

IPPP Leadership (J.E. Mezzich, G. Christodoulou, B. Fulford, I. Salloum, R. Montenegro, A. Tasman, H. Herrman, M. Amering), Geneva Task Force (J. Cox, F. Ferrero, O. Kloiber, B. Ruedi, H-R Pfeifer, A. Engstrom, P. Atiase), and unrestricted grants from Johnson & Johnson and the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations

Conference Objectives

To present and discuss conceptual bases, personal identity and meaning, ill- and positive-health domains, clinical care, public health, special initiatives, and international organization perspectives on person-centered medicine.

Information and Coordination

Registration and general information: WPA Secretariat (wpasecretariat@wpanet.org)

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Scientific program information and coordination:

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Concluding Remarks

The richness of the Paris Conference can only be guessed from a listing of its sessions. Truer indicators were the intensity and collegiality of the discussions, with a prevalent sense that something really important was taking place, and which kept colleagues on their seats until late in the evening. We must thank and congratulate for this Dr. Michel Botbol, Chair of the Organizing Committee, and his French colleagues, all of whom, as it happened 58 years ago, worked as one, with much energy, wisdom and heart, to make possible an extraordinary event.

Perhaps we can finish with the words of one of the eminent participants of the Paris Conference, Prof. Yrjö Alanen of Turku, Finland and legendary author of *Need Adaptive Assessment and Treatment*, “I experienced the Conference as a very successful and stimulating event. Psychiatry for the Person is a most important matter; there is an obvious global need for this, and I hope that this movement will continue and gain even more strength during future years”.

Cordially yours,

Prof. Juan E. Mezzich
President of the World Psychiatric Association