



WORLD FEDERATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Fédération Mondiale pour la Santé Mentale

NEWSLETTER

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NEW WFMH PRESIDENT FROM AUSTRALIA

Anthony (Tony) Fowke, AM, will become President of WFMH on 4 September 2009 at the Membership Assembly during the Federation's World Congress in Athens. He follows John R.M. Copeland, professor emeritus of Liverpool University, United Kingdom, who is ending a two-year term of office. Tony has been an energetic representative for mental health carers for some thirty years, having experienced mental illness within his family. He was appointed as a member in the General Division of the Order of Australia for his service as an advocate for the advancement of mental health services.



Tony Fowke

He was born in the UK and immigrated with his family in 1970 to Australia, where he qualified as a lawyer. He has a long involvement in his home state of Western Australia with issues involving persons with mental illness, and became prominent nationally in these matters. His current activities include the following:

- A legal member of the West Australian Mental Health Review Board, reviewing the status of involuntary patients either in hospital or who are on Community Treatment Orders
- A member of the Australian & New Zealand Association of Psychology, Psychiatry and Law and founding member of the Western Australian Branch
- Western Australian Carer Representative on the National Mental Health Consumer and Carer Forum, under the auspices of the Mental Health Council of Australia
- Carer Board member of the Mental Health Council of Australia (member of the Audit and Compliance Committee and Chair of the Carer Engagement Project Advisory Group)
- Board member and a Vice-President for Mental Health Carers Arafmi Western Australia, and President of the national body
- Carer representative on the Mental Health Standing Committee's Safety and Quality Partnership Subcommittee (with particular involvement in the reduction and elimination of seclusion and restraint, and adverse medical events).

He has served as President Elect for WFMH for two years, following two years as Honorary Secretary. Before that he was a Board member for four years and Regional Vice President for the Oceania Region for four years.

PRESTON GARRISON RETIRES AS WFMH'S SECRETARY-GENERAL & CEO

Announcement from the President

Mr. Preston J Garrison has informed the Board of the World Federation for Mental Health that he will retire as WFMH's Secretary-General and Chief Executive Officer at the conclusion of the WFMH World Congress in Athens, Greece on September 6th. Mr. Garrison will have completed a term of seven years in that position and a 42 year career in human services and mental health organisation management.

The Board of the Federation has reluctantly and with sadness accepted Mr. Garrison's decision to retire and wish to express their sincere thanks for the unremitting hard work and efficiency with which Mr. Garrison has tackled his duties and advanced the cause of the Federation and its members across the world. We remember particularly the efforts Mr. Garrison made to bring together consumer and family organisations, in setting up a fund to help Federation members faced with the mental health problems of disasters, tackling the cultural problems posed by migrating populations and latterly the mental health problems associated with HIV AIDS in Africa. His work has been dedicated, unstinting and resourceful and we have all benefited from his advice and depth of knowledge.

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New WFMH Board 2009-2011

The WFMH Voting Member Assembly has elected the WFMH Board of Directors for the period 2009-2011. Including the President (see page one) the Board has 23 members representing 17 countries. Five members elected to a first term are indicated with an asterisk.

AFRICA REGION

Sylvester Katontoka (Zambia) is a consumer diagnosed with depression in 1996, and the founder and president of the Mental Health Users Network of Zambia.

Brian Robertson (South Africa) is a psychiatrist specializing in child psychiatry who has been involved in mental health advocacy and education for some 35 years.

Shona Sturgeon (South Africa) is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Social Development at the University of Cape Town. She is completing her term as WFMH's Immediate Past President.

ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

Tsuyoshi Akiyama* (Japan) is Director of the Department of Psychiatry and Department of Patient Safety at Kanto Medical Center, Tokyo.

Porsche Poh* (Singapore) established Silver Ribbon (Singapore) in 2005 to combat mental health stigma and encourage early treatment for people with mental illnesses.

Shridhar Sharma (India) is Emeritus Professor at the National Academy of Medical Sciences, India. He has served as General Director of Health Services for the Ministry of Health, Government of India, and was founding director of India's Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences.

Deborah Wan (Hong Kong SAR, China) retired this year as Chief Executive Officer of New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association, having held that post since 1981. The Association has a broad array of services and more than 20 social enterprises providing employment.

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION

Haroon Rashid Chaudhry (Pakistan) is Honorary Executive Director of Fountain House Lahore, and also heads the psychiatry department at Fatima Jinnah Medical College/Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in Lahore.

Rafia Obaid Ghubash* (Bahrain) has been President of Arabian Gulf University since 2001. Previously she was Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at the United Arab Emirates University.

EUROPEAN REGION

Mohammed T. Abou-Saleh (United Kingdom) has been an Honorary Consultant in Addiction Psychiatry, St. George's, University of London, since 1998. He has also served as Chairman of the Royal College of Psychiatry's Middle East Group.

George Christodoulou (Greece) is Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Athens. He established the Section of Preventive Psychiatry of the World Psychiatric Association, and the Society of Preventive Psychiatry in Greece. He is the first President of the Psychiatric Association of Eastern Europe and the Balkans.

Yoram Cohen* (Israel) has been Chairman of ENOSH, the Israeli Mental Health Association, since 2003 and also serves as Vice-President of GAMIAN-Europe. In addition he is Chairman of Save a Child's Heart, an organization providing life-saving heart surgery to indigent children from developing countries.

John Copeland (United Kingdom) will become WFMH Immediate Past President at the Voting Member Assembly meeting in Athens on 4 September. From 1976 to 1997 he chaired the Academic Department of Psychiatry at the University of Liverpool, where he founded the Institute on Human Ageing.

Helen L. Millar (Scotland, UK) is a National Health Service Consultant Psychiatrist working with young adults who have severe and persistent mental illnesses. She has developed a holistic approach to patient care, with health screening and healthy lifestyle interventions.

LATIN AMERICA REGION

Gabriela Camara (Mexico) is Coordinator and Director of Voz Pro Salud Mental DF, a national mental health NGO. The organization provides support and advocacy for families who have members living with a mental illness, and training courses throughout the country.

Roger Montenegro (Argentina) is President of the Latin American Psychiatric Association, a member of the Board of Directors of the World Association of Cultural Psychiatry, a member of the WHO Expert Advisory Panel on Mental Health, and President of the Contener Foundation.

Mercedes Rivas-Torres (Costa Rica) is the Chief of Psychiatry at the Biblica Clinic Hospital in San José. She is Chair of Psychiatry for General Doctors in the Independent University of Central America.

NORTH AMERICA REGION

L. Patt Franciosi (United States) is a Past President of the WFMH Board of Directors and is completing a term as WFMH's Vice-President for Program Development. She has been President of the National Mental Health Association (now Mental Health America), and Chair of the National Prevention Coalition.

Diane Froggatt* (Canada) has served in leadership positions with the World Fellowship for Schizophrenia and Allied Disorders (WFSAD) since 1986, including Executive Director and Development Officer. She is one of the primary facilitators of the merging of WFSAD into WFMH.

Charles G. Ray (United States) is currently the WFMH Treasurer. He is President of CGR & Associates, LLC, and a Principal in the firm of Criterion Health. Previously, he was President and CEO of the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare from 1988 until 2003.

Richard Studer (United States) has worked for 40 years in the business world of mental health and the pharmaceutical industry, while also becoming involved in support for non-governmental organizations.

OCEANIA REGION

Helen Herrman (Australia) is a Professor of Medicine at the ORYGEN Research Centre at the University of Melbourne, and Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Research and Training at UM and St. Vincent's Health. She is Secretary for Publications and a member of the Executive Committee of the World Psychiatric Association.

(continued from page 1)

PRESTON GARRISON RETIRES AS WFMH'S SECRETARY-GENERAL & CEO

Mr. Garrison was appointed to the dual roles as Secretary-General and Chief Executive Officer for the World Federation for Mental Health in September 2002. As Secretary-General/CEO, Mr. Garrison has been responsible for providing staff leadership to increase the efficacy of the operations and functions of the Federation, enhancing the capacity of the organization to lead the international voluntary mental health movement, and working with its Board of Directors in realizing WFMH's goals and strategic objectives.

Throughout most of his career, Mr. Garrison has been involved in mental health education, policy advocacy, and management working with local and state mental health associations in Tennessee, Georgia, and Florida and as the chief executive officer of the National Mental Health Association (now Mental Health America) in the United States.

In his letter to the WFMH Board of Directors announcing his plans to retire, Mr. Garrison expressed his appreciation at having the opportunity to serve the World Federation for Mental Health and for the important and difficult work that is taking place every day across the world by the individuals and organizations that are members of WFMH. You will have the opportunity of meeting Mr. Garrison and wishing him well at the World Congress in Athens in September 2009.

I know that in the meantime you will all join with the Board and me in wishing Mr. Garrison and his wife Susan, a retired education teacher and administrator for more than 40 years, a full and happy retirement in Florida, USA.

The WFMH Executive Committee has begun the process of this transition of staff leadership and will be addressing it when the newly elected Board of Directors meets in Athens, Greece on September 7th following the WFMH World Mental Health Congress. The Executive Committee has asked Mr.

Charles Ray, WFMH's Treasurer and an experienced NGO executive, to serve in the role of Operations Manager during this transition period and to work with the Secretariat staff on day-to-day operations and program management.

*John Copeland
President*

WFMH BEGINS AFRICA INITIATIVE IMPLEMENTATION

Through the support of a grant from The Ford Foundation, WFMH has begun the first steps to implement its Africa Initiative Addressing the Mental Health Consequences of HIV/AIDS.

The goals of the Initiative, authorized by the Board of Directors in 2007, are:

- to address the unmet mental health needs of people living with HIV/AIDS and their families
- to promote and facilitate greater collaboration and communication between grassroots organizations working in the fields of mental health and of HIV/AIDS
- to build the capacity of grassroots mental health Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) working at local and national levels to plan and carry out effective education, advocacy, and training programs intended to improve the availability of mental health support services to people living with AIDS, their families and caregivers
- to promote and support the development of a formal Africa-based Initiative on Mental Health and HIV/AIDS that will bring together governmental role players, NGOs and other significant participants working in the areas of mental health and HIV/AIDS to carry on the objectives of the Initiative.

WFMH, in collaboration with the Cape Mental Health Society, has undertaken the establishment of a Secretariat in Cape Town, South Africa, to coordinate the development and activities of the Initiative, and to begin the work of network-building among grassroots organizations working in the fields of mental health, psychosocial support, and HIV/AIDS. The Secretariat will be hosted by the Cape Mental Health Society, under the supervision of its Director, Ingrid Daniels. Gemma Griffin, who served as the WFMH Africa Initiative Project Intern during the project's planning phase in 2008, will serve as the Secretariat's Coordinator.

WFMH has established a strong advisory group of leaders in both mental health and HIV/AIDS throughout Africa to advise the Initiative and the Secretariat. Members of the WFMH Board of Directors in Africa, Shona Sturgeon, Professor Brian Robertson, Dr. Felicien Ntone-Enyime, Sylvester Katontoka, and Elizabeth Matare serve as the Initiative's work group and will be involved in the program of the Secretariat as it goes forward in its network development activities.

The first product to be developed as an outcome of the WFMH Africa Initiative will be a Guidebook on HIV/AIDS and Depression in Africa currently in preparation by Gemma Griffin, and funded through an educational grant from Eli Lilly USA, LLC and Boehringer-Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc. The guidebook is intended to raise awareness and increase understanding of the relationship between physical and mental health – and specifically the common co-occurrence of depression and HIV/AIDS.

SAVE THE DATE

The Sixth World Conference on the Promotion of Mental Health and Prevention of Mental and Behavioral Disorders will take place on 17-19 November 2010 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C.

To be placed on the list for conference updates, send an email to Anne O'Neill, Senior Administrative Manager at Education Development Center, Inc., the host organization (aoneill@edc.org). WFMH is an organizing partner for the conference.

UNITED NATIONS

New York

Linda Conte, one of WFMH's volunteer UN Representatives, has been elected Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the UN NGO Committee on Mental Health. She is WFMH's Alternate Representative to the UN Department of Public Information, working with the Federation's Main Representative Nancy Wallace. Ms. Conte has almost 30 years' experience in education and social work, working with at-risk children and youth and their families, and coordinating a drug-abuse prevention program.

In addition to Nancy Wallace and Linda Conte, WFMH's UN Representatives in New York are Prof. Ricki Kantrowitz and Mr. Richard Donahue.

Geneva

WFMH's Main Representative in Geneva, Myrna Lachenal, attended the CoNGO Civil Society Development Forum in Geneva, 2-4 July 2009, at the International Labour Office. The meeting's topic was "Implementing the Agreed Goals and Commitments in regard to Global Public Health." In the outcome document mental health was specifically mentioned, thanks to the energetic advocacy of Janice Wood Wetzel, chair of the NGO Committee on Mental Health:

"We emphasize the importance, as does WHO, of defining health as encompassing mental, physical and social well-being. Depression is projected to be the greatest risk factor in terms of global disease burden, surpassing all physical illnesses combined by 2030. Women are already at greater risk for depression worldwide. Yet, mental health is missing from the global public health agenda." (See http://www.ngocongo.org/files/csdf_2009_gva_outcome_document.pdf)

WFMH signed on to the document. It was circulated to the governments participating in the UN Economic and Social Council's High-Level Segment (6-9 July 2009) in Geneva on the same global public health theme.

WFMH World Congress
2-6 September 2009
Athens, Greece
 See www.wmhc2009.com
 or contact info@wfmh.com

New on the Web www.wfmh.org

Disaster Relief Forum. WFMH has posted on its website an edited report of the International Forum on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Disaster Settings, held in London in 28-29 August 2008. The Federation's purpose in arranging the Forum was to draw attention to new guidelines on mental health issues in relief efforts, issued by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee. (The IASC is a high-level collaborating committee of the world's major disaster relief agencies.)

The report provides a valuable commentary for all concerned with the mental health consequences of natural and manmade disasters. Program speakers had extensive experience in disaster relief, and discussed issues such as the problems facing workers in this area, the proportion of victims of disaster who will suffer long-term mental health consequences, financing, working with humanitarian organizations, training and the need for strengthening the evidence base for interventions.

World Mental Health Day. The theme of the Federation's 2009 global mental health education campaign is "Mental Health in Primary Care." The website now has the complete set of the 2009 World Mental Health Day material in eight languages – English, French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic, Japanese, Chinese (two versions, simplified and traditional) and Hindi. Fewer CDs will be mailed out this year.

Reducing Disparities in Mental Health Services. The final report of WFMH's International Forum on this topic has now been posted on the website. The Forum held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA in December 2008 examined the many disparities in the delivery of mental health services for racial and ethnic minorities.

Are You a WFMH Member?

This number of the Newsletter is going to many friends of the Federation. If you wish to continue receiving it please be sure that your membership is up-to-date. If you are not yet a member, join us now! We need you and you need an NGO (non-governmental organization) accredited as a mental health consultant at the U.N. Fees for individual membership: developed countries, \$35; OECD developing countries, \$15; life member \$500; and library \$35 (U.S.). Your inquiries or check should go to: WFMH, 12940 Harbor Drive, Suite 101, Woodbridge, VA 22192-2930, USA.

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