



WFMH

World Federation for Mental Health

12940 Harbor Drive, Suite 101, Woodbridge, VA 22192 USA. Tel: +703.494.6515

THE WORLD FEDERATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH APPOINTS NEW SECRETARY GENERAL and CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH), a sixty-two-year-old international advocacy organization with 73 voting member organizations and 61 affiliates, has named Dr. Vijay Ganju as its new Secretary General and Chief Executive Officer. He succeeds Preston J. Garrison, who retired in 2009. Dr. Ganju has worked in various capacities with mental health systems at state, national and international levels.

Tony Fowke, AM, the President of WFMH's Board of Directors, said: "The Federation is fortunate in being able to secure the appointment of Dr. Ganju to the position of Secretary General and CEO. Dr. Ganju brings to the organization a vast wealth of experience in the mental health field and we look forward to the expansion of the work undertaken by the Federation throughout the world. There remain many areas of need in the globe to improve outcomes for those experiencing mental health problems as well as their families and friends. The Federation has an important role to continue to perform under the expert guidance of Dr. Ganju."

Dr. Ganju has provided leadership for initiatives related to mental health system transformation, implementation and dissemination of evidence-based practices, mental health system financing and the development of outcomes systems. At the state level, he directed the Texas Mental Health System Transformation project and was previously the Director of Planning, Research and Evaluation at the state's mental health and mental retardation agency. At the national level, he was the director of the SAMHSA-supported Center for Mental Health Quality and Accountability, which supported the development and dissemination of evidence-based practices, performance measurement, and quality improvement initiatives. He also coordinated the development and implementation of an outcomes system, components of which are being implemented in all the U.S. states and territories.



At the international level, Dr. Ganju has worked with the World Health Organization on the development of mental health training modules. He was the lead author for the module on mental health financing and a co-author for the module on quality improvement. He has also provided

consultation to mental health systems in Albania, Macedonia and Canada. He is currently coordinating a project on best practices for indigenous populations in the Pacific region.

He has served on various advisory committees including those of the National Committee on Quality Assurance, the National Technical Assistance Center for Children's Mental Health, the National Association for State Mental Health Directors, SAMHSA's Center for Mental Health Services, and the Center for Excellence in Culturally Competent Mental Health Care. He was appointed by the Texas Senate to serve on the Texas State Health Coordinating Council.

He has also taught at the University of Texas in the areas of international economic development, international communication, operations research and statistics.

"I am very excited about the prospect of the new position," he said. "The World Federation for Mental Health is an organization with a great history and tremendous potential. WFMH is the only international, comprehensive mental health advocacy organization officially recognized by the World Health Organization. Since its inception, it has advocated vigorously for the adequate treatment and the rights of adults and children with mental illness and their families. WFMH created World Mental Health Day to combat stigma and raise public awareness. Now it is poised to help create a global mental health future."

The World Federation for Mental Health, founded in London in 1948, works to heighten public awareness about the importance of mental health, to improve attitudes about mental disorders, and to promote mental health and optimal functioning. Its priorities include improved care and treatment of those with mental, neurological and psychosocial disorders, and the prevention of these disorders.

Contact Information:

Dr. Vijay K. Ganju, PhD
vganju@wfmh.com