

World Association of Social Psychiatry Newsletter- June 2023

Welcome to the latest edition of the WASP newsletter and the first of 2023. It is also the first newsletter since the XXIVth International congress held in London in January and the inauguration of the new WASP executive committee headed up by Vincenzo Di Nicola from Montreal.

The officers are:

President- Vincenzo di Nicola, Montreal, Canada.

President Elect- Rakesh Chadda, New Delhi, India.

Secretary General- Andrew Molodynski, Oxford, England.

Treasurer- Yasser Khazaal, Geneva, Switzerland

There are also two presidential advisors, one being the immediate past president as per WASP's long-term traditions.

Presidential Advisor- Rachid Bennegadi, Paris, France

Presidential Advisor- Eliot Sorel, Washington, USA

We would really welcome any contributions from sections of WASP and member countries about any news or developments in the world of social psychiatry to share with our friends across all five continents. This first newsletter is quite long but hopefully will contain points of interest for all after a long gap and future editions I promise will be briefer!!

Wolfgang Rutz 1943- 2023



It is with great sadness that we record here the passing of a true giant of social psychiatry and a wonderful man.

Wolfgang was born during WW2 and had his training as a medical doctor and a psychiatrist in Germany and Austria. Since 1970 he worked in Sweden holding positions at the Karolinska and Uppsala University. An important part of his career took place on the Swedish island Gotland where he was responsible for mental health services and led the ground breaking and world renowned '@Goptland Study'. From 1998 to 2004 he was the Regional Officer for Mental Health, WHO Europe. Further he was a professor of Social Psychiatry at the University of Applied Sciences, Coburg, Germany.

Wolfgang was a strong supporter of social psychiatry and advocate for mental health policies and supportive services that facilitate self-respect, dignity, and meaning in life, and a social network respectful to individual experience, and identity.

On a personal level Wolfgang was a wonderfully kind and generous man and a larger-than-life character who was fondly regarded by the international psychiatric community.

He will be much missed.

A Note from Our President

Shortly after my election as President-Elect at the 23rd WASP World Congress of Social Psychiatry in Bucharest, Romania in 2019, we experienced a world-wide COVID-19 pandemic which became *syndemic*, triggering two parallel challenges – the biological coronavirus pandemic and the synergistic social cascade of consequences that accompanied it. Along with many international organizations, WASP was impacted and our plans were derailed, including changing the venue for our 24th World Congress, planned for Japan. We were nonetheless able to work with the Faculty of Rehabilitation and Social Psychiatry of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in London, England to hold a slightly delayed yet very successful Joint World Congress on 16-18 January 2023. My heartfelt gratitude goes out to all involved in the planning and excellent production of this congress at WASP and Royal College, especially to Andrew Molodynski, WASP Secretary-General, and Raj Mohan, Chair of the RCPsych's Faculty of Rehabilitation and Social Psychiatry.

In my London address as incoming President of WASP, I identified myself as a child psychiatrist, family psychotherapist and social psychiatrist, and discussed attachment, family, and social systems whose connecting thread is *belonging* which I see as the hallmark of social psychiatry. In a time of increasing polarization, I wish to promote convergence, integration, and social solidarity as the guiding values of our field. Accordingly, I identified the themes for my triennium (2022-2025) and for our mission as social psychiatrists:

- Attachment, family, and social systems
- Intergenerational transmission of family, communal, and social systems and structures
- From populations to patients, from social to personal being

Among our priorities, the WASP Executive Committee is working to reach out to our 27 WASP National Members and the numerous WASP Sections for their help in reinvigorating our association which will celebrate our 60th anniversary in 2024. To that end, we have established the 21st Century World Social Psychiatry Task Force, co-chaired by Eliot Sorel, WASP Past President, and myself, to develop and implement an innovative and nimble vision of our association to respond to and prepare for contemporary challenges.

Since 2019, we have a new voice in world psychiatry with our WASP journal, *World Social Psychiatry*, edited by Debasish Basu and Nitin Gupta. *World Social Psychiatry* has already had two special issues focused on Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and this year's Joint World Congress. Other theme issues on Public Health and Social Psychiatry and Family Interventions in Social Psychiatry are in preparation.

WASP continues to enjoy close collaborations with many international and national psychiatric organizations, including the American Psychiatric Association, the Canadian Psychiatric Association, several Indian psychiatric associations, and the World Psychiatric Association, the World Federation for Mental Health and the newly-reformed and renamed World Federation for Psychotherapy, where I and my fellow Executive Officers and other WASP members have represented our focus on social psychiatry.

Finally, after founding and presiding over the Canadian Association of Social Psychiatry (CASP) since 2019, under my leadership CASP made a successful bid to bring the 25th world congress in Montreal 2025 which is now planned for the fall of 2025. CASP is now transitioning to a new leadership team to help prepare for the next World Congress here in Montreal.

We hope to welcome all of our WASP National Members, our WASP Sections, our affiliated members and all national and international allied organizations in celebrating WASP's six decades of continuing worldwide activity championing social and humane aspirations of psychiatry and mental health.

I warmly welcome your feedback on any of these topics and indeed I hope we can count on our active participation through our WASP Website, our WASP Newsletter and our WASP journal, as well as various WASP-sponsored national, regional and international congresses.

WASP Web: <https://waspsocialpsychiatry.org/>

World Social Psychiatry: <https://www.worldsopsychiatry.org/>

Email: wasp.president@gmail.com



Message from President Elect, WASP

Dear Friends,

We are about to complete 6 decades of the journey of the World Association of Social Psychiatry (WASP). I am honoured to be actively associated with the Association since the last 3 decades and in official capacity since last 4 years. Recently, we have had a wonderful WASP Congress at the Royal College of Psychiatrists, London in January 2023 and will be having the next world congress at Montreal in Oct/Nov 2025.

You would agree that social psychiatry is an essential component of the mainstream psychiatry. Since it lacks glamour of biological psychiatry, it tends to be ignored. The pandemic has further brought focus on social psychiatry. Psychological reactions seen in the background of the pandemic, the stress, adjustments problems, PTSD, vaccine hesitancy and then post covid psychiatric phenomena, all needed psychosocial interventions, highlighting the need of social psychiatry.

I would like to request all the member societies to be proactive and expand their membership and also spread the message of social psychiatry in their respective countries. I would also like to request you to send your contributions to the World Social Psychiatry, the official journal of the WASP.

Rakesh K Chadda
President Elect, WASP
Professor & Head. Department of Psychiatry
Chief, National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre
All India Institute of Medical Sciences,
New Delhi 110029, India
drakeshchadda@gmail.com

Secretary General's report

It is a real honour to succeed Rakesh as Secretary General (SG), though slightly awe inspiring to follow in such giant footsteps! Much of my time in recent months has been taken up with helping organize the XXIVth International congress of WASP jointly with our friends at the UK Royal College of Psychiatrists. The event was a success with over 350 people attending in person or virtually from more than 30 countries around the world. Twelve plenary speeches and numerous symposia offered a huge breadth of content and there were good levels of service user and carer involvement. A number of honorary fellowships of WASP were awarded as follows:

1. Dr. Adrian James, President, Royal College of Psychiatrists, UK
2. Prof. Swaran Preet Singh, Professor of Social and Community Psychiatry, Warwick Medical School; Director, Centre for Mental Health and Wellbeing Research, University of Warwick; Deputy Director, Wellcome Midlands Mental Health and Neuroscience Doctoral Training College
3. Prof R Srinivasa Murthy, Former Professor and Head, Department of Psychiatry, NIMHANS, Bangalore; Editor in Chief, World Health Report, 2001.
4. Prof. Richard Mollica, Director of the Harvard Program in Refugee Trauma, Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School
5. Prof. Johannes Wancata, Chair of Division of Social Psychiatry, Professor for Social Psychiatry, Medical University of Vienna
6. Dr Vinay Lakra, President, Royal College of Psychiatrists of Australia and New Zealand.
7. Prof Maurizio Andolfi, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, social psychiatrist, family psychiatrist.

The highly prestigious Yves Pelicier prize for outstanding contribution to social psychiatry was awarded to Professor Savita Malhotra from India. Professor Malhotra gave an electrifying speech on accepting her award and family members were present to witness her proud moment.

Nine early career fellows attended the congress either virtually or in person and gave fascinating presentations of their work. The fellows are all continuing the important section of WASP that aims to support and help to develop those in their earlier years.

The congress generated a small positive revenue that can be used to further develop and support the educational activities of WASP.

Below is photo of some of our distinguished guests (and Vincenzo and I!):



From left: Me, Vincenzo, Adrian James (president of RPSYCH), Tom Craig (institute of Psychiatry, London), Gabby Ivbijaro (president World Mental Health Federation), Driss Moussaoui (past president WASP), Dinesh Bhugra (past president WPA, past president RCPsych).

Other news

1. We received the message below from Professor Malik, president of the Pakistan Association of Social Psychiatry:

‘We have successfully organised our 3rd National Conference on Social Psychiatry on 13th May 23. The detail Scientific programme, the conference details, including inaugural ceremony, detail scientific sessions and pharmaceutical industry exhibition in pictorial form is already been send to you. A brief write up will also be send soon for the official website of WASP about the event. Looking forward for regular and continuous collaboration. Regards. Prof. Mazhar Malik, President, Pakistan Association of Social Psychiatry, PASP ‘

It sounds like it was a fascinating and successful meeting!

2. Diamond Jubilee International Conference on Mental Health 2023 (DJICMH 2023), Chandigarh, India, 14-16 September 2023

The Department of Psychiatry, Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh, India, is organizing the Diamond Jubilee International Conference on Mental Health 2023 (DJICMH 2023) in Chandigarh on 14-16 September 2023.

To provide the context, 16th September 1963 was the day Dr Narendra Nath Wig, a visionary leader in psychiatry, joined PGIMER Chandigarh, as an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry in the Department of Medicine, which led to the creation of the Department of Psychiatry later

in 1968. This day is celebrated as the Foundation Day of the Department of Psychiatry at PGIMER Chandigarh. On this day, the Institute hosts the prestigious Professor N.N. Wig Oration.

The conference theme is: "Public Mental Health: *Mental Health of the people, by the people, for the people.*"

Several World Associations, including not only the World Association of Social Psychiatry (WASP) but also the World Psychiatric Association, World Federation for Mental Health, and International Centre of Person-Centered Medicine have agreed to be Co-Sponsors for this event.

For more details, including registration and abstract submission, please visit <https://www.djicmh2023.com/>.

3. Innovation and Tradition: An integrated Early Career Section

by: Maria Bernadett Carandang, MD, DSBPP and Ananya, Mahapatra, MD, DNB

Drs. Carandang and Mahapatra envisage the formation of an Early Career Section committed to infusing innovation into traditions. Throughout their two-year tenure, they plan to craft a strategic blueprint designed to integrate sustainability within the section through research collaborations and the establishment of a learning consortium.

Dr. Maria Bernadett Carandang, MD, DSBPP, a psychiatrist from the Philippines, serves as a faculty member at La Consolacion University and holds the position of Assistant Residency Training Officer at Batangas Medical Center. Her research interests are centered around niche populations that have the potential to contribute towards societal wellbeing, with particular emphasis on fandoms. In addition, she has made significant contributions in the fields of occupational and transgender mental health.

Dr. Ananya Mahapatra, MD, a psychiatrist from India, is a member of the faculty at Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hospital & Medical College, New Delhi. Her research interests primarily encompass common mental disorders and adolescent mental health, with particular focus on their intersections with contemporary social issues. Moreover, she maintains a keen interest in exploring literature as an instrument for enhancing empathy and training individuals on socio-cultural elements pertinent to mental health.

The proposed Early Career section aims to solidify networks among emerging psychiatrists and facilitate collaborative research endeavors addressing social psychiatry issues from a spectrum of perspectives. Concurrently, the envisioned learning consortium aspires to assemble social psychiatrists of diverse backgrounds to evaluate and discuss current psychiatric challenges, as well as potential future advancements and breakthroughs in the field.

This bifocal approach, as envisioned by the Early Career Psychiatry (ECP) section, is geared towards decolonizing mental illness narratives, ensuring comprehensive representation and diversity, and nurturing an interconnected global community of young social psychiatrists.