

**Division of Professional Practice (Division 17)
E-News from OUR TEAM:
(FEBRUARY, 2021)**

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January-February:

- The monthly IAAP E-News provides an opportunity to reflect on key events of the past month. Foremost amongst these has been the change of government/administration in the USA, with 15 executive orders issued on the first day of President Jo Biden's term of office in areas as diverse as: a '100-day masking challenge' (to combat COVID-19), environment (re-joining the Paris accord), health (re-joining the WHO), racial equity, economic stimulus, etc. (See: <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/tamara-keith-and-amy-walter-on-president-bidens-executive-actions>) .. It will be intriguing to 'watch this space' over coming months, as well as the impact of these developments elsewhere.

- **The World in the Time of COVID-19**

As we write (25.1.21), the WHO Coronavirus Disease 'dashboard' indicates that there are now **99,363,697 confirmed cases with 2,135,959 deaths world-wide** (compared to 28.12.20: 79,673,994 confirmed cases; 1,761,381 deaths; 23.11.20: 57,882,183 cases, 1,377,395 deaths; 29.10.20: 43,766,712 cases, 1,163,459 deaths; 26.7.20: 15,581,009 cases, 635,173 deaths; 20.6.20: 8,385,440 cases, 450,686 deaths; 26.4.20: 2.8million cases, 200,000 deaths).

See: WHO:

https://covid19.who.int/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMikPFX79Px7QIV2w0rCh2N_w2GEAAAYASAAEgKQmD_BwE

(For summaries of the unfolding situation during 2020, see previous Division 17 E-News editions.)

It's exactly a year ago today (25.1.20) that Australia (where I'm writing) monitored its first case. Since then, we have had two drastic lock-downs, a severe economic downturn, a total of 28,766 confirmed cases, 909 deaths and a current estimation of 135 active cases (including tennis players who have come into the country for the Australian Open!).

Other countries have been less fortunate than we: the USA and Europe, with 11% of the world's population, accounted for 58% of all new infections during the past week (CoronaVirus Impact Chart for week ending 23.2.21: <https://www.saul-eslake.com>) with the USA now passing 25 million cases - over ¼ of the world's infections (with 4% of the population). Cases are surging in Canada (see: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/1/24/covid-surges-canada-workers-cant-afford-get-sick>) and deaths in the UK approach 100,000 as they expand the roll-out of their combined Pfizer, AstraZeneca & Oxford University *vaccination plan* to inoculate 15 million people by 15.2.21 (<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/health/uk-vaccination-drive-expands-as-virus-toll-nears-100000>)

All we can do is 'watch this space' and reflect on our role as psychologists, and how we can contribute to the communities we serve at this time of ongoing crisis.

Ongoing Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on mental health:

- **There is a plethora of ways in which the pandemic has impacted our communities; for some of these**

See: <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/search-results?q=mental%20health%20impacts%20of%20covid#>

Impact on students and education:

- **Psychological impact of school closures on more than 258 million children who have missed school during 2020 (Jan 23, 2021)**
Irish Psychologist, Catherine Hallissey, reflects on mental health impacts and longer-term sequelae on children across the world.
<https://catherinehallissey.com/2021/01/26/psychological-impact-of-school-closures-on-children/>
- **Pandemic-induced on-line screen addiction:** The alarming rise in children's screen time during the pandemic has given rise to fears of behavioural addiction (interview with Irish Psychologist)
<https://mediaview.aljazeera.com/video/DmhJZEJrVt>
- **Kids and COVID isolation & stress: What parents need to know:**
Experts voice concern over how children are relating to the world outside their homes during the pandemic, as well as the stress they are feeling from their parent's COVID-related financial struggles.
<https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2020/12/14/how-covid-isolation-and-stress-are-impacting-children>
- **How the pandemic is impacting college students' mental health (Jan 19, 2021)**
<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/how-the-pandemic-is-impacting-college-students-mental-health>
College students have long been prone to stress, anxiety and depression. And three out of four Americans between the ages of 18 and 24 report poor mental health tied to the pandemic, according to the CDC. Hari Sreenivasan reports as part of our ongoing series, "Rethinking College."

Division Activity:

- **Member Activities:** As mentioned in our previous (January) E-News, a positive new initiative of our Secretary General Pedro Neves, has been the compilation of IAAP members' current activities (in each Division). We re-attach our latest spread-sheet: https://iaapsy.org/site/assets/files/2110/copy_of_division17memberachievements_2019-20_rv.pdf and would be most grateful if members could send us any up-dates about professional initiatives, publications, activities, awards, etc. which we can profile - both in the cumulative list and also in our E-News/Newsletters.
Please send to: robbynvines@bigpond.com and susanh2_mcdaniel@urmc.rochester.edu
- **Webinars:**
To supplement our previous/first webinar on "Integrated Mental Health Care" <https://iaapsy.org/members/webinars/the-critical-role-of-psychology-in-an-integrated-primary-care-model-presented-by-iaap-division-17/>, our executive team are planning a further webinar on "The Necessity of a Bio-psycho-social Approach to mental and general

health presentations” (date still to be finalised). We will circulate details to all IAAP members when contributors are finalised.

Please send any ideas (to email addresses above) about further webinar topics that may be useful in your professional practice. We are hoping to increase this way of interrelating with members.

- **International Congresses:**

The status of the **International Congress of Psychology in Prague: July, 2021** (postponed from July, 2020) remains unclear at this stage – vaccines, travel arrangements permitting. Our Division team hopes to present, either face-to-face or ‘virtually’, our double-symposium (accepted by the ICP committee) entitled: ***"The role of psychology in integrated mental health care: an international perspective"***.

Brief Description of the Symposium:

The symposium will provide an overview of current progress in integrated psychological service delivery in the primary care setting in a number of western countries: USA, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Norway and the United Kingdom. These integrated services attempt to redress the ongoing “medicalisation of unhappiness” across the western world and the sub-optimal care provided in which medication is still frequently the first (and often only) treatment of choice, leaving the crucial psychosocial dimensions of mental and general health under-treated. Integrated primary mental and general health service delivery has evolved over the past twenty years to include evidence-based psychological interventions in the primary care setting. Symposium participants will canvas progress in a number of different areas in their specific countries and provide an up-date internationally on key issues relevant to this mode of practice. All welcome to attend!

Please contact us if you have items to share, questions to ask, ideas to put forward in relation to Division 17 activities.



Robyn F. Vines, Ph.D.
President Division of Professional Practice

(February, 2021)

Division Website: <https://iaapsy.org/divisions/division17/>

Division Newsletters:

- **October, 2020:**
https://iaapsy.org/site/assets/files/2044/div_17_october_newsletter.pdf
- **December, 2019: (End of Year Summary: 2019)**
<https://iaap.createsend1.com/t/ViewEmail/t/CB562312D9AFD69D2540EF23F30FEDED>

Division 17 E-News Bulletins:

- **Link to Division Website:** <https://iaapsy.org/divisions/division17/>

UNITED NATIONS INTEGRATED CARE INITIATIVE:

https://iaapsy.org/site/assets/files/1222/undoc_integratinghealthintopriarycare_pdf.pdf