Division 17: Professional Practice

Dear IAAP members,

THE WORLD IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

When we wrote our last half-yearly Newsletter (December, 2019) the world was a different place! We had no way of knowing then that a global pandemic was looming, with the huge physical and mental health, economic and social sequelae that have emerged since then.

As I write (28.9.20), the "WHO Coronavirus Disease Dashboard" highlights the ongoing exponential increase in global incidence of COVID-19 with **32,730,945 confirmed cases** and **991,224 deaths** (as at 27.9.20). We have informed members cumulatively, in our monthly E-News, of these statistics over the intervening time since January 2020; retrospective reading highlights the astonishing global trajectory of the illness.

- **July E-News:** 15,581,009 confirmed cases, including 635,173 deaths reported globally (26.7.20)
- **June E-News:** 8,708,008 confirmed cases world-wide with 461,715 confirmed deaths (22.6.20)
- **May E-News:** 5,206,614 confirmed cases of COVID-19 world-wide, including 337,736 deaths (25.5.20)
- **April E-News:** over half a million infections world-wide, with death rates of 23,000.
- **March E-News**: 2,668,646 'registered cases', 186,319 'registered deaths', 730,987 'registered recoveries'.
- In **early January:** small 'reported' beginnings in China and elsewhere of several hundred cases; 20+ deaths).

See: **https://covid19.who.int/?gclid=CjwKCAjwtqj2BRBYEiwAqfzur0_ex6dWxh6KYdT1q__x1tUhP8dQDg2I9MkiGszf2yy2d4CisCeevhoCGFEQAvD_BwE**

The size of the ongoing crisis remains implicit in these escalating figures - as we all continue to deal with new challenges in our own relative isolation, both personally and professionally. New issues arise each day as we continue with our professional practice, supporting our patients and clients under these conditions. We have seen governments (in the USA, UK, South America, Canada and Australia amongst others) ease restrictions, despite ongoing risks, in an attempt to balance economic vs. health needs. However, with the onset of a 'second wave' in many places (e.g. Melbourne/Victoria in Australia, across the UK and USA, amongst many other places) the level of uncertainty has remained high. It's 'as if' much of which we have known and been certain about previously has been torn up, thrown sky high and it's 'anyone's guess' as to where it all might land. As such, the adage of "**embracing uncertainty**" takes on new meaning.

DIVISION 17: PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE NEWS

Some members of the Division of Professional Practice at ICAP, 2018, Integrated Health Care Symposium

- During the past six months, we have tried to stay in touch with our members, finding new **items of interest and relevance to these new and adverse conditions** which may be of use (see Division 17 E-News editions: February to August) – previous editions on our web page. We hope to continue this in each monthly E-News, and welcome contributions from members (as well as ideas as to what we should cover)
- We have elected a **new President-Elect (2020-2022): Professor Susan McDaniel** (see her Newsletter contribution below) and **farewelled Professor James Bray as our Immediate-Past President** (see too his Newsletter contribution below). I want to express my/our sincere thanks to them both for their ongoing contribution to the Division - James will continue as an IAAP Board "Member-at-Large" for the next two years. He has made a stellar difference to our Division having steered it since 2013, close to its 'inauguration'.

This Edition: We have tried to provide a 'smorgasbord of articles' relevant to current Professional Practice issues as follows:

- Message from incoming President-Elect: Susan McDaniel
  "A Case Example: Embedded Practicing Psychologists functioning during the 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic (The University of Rochester Medical Center"
- Article from outgoing Immediate Past-President: James Bray:
  "The Importance of Professional Psychology in Primary Health Care and Integrated Health Care"
- Articles from the UK (President of the BPS. Norway (President of the Norwegian Psychological Association), Canada (two Professors in 'integrated care' at Ottawa University - members of our Division team), Rwanda/Africa (Director, Institute of Global Health Equity Research), Rural USA (member of APA board/IAAP)
  "The World in the Time of COVID: International 'Snapshots' from the UK, Norway, Canada, Rwanda, and Rural USA"
- Article from Professor Sverre Nielsen: Norwegian Psychological Association
  "An Up-date on the 'International Declaration on Core Competences in Professional Psychology' - progress since the2013 Congress on "Competence as a Common Language for Professional Identity and International Recognition"
- Professor Paul Martin: President, 27th ICAP and Past Director, IAAP
  Monash University, Melbourne, Australia
  "Is the Biopsychosocial Model Widely Accepted in Medicine: The Example of Headache and Migraine?"
  (An important overview in the area of Neurology, illustrating how slow things are to change towards and truly integrated, bio-psychosocial approach to general and mental health issues).
- Adjunct Professor Shirley Morrissey, Griffith University, Queensland, Australia ***"Interprofessional Learning and Psychology: Current Status and Where Next?"***
  (A crucial area of psychological curriculum development, IF we are truly to become part of an integrated, multi-disciplinary team approach to treatment: both primary and secondary care)
- **Division of Professional Practice: Update on International Congresses and Symposia**

All the very best to all IAAP Members as we face the ongoing international circumstances under the COVID-19 pandemic. Please provide feedback and ideas for future editions.

(Please also 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.
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