



FROM THE PRESIDENT

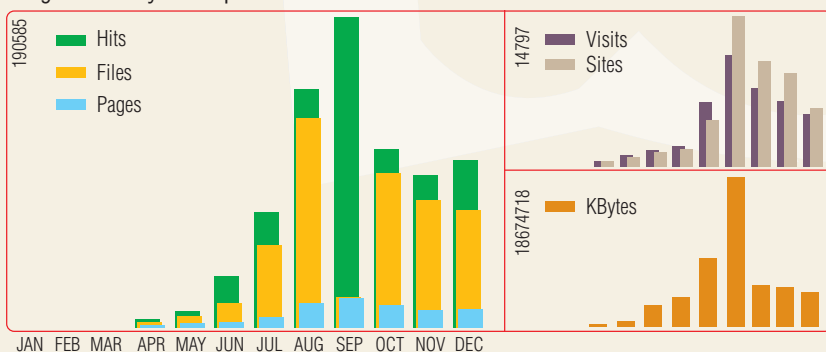
## Comments and suggestions from members solicited

2009 promises to be an important year in the development of the International Association for Suicide Prevention. We will be holding our 25th World Congress in Montevideo, Uruguay on the 27-31 October (and it is time that you begin to make plans and submit proposals for this exciting meeting). We are also looking forward to many new developments. However, we are at a point where we can greatly benefit from input from IASP members before we proceed.

First, in the coming weeks, members will be sent an important document, a proposed "Strategic Overview 2009-2013" of IASP goals and priorities. This document was developed following a review of IASP's previous 5 year strategic operational plan and will be sent to all members in the coming weeks for comments and suggestions. Based upon the priorities and strategic outcomes that are outlined in this document, the IASP Board is in the process of developing a strategic work plan to achieve these outcomes. However, before finalizing any plans, input from all IASP members is being solicited concerning our visions for activities in the coming years. I will be sending a letter with the strategic overview document to all IASP individual and organizational members for comments before the end of January.

Second, if you have visited the IASP web site since last May ([www.iasp.info](http://www.iasp.info)), you will have noticed that there is a change in format and the material on the site is expanding each month. After many years of having the IASP site graciously hosted in Norway by Lars Mehlum at the University of Oslo, IASP is now operating its own site, with the help of a brilliant site developer, Kenneth Hemmerick. We are looking at expanding the restricted "members only" section and we are seeking ways to highlight IASP activities and ensure that IASP is identified easily by various search engines. At this time I would like to invite all IASP members to visit the site and make suggestions about how to improve the site and increase its usefulness for IASP members, as well as the general public. As you can see from the graph on usage of the site, there was a major peak of activity in September around World Suicide Prevention Day. We are looking at ways to capitalize upon the increased visits around this annual event in order to recruit new IASP members and incite visitors to return to the site throughout the year.

### Usage summary for [iasp.info](http://iasp.info)



One of the challenges in developing the web site is the fact that the content of the site is entirely developed on a voluntary basis by IASP members. At the present time, Annette Beautrais ([annette.beautrais@yale.edu](mailto:annette.beautrais@yale.edu)), the IASP General Secretary, is responsible for screening content to be put on the site. We would like to have the IASP site become an important resource for suicide prevention around the world. We would also like to have as much of the site as possible available in several other languages. Again, we have relied thus far on volunteers to translate the site in other languages. Your suggestions concerning the web site would be greatly appreciated.

Wishing you good health, joy and great accomplishments in the New Year.

Brian L. Mishara, Ph.D.  
[mishara.brian@uqam.ca](mailto:mishara.brian@uqam.ca)

## New IASP Task Force: Best Practice Standards in Suicide Prevention for Helplines

Helplines worldwide are front line services receiving many thousand of phone calls annually from people at risk of suicide. While individual countries or services may have developed suicide prevention or intervention standards for their services there is no general agreement internationally as to what constitutes best practice in response to a suicidal caller. Over recent years researchers have taken an increased interest in the work of Helplines and a body of research is available to inform practice. Given our increasingly global world and the increased body of knowledge about suicide prevention it is timely for a new IASP Task Force to be created to develop evidence based best practice standards for helpline providers.



Dawn O'Neil  
Chair of the IASP Taskforce

For this reason IASP has convened a new Task Force on Best Practice Standards for Helplines and Crisis Lines.

The Task Force will be chaired by Dawn O'Neil, CEO of Lifeline Australia, and will include delegates from the newly formed Emotional Services Alliance which currently consists of Lifeline International, Samaritans UK, Befrienders Worldwide and IFOTES. We are calling for expressions of interest from the IASP membership to develop the Best Practice Standard for Helplines. The goals of the Task Force will be to:

- To develop systematic reviews of research about suicide prevention via a helpline service
- To identify gaps in knowledge, to develop a research agenda to address these gaps and to encourage relevant research
- To identify, collect and collate existing guidelines and policies for suicide prevention and intervention for Helplines which have been developed in various countries and examine and report on their content, development and implementation.
- To draw on the available scientific evidence and knowledge and experience of practitioners working in Crisis / Help lines to develop evidence based standards and practice guidelines to support service providers.
- To work collaboratively with helpline and crisis line providers to develop and promote evidence based practice
- To improve linkages between helpline and crisis line service providers and researchers with an interest in this area.
- To assemble a body of knowledge which can provide authoritative comment on issues relate to suicide reduction and prevention

People who are interested in joining the Task Force can contact [dawn.oneil@lifeline.org.au](mailto:dawn.oneil@lifeline.org.au) - You need to be a IASP member to be a member of the Task Force. If you are not yet a IASP member you are invited to join using the online submission form at [www.iasp.info](http://www.iasp.info).

Notification on meeting times and dates will be advised in further bulletins.

**IASP newsbulletin**  
Please forward, distribute or disseminate this newsletter to others to whom it would be of interest

**The International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) provides awards for those who have contributed in a significant way to the furthering of the aims of the Association. Awards are presented at the IASP biennial conference.**

INSTRUCTIONS Please send your nomination directly to the Chairperson of the appropriate Committee. Attach a brief summary of why you feel the nominee is deserving. Nominees do not necessarily have to be IASP members.

**The Stengel Research Award**

has been provided since 1977 and is named in honour of the late Professor Erwin Stengel, one of the founders of the IASP. This award is for outstanding active research with at least 10 years of scientific activity in the field, as evidenced by number and quality of publications in internationally acknowledged journals.

THE CRITERIA FOR SELECTION ARE:

- Outstanding and active research with at least 10 years of scientific activity in the field, as evidenced by the number and quality of publications in internationally acknowledged journals;
- National leadership in the area;
- Suicidology is the main (focal) area of interest/ work;
- Reasonable expectation (outline to be submitted) of further research activity in the field.

THE STENDEL RESEARCH AWARD CHAIRPERSON:

Prof. Keith Hawton, University of Oxford, Department of Psychiatry, Warneford Hospital, Oxford OX3 7JX, United Kingdom Phone: +44 [1865] 226 258 / Fax: +44 [1865] 226 265 E-mail: Keith.Hawton@psych.ox.ac.uk

**The Ringel Service Award**

was instituted in 1995 and honours the late Professor Erwin Ringel, the founding President of the Association. This award is for distinguished service in the field of suicidology, and nominations can be made by National Representatives of IASP.

THE CRITERIA FOR SELECTION ARE:

- Actively involved in the practice of suicide prevention and crisis intervention and its dissemination;
- Acknowledged as a national initiator or leader in the field;
- Suicide prevention and/or crisis intervention should be the main portion of his/her work.

RINGEL SERVICE AWARD CHAIRPERSON:

Dr Morton Silverman, 4858 South Dorchester Avenue, Chicago IL 60615-2012, USA Phone: +1 773 550 8179 / Fax: +1 773 624 3995 E-mail: msilverma@edc.org

**The Farberow Award** was introduced in 1997 in recognition of Professor Norman Farberow, a founding member and driving force behind the IASP. This award is for a person who has contributed significantly in the field of work with survivors of suicide, and nominations can be made by any member of IASP.

THE CRITERIA FOR SELECTION ARE:

- Has been actively involved in the establishment and operation of bereaved by suicide/survivor programs;
- Has demonstrated national leadership in the area;
- Has contributed to the research and evaluation of such programs;
- Will continue to be involved in this important area of work.

FARBEROW AWARD CHAIRPERSON:

Karl Andriessen, Vaartdijk 60, 2800 Mechelen, Belgium. Phone: +32 [9] 233 50 99 / Fax: +32 [9] 233 35 89 Email: karl.andriessen@pandora.be

**DEADLINE: 30 April 2009**

**De Leo Fund Award** honours the memory of Nicola and Vittorio, the beloved children of Professor Diego De Leo, IASP Past President. The Award is offered to distinguished scholars in recognition of their outstanding research on suicidal behaviours carried out in developing countries. Members of the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) are invited to nominate suitable persons for the De Leo Fund Award. It is for the person who in the view of the award committee has contributed significantly to developing suicide prevention in a developing country. Nominees do not necessarily have to be IASP members.

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE DE LEO FUND AWARD, CANDIDATES SHOULD DEMONSTRATE THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- Be born in a developing country;
- Have performed their research in a developing country;
- Be a young/mid career researcher (no more than 20 years from graduation), with a prevailing interest in research in the field of suicide;
- Be able to demonstrate, through publications in internationally indexed journals, their competence in the field of suicide;
- Not to be a current nominee for any other IASP Award.

DE LEO FUND AWARD CHAIRPERSON:

Prof. Diego De Leo, Australian Institute for Suicide Research and Prevention, Griffith University, 176 Messines Ridge Rd, Mt. Gravatt Campus Mt Gravatt QLD 4122, Australia Phone: +61 7 3735 3377 / Fax: +61 7 3735 3450 E-mail: D.DeLeo@griffith.edu.au

**The 3rd Asia Pacific Regional Conference**, organised by IASP and the Centre for Suicide Research and Prevention at Hong Kong University, was held in Hong Kong from October 31 – November 3, 2008. The photos show dignitaries at the opening ceremony and Mr Peter Lee congratulating Mrs Lakshmi Ratanayake of Sri Lanka on the award she received for good practice in suicide prevention in the Asia Pacific region during the "Peter Lee Gala Dinner". The 4th Asia Pacific conference will be held in Australia in 2010.



**ESSSB13**  
13th European Symposium on Suicide and Suicidal Behaviour  
ROME 2010

**13th European Symposium on Suicide and Suicidal Behaviour**

Integrating Knowledge for an Interdisciplinary Approach to Suicidology and Suicide Prevention

1st - 4th September 2010 Rome, Italy

**XXV IASP WORLD CONGRESS**  
**MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY**  
**27-31 OCTOBER 2009**

**The Second Announcement is now available:**  
**www.iasp.info**

**LOTTERY**  
A lottery will be held with the prize **FOUR FREE NIGHTS** in a double room at the Radisson Hotel during the congress. The winner will be drawn from the first 50 people to complete and register with payment for the congress.

**IASP**  
XXV IASP WORLD CONGRESS

**42nd AAS Annual Conference: A Global Agenda on the Science of Prevention, Treatment, & Recovery**  
April 15 - 18, 2009 Westin St. Francis Hotel San Francisco, CA

**SAVE THE DATE! JOIN US IN SAN FRANCISCO FOR:**

- Skill-enhancing workshops
- Cutting-edge research presentations
- Best practices in prevention programs
- Four full days of content
- Over 150 presenters
- Invaluable networking opportunities

For Additional Information: [www.suicidology.org](http://www.suicidology.org)  
• 202-237-2280 • [info@suicidology.org](mailto:info@suicidology.org)

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF SUICIDOLGY**  
Dedicated to the Understanding and Prevention of Suicide

**The Aeschi Working Group**  
The therapeutic approach to the suicidal patient:  
New perspectives for health professionals

**5th AESCHI CONFERENCE 4.-7. MARCH 2009**  
Hotel Aeschi Park, Aeschi, Switzerland  
Special theme: to hospitalize or not to hospitalize?  
[www.aeschiconference.unibe.ch](http://www.aeschiconference.unibe.ch)

**IASP newsbulletin**

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