

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2006-2010

According to the Constitution, IACAPAP is a non-governmental organization the purpose of which is to promote the study, treatment, care and prevention of mental and emotional disorders and disabilities of children, adolescents and their families. The emphasis is on practice and research through collaboration between child psychiatrists and the allied professions of psychology, social work, pediatrics, public health, nursing, education, social sciences and other relevant fields.

To be the President of IACAPAP is a rewarding responsibility and fascinating task. It gives opportunities to meet with friends and colleagues from all over the world, which truly enhances and enriches one's perspectives. One learns a lot; for example that different cultural aspects and different ways of thinking about child development must be accepted and incorporated in the mind professionals working in child mental health.

Between 2006 and 2010, the focus of IACAPAP's activities has been

to follow the Constitution and to bring professionals from the different regions of the world closer to each other. This has been done in several ways:

- Organizing international congresses every two years and planning congresses covering at least one decade. Since the 2006 Congress in Melbourne, Australia, there have been congresses in Istanbul, Turkey (2008), Beijing, China (2010) and congresses are planned in Paris, France (2012), South Africa (2014), and Calgary, Canada (2016). By rotating congresses around the world, the national associations and our colleagues in different regions are engaged in the work of IACAPAP, which in turn will contribute to the exchange of knowledge and ideas. Hopefully, there will be an IACAPAP congress in Central or South America in the near future.
- Study groups are another way of extending the cooperation between IACAPAP and regional/national associations. Study

# BEIJING 2010

groups, which in the past used to be an IACAPAP tradition, have been reinstated on a regular basis. Between 2006 and 2010 there have been two study groups in South Saharan Africa - Nairobi, Kenya (2007) and Abuja, Nigeria (2009) - and one in the East European region, in Lithuania (2008). The study groups aim to be a forum for the discussion of clinical aspects of child and adolescent psychiatry and behavioral sciences in order to improve 'clinical thinking' and to inspire participants to do preventive work in their respective countries.

- The Donald J Cohen Fellowship program, introduced at the Berlin congress in 2004, has a similar goal. It gives young colleagues the opportunity of coming together and participate in a special program during the international congresses. This program, in the hands of Andrés Martin and Joaquín Fuentes, has been very successful and an integral part of the international congresses in Melbourne (2006), Istanbul (2008) and Beijing.
- IACAPAP's mission to inspire colleagues to engage in research has been crystalized in the Helmut Remschmidt Research Seminars. The aim is to have a one-week research seminar about six months before an international congress and in collaboration with the national associations in the region where the congress is taking place. This gives young researchers the opportunity to meet and take part in research training. They started with the First South-American Research Seminar in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry in Porto Alegre, Brasil (2007)

and were formalized afterwards in Istanbul (December 2007) and in Beijing (February 2010). IACAPAP has also been engaged in and supportive of the EMACAPAP study groups organized during these years in Alexandria (Egypt) and Beirut (Lebanon).

- Bringing IACAPAP members closer to each other was also achieved through the IACAPAP web page and the Bulletin. We are thankful to Professor Joseph M. Rey, Sydney, Australia, for his excellent work making the IACAPAP Bulletin into a online journal of the highest quality with three issues per year.
- A group of IACAPAP ambassadors' has been set up under the leadership of Gordon Harper, Boston, USA, to work throughout the world building relationships between regions, nations and colleagues and exchanging ideas and knowledge.
- An ad hoc group under the leadership of Kari Schleimer has been working to revise the Constitution. The reason behind this was to update the constitution and reduce the size of the Executive Committee (EC) with the aim of working more effectively between international congresses.
- IACAPAP is involved in the revision of ICD-10 and DSM-IV. This work is of extreme importance for the future development of clinical practice and scientific work in our disciplines. The hope is that the two systems will be compatible and that they are useful across the different cultural regions of the world and for the developing countries and not just be based on the US and European context exclusively.

- The IACAPAP Monograph series edited by Elena Garralda and Jean-Philippe Raynaud is becoming a vital part of IACAPAP's activities to fulfill its obligations according to the Constitution. There have been three books published during the period, one each in 2006, 2008 and 2010.

The Bureau, with members living in South America, North America and Europe, has used teleconferencing for its work. Modern telecommunication technology is providing the Bureau with more tools for effective work, even though Bureau members live at very long distances from each other. IACAPAP's finances are sound, but a fund-raising group is needed to secure future activities without IACAPAP being dependent on the pharmaceutical industry.

## Suggestions for the future

IACAPAP should have a dedicated office somewhere to manage IACAPAP's everyday business. Until now, IACAPAP has depended on infrastructure provided free by the organizations where the President, the Secretary General, the Treasurer or Past President were working. However, to establish an IACAPAP office, substantial funding will be needed. It follows that IACAPAP needs to have a fund raising group constituted from members in the EC.

Similarly, IACAPAP should set up a team to support the organization of congresses, putting to good use the experience of members that have been involved in the organization of previous congresses. The congress handbook prepared by Suzy Dean is a first step. To improve the efficiency of congress planning, IACAPAP should become involved with one of the international professional congress organizations with a commitment to support local professional congress organizations where congresses are to be organized.

As I already said, it has been very stimulating to be President of IACAPAP and I owe my Bureau friends and EC colleagues more than a thousand thanks for their engaged and supportive commitment and work.

I wish the new President, Secretary General, and Treasurer all the best and good luck!

*Per Anders Rydholm*

