



World Association of Social Psychiatry Newsletter

September 2024

Introduction by Andrew Molodynski, Secretary General



It is a real pleasure to send this newsletter to you all in your different parts of the WASP family around the world. I hope you are well in this unsettled and dangerous world and am sure you are all working hard to improve the lives of others as always- indeed, the messages I get from all over, some but not all of which are in this newsletter, always hearten me and give cause for hope. As you can see from reading on, although the summer months in the Northern hemisphere can be quiet in terms of organisational

activity, loads of exciting things have been happening all over the world, from Argentina to Morocco to Nepal to the USA!

I'm particularly looking forward to a meeting of the fledgling European Social Psychiatry Society near Rome in October. It promises to be a fascinating and important meeting for social psychiatry in Europe with many great participants from all over the place being involved. If you have time and are interested, the link is below though I appreciate time is short:

[Copy of Copy of Copy of Arcipelago \(so-psy.ch\)](#)

Enjoy your newsletter and until next time, very best wishes

Andrew

Message from the president, Vincenzo Di Nicola



This year WASP is celebrating our 60th anniversary. WASP was founded in London, UK by Romanian psychiatrist Joshua Bierer, MD, who organized the First International Congress of Social Psychiatry there. It was described as a great success, in the leaflet that advertised the Second Congress which also took place in London. Next year in November 2025, we will host the 25th World Congress of Social Psychiatry in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Our theme will focus on children, women and families who are among the most vulnerable groups across all other diversities, inequalities and treatment gaps. WASP is working on some special events to celebrate.

- 60th anniversary WASP Regional Congress will held as a Joint Congress with the Moroccan Association of Dynamic Psychiatry (MADP) which will be hosting us in April 2025 with the theme of “Adolescents in their Societies: Bridging the Gaps in a World in Motion.” Further details and a save the date poster with a call for papers will be announced shortly on our WASP website.

- Our WASP journal, World Social Policy will publish a special issue in early 2025 to commemorate WASP's 60th anniversary.
- I have written a chapter on Joshua Bierer, WASP's founder, for a forthcoming volume, edited by WASP Past President, Roy Kallivayalil with Rama Rao Gogineni and Salman Akhtar, *The Glow of Psychosocial Synthesis: Twelve Beacons of Light in Social Psychiatry*.

WASP Affiliates

We are happy to announce the West African Association of Social Psychiatry (WAASP) as a new association affiliated with WASP.

World Social Psychiatry

Link: <https://journals.lww.com/wpsy/pages/default.aspx>

Our WASP journal has been publishing regularly since the inaugural issue in 2019 when it was launched at the WASP World Congress in Bucharest, Romania. Kudos to Prof. Debasish Basu and Dr. Nitin Gupta, the editorial leadership team in India, which has now secured permanent independent funding for the journal which ensures its continuity.

Previous social psychiatry journals include Joshua Bierer's *International Journal of Social Psychiatry* which started publishing in 1954 and later became the *British Journal of Social Psychiatry*. Another short-lived publication, *Journal of the World Association of Social Psychiatry* (1994-1996), was established and edited by social psychiatrists Profs. Pierre Chanoit (France) and Eliot Sorel (USA).

Special issues of WSP have included the "Families and Family Interventions" - Jan-Apr 2024 - Volume 6 - Issue 1, <https://journals.lww.com/wpsy/toc/2024/06010>

Next planned special issue will be dedicated to WASP's 60th anniversary and edited by myself with the WASP Executive Committee.

Finally, I have inaugurated "Second Thoughts," a column in the Psychiatric Times (USA) on Social Psychiatry. Link: <https://www.psychiatrictimes.com/series/second-thoughts>

I am featuring columns on the three branches of social psychiatry –

- (1) Psychiatric epidemiology and the social determinants of health and mental health
- (2) Community psychiatry
- (3) Relational therapies (couple, family, group and community therapy)

A special subseries of my column focuses on “Terms of the social” to define, update or redefine the key concepts in social psychiatry:

Link: <https://www.psychiatrictimes.com/view/terms-of-the-social-updating-the-lexicon-of-social-psychiatry>

Looking forward to your contributions to our forthcoming WASP Regional Congress in Morocco in April 2025 and our World Congress of Social Psychiatry in Montreal, Quebec, Canada in November 2025.

Message from President Elect, WASP



In the last few months, the world all over has been facing different kinds of turmoil with global warming affecting many countries, whether one is in Europe, North America or Asia. Some areas have been affected by the massive floods or cyclones. We are also passing through a continuing war in some of the countries and serious political turmoil at other places. Natural disasters, global warming, famines and the man-made situations, all have serious mental health consequences, and put a major challenge to the mental health professionals.

Rapid and adverse changes in the climate pose a major threat to both physical and mental health. Climate changes also increase the risk of natural disasters, which are known to be associated with mental disorders like acute stress reactions, post-traumatic stress disorder, adjustment disorders, depression and so on. Rising temperatures, a part of global warming, are associated with increased physical as well as mental morbidity, hospital admissions and also mortality. A recent meta-analysis by

Liu et al published in 2021 issue of the Environment International found 2.2% increase in mental health-related mortality per 1 °C rise in temperature and 0.9% increase in mental health-related morbidity per 1 °C rise in temperature. In recent summers (2024) in North India, the day temperature reached to the level of 48-49 °C on some of the days at many places, a phenomenon never observed in the past. A general distress was clearly observable on the streets, markets and the workplaces during the period.

Mental health professionals need to be prepared to develop strategies at dealing with the emerging mental health problems in the background of these drastic climate changes.

This newsletter is coming after we have passed through the recent heatwaves seen in many parts of the world and should offer solace to everyone.

Rakesh K Chadda

1.Suicidology section.

We received a comprehensive update from Professor Doina Cozman in Romania, including the 10th anniversary of a universal national helpline and email service, the making of the Romanian national day for suicide prevention, and also world mental health day. It is great to see another section of WASP remaining active and a pleasure to share their news.

2.Child and adolescent section:

Main update: Eugenio Roth and Andy Pumariega just co-edited (in collaboration with Dr Nitin Gupta, also member of WASP) a special issue on child and adolescent psychotherapy in the Journal of the Indian Association of Child and Adolescent MH. It has many contributors from the US, India, Latin America, and Australia/ New Zealand. It also places a cultural lens to this important topic.

They were also co-editors with Gogineni et al of the WASP Textbook on Social Psychiatry, with many child psychiatric contributors.

On a more personal level, Andy was recently awarded the 2024 Agnes Purcell Mc Gavin Award for Career Achievement in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry by the American Psychiatric Association. Here is a picture of the award presentation and we all congratulate him heartily on this great achievement:



3. WASP Section on Family Intervention Programs



Since its creation on 11th November 2014, the WASP Scientific Section on Family Intervention Programs strives to contribute to the improvement and dissemination of modern psychoeducational techniques to make clinicians and professional care teams more confident to implement such efficient programs with success in their routine practice.

Here is a brief report from Dr Fattah (pictured above), the chair, on recent activities and achievements:

I-The WASP Scientific Section of Family Intervention Programs organized 2 round tables on February 10 and 11, 2023 during the 23rd World Congress of Psychotherapy which took place in Casablanca, Morocco.

II- During the 20th International World Congress of the WADP (World Association for Dynamic Psychiatry) which took place successfully in Marrakesh from April 16 to April 20 2024 our WASP Section had a symposium entitled 'Families, mental illness and recovery. What connections?'

III- The WASP Section on Family Intervention Programs, represented WASP during the Annual Congress of the Profamille French-speaking Family Psychoeducation network, under the theme: MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHIATRY: WHAT TOOLS ARE AVAILABLE FOR FAMILIES? November 16-17, 2023, Nice, France

IV- The WASP Section on Family Intervention Programs was significantly involved in the production of the special issue of World Social Psychiatry Journal on "Families, Family Interventions, and Social Psychiatry". Prof. Vincenzo Di Nicola (Canada) as president of the WASP and Dr. Saïd Fattah (France), as chair of the WASP Section on Family Intervention Programs were editors of this special issue, accompanied by their co-editors Prof. Olga Garcia Falceto (Brazil) and Dr Yann Hodé (France). The WASP Section on Family Intervention Programs contributed 6 articles which saw the unique and original participation of family caregivers, peer help mediators and patient users.

V- ongoing projects:

The section is in the process of finding funds to translate and validate an Arabic version of Profamille, the French Family Psychoeducation Program, in order to train and implement teams among Arabic speaking people over the world.

The promotion of collaboration among professionals, scientific associations, NGOs and user organizations working in the field of psycho-education programs. In this regard, the International French Speaking psychoeducational program Profamille Network is expanding day by day. Profamille is today the most used psychoeducational program in French-speaking countries, with more than 70 teams in France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Morocco, Switzerland and very soon in Algeria and Tunisia. It is the most advanced psychoeducational program in the French-speaking world, and the only one that has benefited from an evaluation of effectiveness to date.

The development of networks between French & English-speaking teams working in the field of family intervention programs. Adapt an English version of Profamille, a Family Intervention Program could be a first step in this direction.

4. Section on Coercion.

The section is becoming more active again with a new co- chair, Professor Domenico Giacco, as announced in the last newsletter.

The resources on our website have been updated in recent months.

We continue to work with the important European network on coercion, FOSTREN, and Andrew Molodynski is attending their meeting in Lyon later this month virtually to talk about the WASP position statement and how the two groups might work together.

Other WASP news:

1. The Argentine branch of WASP will be present at the XVII Argentine Congress of Mental Health, organised by AASM, to be held from 4 to 6 September 2024, with the theme:

"Reflections on Mental Health from the Social Determinants Paradigm."

Speakers will include Dr Leandro Dionisio, Dr Karin Rosenfeld and Dr Alejandra Maddocks of the Argentine branch of WASP.

2. A message from Professor Risal in Nepal:

'I wish to share with you regarding the Nepalese Association of Social Psychiatry (NASP)'s plan for the Suicide prevention day, Sep 10, 2024.

1. School-level Essay Competition at Western Region-Butwal, Nepal.
2. Regional CME at the Central Region-Chitwan, Nepal.'

3. Update from Eliot Sorel, presidential advisor.

Eliot SOREL MD, Clinical Professor of Global Health, Health Policy & Management and of Psychiatry and Behavioural Science, recently co-chaired the Romania at the Smithsonian 25th Anniversary Celebration with a focus on "*Culture, Intrinsic Value and Value Added for Strategic Partnerships*". The event took place at the Romanian Academy in Bucharest, Romania on July 2nd, 2024.

The scientific program was preceded by a ceremonial donation by Dr. Sorel of the complete set of Sigmund Freud's scientific works to the Carol Davila School of Medicine and Pharmacy.

Please click on the link below to see more news of Eliot's work, this time in Washington DC:

<https://gwtoday.gwu.edu/romanian-roots-global-reach>