

IACAPAP 20TH WORLD CONGRESS – Palais des Congress – Paris 21-25 July 2012

IACAPAP MEDAL AWARD ACCEPTANCE - M ELENA GARRALDA

I am delighted to accept the IACAPAP Medal Award. Merci beaucoup Madame la Presidente pour votre generosite et celle du Bureau. Je suis vraiment tres honoree.

I became co-editor of the IACAPAP Congress books at the Berlin Congress, when Helmut Remschmidt was IACAPAP President. This was a special occasion for me, as it brought back memories from my student days in the 1960s when I had had the opportunity to visit Berlin, an exciting and effervescent hub of student activity at the time. I would have never dreamt then that I would come back as a child psychiatrist one day. In the same way that Berlin - especially East Berlin - had changed beyond recognition from the 1960s, my time in child psychiatry has seen an extraordinary change in knowledge and practice in child psychiatry, and even during my eight years as IACAPAP Congress book editor there have been enormous academic progress and achievements in child psychiatry and mental health services.

The beginning of my editorship took place in Paris, as this was where - following discussions with the IACAPAP Board - my then co-editor Martine Flament and I met to discuss the direction and substance of the books. We agreed that they should reflect both the ever increasing evidence base guiding and changing practice in child psychiatry and the worldwide scope of IACAPAP and child psychiatric practice, and that we would approach the best internationally recognised academics and writers. When Jean-Philippe Raynaud took over as co-editor we retained these principles and one of the joys of this work has been the collaboration with Jean-Philippe, the most helpful and charming colleague: I am so delighted that he is taking over as Chief Editor!

It is said that - in the same way that the result of good food is a strong body- the result of great reading is a full and powerful mind. We have published four books, one every two years: I believe that we have been able to address many of the topics of importance and interest in our specialty today and that the books will have increased the mental power of our readers!

The first book for the Melbourne Congress was entitled *An evidence based approach to risk and resilience*. The main emphasis was on risk factors but it also addressed resilience. This book set the scene for later ones, with chapters on both biological topics such as genetics and psychosocial ones such as research on the effects of parenting and on broader influences such as conditions of war and occupation. In a chapter by this Paris Congress' recipient of the IACAPAP International Contribution Award, Dr Amira Seif el Din, the book outlined how research into school interventions carried out in Western countries had successfully influenced the development of accessible school mental health programmes in Egypt.

The second book marked the Istanbul Congress and the theme was *Culture and conflict in CAMH*. Here the emphasis was on cultural influences ranging from anthropology (the description of a Cambodian experience by a child psychiatrist being a case in point) to international adoption and immigration, through descriptions of how culture influences the manifestation of disorders such as conversion, depression and suicide. The book also outlined initiatives to help children cope in situations of war and disaster and a trans-cultural training programme in child and adolescent psychiatry.

For the Beijing Congress in 2010 the theme was *Increasing awareness of child and adolescent mental health* and there were chapters on the impact on child mental health of different political and social policies in both Western and Eastern countries - the one-child policy in China being an example - and on how social change influences the manifestation of child psychiatric disorders. There were also descriptions of how child and adolescent mental health services were being developed virtually from scratch in some countries, and a historical perspective on the promotion of child and adolescent mental health.

Our last book marks the Paris Congress with which it shares the title *Brain, Mind and Developmental psychopathology in childhood*. Its emphasis is on integration of biological and psychological influences to enlighten our understanding of child mental health problems, and we also address the integration of medical and psychological therapies in practice and advocacy in child and adolescent mental health. We quote in the introduction the English poet W H Auden, who wistfully wrote that Descartes separated body from mind because of his lack of experience of a mother's love. We as child psychiatrists have made it our business to nurture the integration of brain and mind, of the child's mental and physical health, of medical, psychological and social treatments. And, as we state in our editorial, our discipline of child and adolescent psychiatry is fed by its history but also by its ability to evolve, to be open to the future, to make progress while taking into account cultural diversity, all of which we have aimed to reflect in the books.

They say that literature is news that stays news. I hope that the IACAPAP books through the diversity and richness of their contributions will stay news for a long time to come. As editors we would like to pay tribute to our magnificent and generous chapter authors, who have responded to our tight deadlines so scholarly and graciously. We trust the IACAPAP books – like the Congresses themselves - will help forge links between researchers and clinicians from all countries for the benefit of child mental health, this most precious gift which will continue to exert such a crucial influence on the well being of future generations.

M Elena Garralda, Paris, 25th July 2012