2013-2015 WFMH Board of Directors

Officers:
President George Christodoulou (Greece)
President-Elect Gabriel Ivbijaro (UK/Nigeria)
Immediate Past President Deborah Wan (Hong Kong SAR China)
Treasurer Helen L. Millar (UK)
Corporate Secretary Larry Cimino (USA)
V.P./Constituency Development Mohammed Abou-Saleh (UK)
V.P./Program Development Ellen R. Mercer (USA)
V.P./Government Affairs Juan Mezzich (USA)

Regional Vice-Presidents:
Africa Shona Sturgeon (South Africa)
Asia Pacific Porsche Poh (Singapore)
Eastern Mediterranean Unaiza Niaz (Pakistan)
Europe Robert Van Voren (Netherlands)
Latin America Alberto Trimboli (Argentina)
North America Jeffrey Geller (USA)
Oceania Abd Malak (Australia)

Board at Large:
Tsuyoshi Akiyama (Japan)
Sonia Chehil (Canada/Guyana)
John Copeland (UK)
L. Patt Franciosi (USA)
Janet Paleo (USA)
Kathleen Pike (USA)
Marita Ruohonen (Finland)
Suchada Sakornsatian (Thailand)

Advisors:
Max Abbott (New Zealand), Sr. Advisor
John Bowis (UK)
Yoram Cohen (Israel)
Roger Montenegro (Argentina)

UN Lead Representatives:
Nancy E. Wallace, New York
Myrna Lachenal, Geneva

Secretariat:
Elena Berger, Director, Programs and Government Affairs
Deborah Maguire, Director, Administration
WFMH Committees 2013-2015

Public Impact
Gabriel Ivbijaro (chair)
Elena Berger
Larry Cimino
Deborah Maguire
Roger Montenegro
Hugh Schulze
Shona Sturgeon

World Mental Health Day
Patt Franciosi (chair)
Elena Berger
Gabriel Ivbijaro
Deborah Maguire

Education & Mental Health Information
Kathleen Pike (chair)
Jeffrey Geller
Unaiza Niaz
Marita Ruohonen
Suchada Sakornsatian
Deborah Wan

Ethics
John Copeland (chair)
John Bowis (co-chair)
Larry Cimino
Gabriel Ivbijaro
Shridhar Sharma
Robert Van Voren

Consultants: All Past Presidents

Meetings
Mohammed Abou-Saleh (chair)
Jeffrey Geller
Nasser Loza
Abd Malak
Porsche Poh
Alberto Trimboli
Robert Van Voren

Past Presidents’ Board
Deborah Wan (chair)

Scientific Activities
Juan Mezzich (chair)
Max Abbott
Sonia Chehil
Patt Franciosi
Helen Millar
Roger Montenegro
Kathleen Pike

Prevention & Promotion
Max Abbott (chair)
Elena Berger
Nikos Christodoulou
Abd Malak
Deborah Wan

Constituency Development
Mohammed Abou-Saleh (chair)
Elena Berger
Deborah Maguire
Shona Sturgeon
All Regional Vice-Presidents

Financial Policy & Sustainability
Helen Millar (chair)
Tsuyoshi Akiyama
Yoram Cohen
Deborah Maguire
Ellen Mercer
Alberto Trimboli

By-laws Committee
Gabriel Ivbijaro & Juan Mezzich (chairs)
Larry Cimino
Helen Millar
Janet Paleo
Shona Sturgeon

Consultant: Sonia Chehil

Great Push for Mental Health Campaign
John Copeland (chair)
Deborah Maguire
WFMH YEAR IN REVIEW

WFMH’s major activities in 2013 included two conferences, one in Greece in March, and then the biennial World Congress in Argentina in August. This was followed by World Mental Health Day on 10 October, when many organizations joined the Federation in organizing events to draw attention to issues connected with population aging in many countries.

WFMH REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN GREECE

Theme: Crises and Disasters: Psychosocial Consequences

WFMH and the Hellenic Psychiatric Association organized a conference in Athens on 6-9 March 2013 on the theme “Crises and Disasters: Psychosocial Consequences.” Some 500 people attended. The program covered many aspects of mental health in crisis situations caused by war or natural disasters. Both situations cause tremendous strain on civilian populations and result in large numbers of displaced persons.

In addition, the program committee added economic crises, a situation with which the host country, Greece, was all too familiar. Unemployment had reportedly reached close to 29%. Many people’s wages and pensions had been cut, the cost of living was rising sharply, and so were taxes. In times like these mental disorders rise, and those with pre-existing disorders are particularly vulnerable. There are psychosocial consequences to the turmoil of economic crises.

The conference program included speakers from the United Kingdom, the United States, Israel, Turkey and Greece itself. Professor Dinesh Bhugra, Past President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists (UK) and President-Elect of the World Psychiatric Association was the keynote speaker. Topics included sessions on person-centered responses to disasters; the impact of crises on family and moral values; psychiatric prevention and education; resilience and vulnerability in coping with stress and terrorism; a quick assessment tool for diagnosing and treating mental disasters in emergencies; and – particularly relevant to economic pressures – the consequences of cutting down on secondary care services during financial crises. Professor George Christodoulou, chair of the Organizing Committee, said an underlying goal of the conference was to try to persuade the authorities to avoid cutting funds for mental health services “not so much on humanistic grounds but rather on grounds that they understand, namely that it is cost-effective to provide money for prevention rather than treatment.”
Declaration of Athens, March 2013. At its conclusion the conference produced a statement on mental health in emergency, war and disaster situations. The Declaration of Athens urges governments to give added priority and provide a comprehensive response to mental health during crises and disasters; to uphold the Geneva Conventions; to provide the means for expanded training and services as recommended in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings; to provide support for the psychosocial consequences of the current economic crisis; to endorse the recommendations of the WFMH-Movement for Global Mental Health “People’s Charter for Global Mental Health”; and most importantly, to implement the forthcoming WHO Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan expeditiously.

WFMH and the Hellenic Psychiatric Association were joined in endorsing the statement by the Society of Preventive Psychiatry, the World Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation, the Psychiatric Association for Eastern Europe and the Balkans, the Section of Preventive Psychiatry of the World Psychiatric Association, the International College of Person-centered Medicine and the Institute of Spanish-speaking Psychiatrists.

Mental Health in War. On the same theme of mental health in emergency, war and disaster situations, early in the year WFMH released a statement on the mental health consequences of the conflict in Syria. It is available on the WFMH website. According to figures given by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in a 2 January 2013 press release 59,648 people had been killed to that date, including many women and children; more than 60,000 were missing; and over half a million refugees had fled to Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt. The extreme vulnerability of people already mentally ill was apparent. The main psychiatric hospital of Ibn Khaldun in Aleppo was bombarded on 25 December 2012. Patients fled and some were killed by snipers. The Dar al-Ajaza psychiatric hospital came under fire, and the historic mental hospital of Bimaristan Argun, founded in the 14th century, was also damaged.

The statement read, in part:
“Tension, disruption and uncertainty caused by war and civil strife have major and lasting consequences in the daily lives and routines of children and adults in areas of ongoing violence. Anger and worries about terrorism and military conflicts, the very real fear for safety and survival of civilians and military personnel – all heighten stress and anxiety for everyone. For some, they bring strong feelings of hopelessness and depression, and may result in post-traumatic stress with constant nightmares and panic. They add further stress for those already living with a major illness.”
Theme: Social Inclusion through Interdisciplinary Interventions

The WFMH biennial World Congress in Buenos Aires, attended by 5,434 people, was by far the largest Federation meeting in recent years. This vibrant four-day conference had a large program consisting of many interwoven sections, the work of an experienced and energetic program committee. The event was hosted by the Argentine Association for Mental Health (AASM) and took place under the auspices of the Health Ministry of Argentina, the Secretariat of Health and Hygiene, and the National Directorate of Mental Health and Addictions. It also intersected with a Latin American conference on workplace conditions and labor rights held under the joint auspices of the Health Ministry and the Ministry of Work, Employment and Social Security – ensuring program attention to mental health in the workplace – and with a symposium marking the National Day of Health and Human Rights. Argentina’s Ministers of Health and of Work, Employment and Social Security attended the opening ceremony and signed a national agreement to curb workplace abuses immediately beforehand.

The Congress had the support of a remarkable number of agencies and institutions. The program was endorsed by the Pan American Health Organization and the International Labor Organization, and also by the Health Ministry of Brazil. Other endorsements were received from the health ministries of the individual Argentine provinces, from many provincial mental health and substance abuse departments, and fifteen universities or university faculties. The program also listed fifty-two other organizations and hospitals.

The extent of the high-level support was impressive, but equally impressive was the attendance in the audience of a very large number of young people, drawn by the diversity of program topics and the opportunity to hear speakers from many countries. This was a welcome sight compared with the audiences at most international mental health conferences, which are usually composed of people more advanced in their careers.

By arranging the registration fee in tiers according to international economic levels, with concessions for students and for consumers of services and family caregivers, the organizers tried to make the meeting as affordable as possible for those wishing to attend. They were able to find special funding for a number of scholarships.

The success of the Congress reflected the planning skills of the host organization, the Argentine Association for Mental Health (AASM), and its senior leadership. Its President, Alberto Trimboli, was co-chair of the Congress together with
WFMH’s President, Deborah Wan (Hong Kong). The AASM founder, Eduardo Grande, chaired the host committee. Juan Carlos Fantin, Secretary General of the AASM, was co-chair of the scientific committee together with WFMH’s President Elect, George Christodoulou (Greece). Roger Montenegro, the WFMH Board member from Argentina, played a valuable role in the arrangements.

The Congress President, Alberto Trimboli, had twice-weekly communications with WFMH President Elect George Christodoulou throughout the long planning period on organizational and program issues. This guaranteed joint and quick decisions on matters under discussion. Deborah Maguire, WFMH’s Director of Administration, provided valuable advice and assistance based on her experience with previous Congresses.

The organizers devoted considerable energy to seeking publicity for the Congress in their Latin American networks and through WFMH international contacts. The Ministry of Health collaborated on publicity and the organizers were in touch with many national and provincial institutions. While most registrations came from Argentina, about 700 came from Brazil. In Latin America registrations also came from Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico and Peru. Altogether there were people from 64 countries in the audience.

Because of the large number of registrations the length of the program was extended from the usual three days to four, with 22 sessions running concurrently in meeting rooms at three hotels, often until 9pm. Two of the hotels were conveniently next door to each other, while the third was nearby.

Many of the sessions were conducted in Spanish, reflecting the high proportion of Latin Americans in the audience. The section of the program with international speakers had simultaneous translation between English and Spanish in three of the main rooms, while a fourth room had English-Spanish-Portuguese translation. The Ministry of Health covered the high cost of these services.

The number of abstracts submitted was 2,018, of which 1,503 were accepted (with 267 posters in addition). There were 29 special presentations from WFMH and AASM; 964 “free communication” sessions; and 208 “round table” sessions. In addition there were 3 presentations from the Pan American Health Organization, two from the World Health Organization, four from Mercosur, three from the National Institute Against Discrimination, and many others from Argentine government agencies and other organizations and institutions.

The Mercosur sessions focused on mental health in prison. One session was open to the public, and the others were restricted to delegations from government health
and justice departments. The five full members of Mercosur (Mercado Común del Sur, Common Market of the South, founded in 1991) are Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela, with Bolivia as an accessing member and other countries as affiliates.

The Proceedings of the conference were published in two thick volumes and sold out almost immediately. Late in the year the organizers were considering reprinting them to meet demand.

**WFMH BOARD MEETINGS**

During the Congress WFMH held two meetings of its Board of Directors and its annual Assembly for Voting Member Organizations. Board members normally consult by email and conference call, but always meet in person once a year. In Buenos Aires, the Board that was elected for a two-year term in 2011 held its final session on 26 August and President Deborah Wan (Hong Kong) ended her term in office the following day. George Christodoulou (Greece) took office as President for a two-year term, and Gabriel Ivbijaro (United Kingdom and Nigeria) was confirmed as President Elect. The transition to a new Board of Directors took place during the Assembly for Voting Member Organizations on 27 August, which was followed immediately by a second formal Board meeting for the new Board. The new members will serve from 2013 to 2015.

During the second Board meeting George Christodoulou presented the outlines of an Action Plan to frame the Federation’s activities during his presidency (2013-2015). The plan was later refined and accepted by the Board. Towards the end of the year eleven committees were appointed to work on its goals.

**2015 WFMH World Congress.** At the Board meeting on 27 August a decision was taken to hold the next biennial World Congress in Cairo, Egypt, on 16-19 October 2015. The Behman Hospital in Cairo, the Egyptian Society for the Rights of People with Mental Illness and the Middle East Division of the Royal College of Psychiatrists will be the hosts. Dr. Sharif Atallah, Director of the Behman Hospital, attended the Board meeting to present the proposal. Preliminary planning began later in 2013.

**WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY 2013**

World Mental Health Day (10 October annually) was established by the World Federation for Mental Health in 1992 for public education. The co-chairs of the program are currently Gabriel Ivbijaro and L. Patt Franciosi, and the manager is Deborah Maguire, WFMH Director of Administration. The focus in 2013 for the
campaign launched on 10 October was on “Mental Health and Older Adults,” to draw attention to the expanding population of older people worldwide and their specific mental health needs. The growing number of older people in national populations presents a challenge for public health planners and health budgets.

The value of cultivating positive mental health in older age groups through strategies to support social connections is now recognized in many countries. For those with mental disorders, often combined with other chronic illnesses, health professionals should have training to provide integrated care. The growing number of “oldest old” presents special needs, and also requires special attention to the stresses of caregiving. The material presented on the WFMH website for the topic (www.wfmh.org) includes an excellent article by the World Health Organization surveying issues in mental health care for older people.

As in previous years the Secretary-General of the United Nations issued a message on the theme of the Day:

*People around the world are increasingly aware that our human family is “greying,” with the proportion of those aged 60 and over expected to double this half century…. We can all benefit from the warmth and wisdom of older generations. But while many people look forward to a fulfilling old age, more than one in five adults aged 60 and over experiences mental or neurological disorders such as dementia and depression.*

*Health care professionals and older people themselves often do not recognize these mental health problems. Worse, people are frequently reluctant to seek help because of the stigma surrounding mental illness. Older adults are also vulnerable to physical neglect and shameful mistreatment—abuse that can itself trigger mental health problems.*

*This year’s World Mental Health Day focuses on older adults, offering an opportunity to raise awareness of these problems and overcome them.*

*We have a path forward. In May the World Health Assembly adopted a Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan to the year 2020…. On this World Mental Health Day, I call for greater efforts to carry out the Action Plan for the sake of all people with mental health problems, especially those who are older and require special attention. This compassionate response will benefit all of society.”*

Events in observance of World Mental Health Day were held in many parts of the world and were, as usual, very diverse. We can only mention a sample here, to
show the range of public awareness activities arranged by regional and local organizations. In **Greece** the leading event was held in Athens at the Eginition Hospital with the active participation of the Deputy Minister of Health, Ms. Zetta Makri. It was arranged by WFMH and its new President, George Christodoulou; the Hellenic Psychiatric Association; the 1st and 2nd University Departments of Psychiatry at Athens University; the Psychiatric Hospital of Attica; and the Dromokai’tion Psychiatric Hospital. Collaborating organizations included associations of service users and carers, scientific societies and humanitarian organizations.

In **Portugal** ENCONTRAR+SE (Association for Health Promotion) organized three days of programming, 10-12 October, covering the World Mental Health Day theme, the country’s mental health policies, and current issues concerning recovery and empowerment. A special program was arranged for medical students to promote awareness of mental health in future doctors.

In **Singapore** observance of World Mental Health Day stretched out to a month with many events in the city-state. On the Day itself Silver Ribbon Singapore partnered with a grassroots organization, the Punggai South Citizens’ Consultation Committee, to launch Raintree Sanctuary, a facility that will offer free counseling services for residents, referrals to relevant services, and education about mental health. The Deputy Prime Minister was the guest of honor. Silver Ribbon also joined with the Geyling Serai Citizens’ Consultative Committee to hold a Community Wellness Carnival which was supported by the Health Promotion Board, the Agency for Integrated Care, and the Singapore Soka Association.

In **Cochin, India**, events stretched out over three weeks. Kusumagiri Mental Health Center arranged classes on mental health and older adults for 120 teachers; patients, staff and students at Kusumagiri hospital; officers at Binani Zinc Co.; and parents of children with autism at Nirmala Training Center. The Department of Social Work organized a program for 120 senior citizens resident at the House of Providence, Kacherippadi, Ernakulam and a class for the parishioners of St. Francis Assissi church.

In the **United States** a TV star, Rainn Wilson from the popular comedy “The Office,” joined with the TV channel MTV to present a one-hour special on 10 October. The TV channel also partnered with the JED Foundation to produce a special resource center for viewers of the program.

The World Mental Health Day education program in **Somalia** was organized in Mogadishu by the Habeeb Mental Health Foundation and its director Dr.
Abdirahman Ali Awale. It was attended by members of the government and parliament; medical and nursing students from four universities and a medical institute; and members of women’s organizations in sixteen Mogadishu districts.

In Ghana the Minister of Health launched World Mental Health Day, and the country’s first conference on mental health was organized by Presbyterian Community-Based Rehabilitation.

In New Zealand AUT University arranged a public seminar in Auckland at which the Minister for Senior Citizens and Associate Minister of Health gave an address.

In Belize the Ministry of Health sent out a press release about 10 October events, noting that Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners had developed awareness campaigns across the country.

There were many events throughout the United Kingdom, where World Mental Health Day is particularly well established thanks to temporary government support to launch the annual observance at the time it was established in the 1990s. Also of note, the “Time To Change” anti-discrimination campaign had a World Mental Health Day blog that included messages from official sources, reports and photos from organizations about their events, and consumers’ and caregivers’ comments posted from around the country (see http://www.time-to-change.org.uk/blog/world-mental-health-day-2013).

Special World Mental Health Day film presentation: Film-maker Delaney Ruston made her new film “Hidden Pictures” available internationally on 10 October for access via the web. The film gives a moving account of mental health care in France, India, China and South Africa, and was viewed by 142 organizations, including the World Health Organization. Overall it was accessed for some 3,000 viewings by 3,000 groups and individuals (see http://www.hiddenpicturesfilm.com). Delaney Ruston has also made a five-minute video based on the film for the World Health Organization (see http://www.youtube.com/who). The film-maker can be reached at delaneyruston@gmail.com.

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY 2014

In the closing months of 2013 work began on collecting material for the 2014 theme, Living with Schizophrenia, which had been selected by the WFMH Board at its 27 August meeting during the 2013 World Congress in Buenos Aires.
WFMH ACTIVITIES AT THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

WFMH was firmly supportive of the Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan introduced by the World Health Organization in 2013, and maintained a close interest in its development. The Draft Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2020 was presented to the WHO Executive Board on 21 January 2013. At the end of the discussion on 21 January WFMH presented a short statement in support of the plan written by its former president Professor John Copeland. The statement was read by one of the Federation’s volunteer representatives in Geneva, Anne Yamada.

WFMH submitted another statement at the May meeting of the World Health Assembly, WHO’s governing body. It expressed support for the approval of the Comprehensive Action Plan for Mental Health, which was formally accepted by the Assembly on Friday 24 May. It also outlined the development of WFMH’s People’s Charter for Mental Health. The meeting was attended by former WFMH President John Copeland and the Federation’s Main Representative in Geneva, Myrna Lachenal.

The Action Plan was officially launched by WHO Director-General Margaret Chan at the mhGAP Forum held at WHO headquarters on 7 October 2013. The Federation was represented by President Elect Gabriel Ivbijaro and Myrna Lachenal. The event was attended by 48 Member States, several UN agencies, and representatives of various NGOs.

Dr. Ivbijaro co-chaired the Forum’s session on “Planned Actions of Civil Society.” He highlighted the role of advocacy in implementing the plan and restated the value of public education about mental disorders in improving access to mental health care in countries at all income levels. This can help to reduce stigma and discrimination, which are often barriers to care. He also stressed the importance of parity of care with physical health, and of treating people who have mental health problems with dignity.

World Mental Health Day was observed at WHO, and the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse contributed an introductory article for the material on this year’s topic, Mental Health and Ageing. It provided a concise and informative overview of the latest public health developments.

New Global Clinical Practice Network at the World Health Organization. During 2013 WFMH contacted its voting and affiliate organizations, asking them to invite their members engaged in clinical practice to join a new project—the Global
Clinical Practice Network—being developed by the World Health Organization to support the eleventh revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11). The ICD is used to organize and code health information in a standard way that is very important for many aspects of health care management. All WHO Member States use it, and it has been translated into 43 languages.

In addition to supporting a general Internet recruitment effort to find clinical practitioners for the mental health section of the Network, WFMH facilitated recruitment at its World Congress in Argentina. This resulted in a significant increase in recruitment of Latin American mental health clinicians.

PEOPLE’S CHARTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Under the leadership of Professor John Copeland, former President of WFMH, a People’s Charter was published in 2013 setting out a civil society or “grassroots” viewpoint of the need for improved mental health care. The Charter was a joint initiative of WFMH in strategic alliance with the Movement for Global Mental Health. It is based in part on a survey sent to the organizations that signed up on the WFMH website for the Great Push for Mental Health Campaign. WFMH is indebted to John Bowis and to Graham Thornicroft and others at the Institute of Psychiatry in London for their contributions. The Charter can be accessed from a link on the WFMH website’s home page (www.wfmh.org).

Key recommendations in the Charter were included in the statement Professor Copeland read out at WHO’s World Health Assembly during the discussion of the Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan on May 22. These were:

1. Convening a United Nations General Assembly Special Session on mental health and the appointment of a UN special envoy for mental health.
2. Accepting that the five major noncommunicable diseases affecting world health are: cancer; cardiovascular disease; diabetes; respiratory disorders; mental, neurological and substance abuse disorders; and their multidirectional interactions.
3. Ensuring that mental health and wellbeing are both recognized as essential components of the Sustainable Development Goals (2015), successors to the Millennium Goals.
4. Ensuring that mental health is represented on all disaster emergency committees.
5. Ensuring that the WHO Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan is implemented expeditiously by all countries.
WFHM AT THE UNITED NATIONS

The Federation is attentive to women’s mental health issues at the UN (women’s issues in general have a high priority at the UN through a new agency, UN Women). WFHM representatives attend the annual sessions of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, and usually organize workshops or panel discussions in the large parallel conference for NGOs. In March 2013 Nancy Wallace organized a panel discussion on “Mental Health Implications of Violence against Women and Girls” at this parallel event. Former WFHM Board member Chueh Chang organized a panel on gender equity in caregiving of the elderly or children.

WFHM representatives in Geneva, Myrna Lachenal and Anne Yamada, monitored health-related sessions at the UN Office in Geneva.

FORTHCOMING WFHM CONFERENCES

Before the end of 2013 preparatory work started on planning for several conferences, a goal of the new President, George Christodoulou.

2014 – WFHM and the Argentine Association for Mental Health will have a Latin American regional conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in August 2014.

2014 - WFHM will hold an international conference jointly with the Hellenic Psychiatric Association in Athens, Greece, on 9-11 October 2014. This will have the theme selected by WFHM’s Board of Directors for World Mental Health Day, “Living with Schizophrenia” and will include an observance of the Day on 10 October.

2015 – WFHM will hold an international conference with the French Psychiatric Society in Lille, France, on 28-30 April 2015. The theme is “Mental Health for All: Connecting People and Sharing Experience.” The focus of the program is on integrating mental health into primary care, and it will also reflect on the implementation of the WHO Mental Health Action Plan (the theme for World Mental Health Day in 2015).

WFHM REPRESENTATION AT 2013 MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Vienna Meeting on the Socioeconomic Burden of Schizophrenia. WFHM President Deborah Wan attended a meeting of association leaders in Vienna on 31 May 2013 on the socioeconomic burden of schizophrenia. The focus of the
meeting was on unmet needs in care for this illness, and the burden to patients, caregivers, healthcare systems and society.

8th Global Conference on Health Promotion. WFMH was represented by Marita Ruohonen at the 8th Global Conference on Health Promotion, held in Helsinki on 10-14 June 2013. The conference was co-sponsored by the World Health Organization and the Finnish Ministry of Health, with attendance by invitation. Ms. Ruohonen is the Executive Director of the Finnish Association for Mental Health, a WFMH voting member organization, and joined the WFMH Board in August 2013.

2nd International Health Promotion Workshop, Kitale, Kenya, 9 August 2013. Loice Wendo attended this meeting in Western Kenya on behalf of WFMH and gave a presentation about the link between diabetes and depression to raise awareness of mental health risks. The Workshop was arranged by the Alliance for Health Promotion in Geneva, Switzerland.

Gastein Forum, Austria. Professor George Christodoulou, WFMH President, represented the Federation at the annual meeting of the European Health Forum Gastein, 2-4 October 2013. The EHFG annual meeting in Austria is the European Union’s leading event for the exchange of health policy information, attended by about 600 politicians, professionals, and representatives of business, patient organizations and NGOs (www.ehfg.org). One of the themes of this year’s meeting was “Mental Health: The Motor for a Healthy Economy.” Professor Christodoulou gave a presentation in a session on “Mental Health in the Workplace: Europe’s greatest challenge in the 21st century?” He spoke about unemployment, depression and the cost-effectiveness of investing in mental health care. The session was chaired by a former WFMH Board member John Bowis, MBE (former member of the British and European Parliaments).

mhGAP Forum, World Health Organization. As noted above, WFMH President Elect Gabriel Ivbijaro and Myrna Lachenal, the Federation’s Main Representative in Geneva, attended the annual mhGAP Forum on behalf of WFMH.

Gulbenkian Global Mental Health Platform, Lisbon. WFMH’s President Elect, Dr. Gabriel Ivbijaro, was a speaker at the International Forum on Innovation in Mental Health, hosted by the Gulbenkian Global Mental Health Platform in Lisbon, Portugal, on 1-3 October 2013. Dr. Ivbijaro gave a presentation in the first session, examining strategies for delivering comprehensive, integrated care for mental disorders and other chronic health conditions.
Global Mental Health Advocacy Working Group, Washington, D.C. Board member Ellen Mercer attended two meetings of the group on 17 September and 31 October 2013. The group is co-chaired by the Center for Victims of Torture and the International Medical Corps, and focuses on advocacy in the United States in support of mental health care for crisis-affected populations around the world.

WHO Informal Consultation on Relations with non-State Actors, Geneva, 17-18 October 2013. Myrna Lachenal and Gabriella Sozanski attended on behalf of WFMH. The consultation was held to provide input for the drafting of reforms related to WHO’s relations with non-State actors such as NGOs, food and beverage companies, and manufacturers of pharmaceuticals.

American Psychological Association: Committee on International Relations in Psychology. Staff member Elena Berger attended the fall meeting of the Committee on 20 September to give a presentation on recent Federation initiatives and to hear reports about the Association’s international and UN activities. The American Psychological Association is a voting member of WFMH.

FINANCIAL RESULTS

The financial results for 2013 will be presented to an independent auditing firm (McGladrey LLC, Vienna, Virginia, USA) for review early in 2014. This section will be updated when the review is received.

LIFE MEMBERS

New Life Members in 2013 were:

Dr. Facharzt Fromm (Switzerland)
Dr. Romero-Bosch (USA)
Salumu Selemani (Canada)
Dr. Nadarasar Yoganathan (United Kingdom)
Dr. Lucja Kolkiewicz (United Kingdom)
Dr. Abdullah Al-ahrani (Saudi Arabia)