17th WAIMH World Congress

Creating stories in Infant Mental Health: research, recovery and regeneration

Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre
Brisbane Australia | 7-11 June 2020

Call for papers & Registration
Abstract Submissions: May 2019 – 15 September 2019

#WAIMH2020 #WAIMH #IMH www.waimh2020.org
Invitation from the WAIMH President

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to participate in the 17th World Congress of the World Association for Infant Mental Health (WAIMH), to be held from June 7 to 11, 2020 in Brisbane, Australia.

It will be the second world congress in Australia and we still have fond memories of the 2004 congress which took place in Melbourne. I personally especially look forward to this event because I know that our Australian colleagues have been ever so successful in organizing a huge infant mental health movement comprising all parts of the Australian continent. The Australian Association for Infant Mental Health (AAIMHI) is truly an interdisciplinary organisation of professionals from a range of disciplines including health, education and welfare dedicated to the field of infant mental health. The association has 6 branches in the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria, and Western Australia. I always admire our Australian colleagues for their great expertise and enthusiasm in their national infant mental health efforts as well as in their international cooperation and leadership. At each of our World congresses, whether they took place in America, Africa, Asia or Europe, the Australian colleagues outnumbered most other national groups of attendees. The WAIMH affiliate communities from all the other continents look forward to our return visit in 2020.

Brisbane is the capital of the Australian state of Queensland. The Jagera and Turrbal people are the traditional owners of the land upon which Brisbane sits. In the last two hundred years it has developed into one of the most popular and beautiful cities in Australia with its well-known Queensland architecture. Several universities are situated in Brisbane, for example the University of Queensland, the Queensland University of Technology, and the Griffith University which are among Australia’s highest ranked universities.

The motto of the congress will be: “Creating stories in Infant Mental Health: research, recovery and regeneration”. Although newborns begin their lives in a preverbal mode and it takes the young child the first few years before he/she acquires the full-fledged capacity for speech, stories play a crucial role in the infant’s life. Babies are born into the world of language of their caregivers and transgenerational narratives shape their development from the beginning. Researchers construct scientific narratives out of their empirical observations, and therapists use narratives as a vehicle to give meaning to their infant patients’ symptoms and suffering. Furthermore, the challenges presented to us by the infants’ emotional expressions constantly prompt us as adults to create narratives which help us to enter into a creative interactional exchange.

Following in the footsteps of previous WAIMH congresses, mutual exchange that crosses disciplinary boundaries will be at the heart of the 2020 Brisbane congress. We are looking forward to welcoming scientists and infant mental health experts from across the world, for an exchange of scientific research, clinical experience, theoretical ideas and socio-political ideas. We call on infant mental health experts to submit proposals in order to bring together diverse clinical experience, scientific knowledge and cultural views and to enable an international exchange among colleagues from international and interdisciplinary fields. We are sure that the Program Committee chaired by David Oppenheim will compose a stimulating scientific program and that the members of the Local Organizing Committee chaired by Elisabeth Hoehn will be perfect hosts.

Brisbane will be a great place to meet!

On behalf of the board of the World Association for Infant Mental Health

Kai von Klitzing
WAIMH President
Welcome

Welcome from the Local Organising Committee

Dear Colleagues

We are delighted to welcome you to the 17th World Congress of the World Association of Infant Mental Health, to be held in Brisbane, Australia from the 7th to 11th June 2020.

Australia is an ancient land, created from many and varied stories. Indigenous stories of a deep connection to land, wind, water and Elders past, present and future. Stories of hardship, loss, and trauma; and stories of great courage, perseverance and mateship. Stories of multiculturalism, refuge, hope and new beginnings.

The Congress theme, ‘Creating stories in Infant Mental Health: research, recovery and regeneration’, invites you to create stories that will help infants thrive to live compassionate, creative and productive lives, and to share those stories with the wider Infant Mental Health community from around the world.

The challenge for us all is to help infants and those caring for them create stories that support hopes and dreams of possibilities to become a reality for each baby born. There is an ever-growing awareness of the importance of the early years of a child’s life and yet the world the infant lives in is becoming ever more complex. By sharing research evidence and theoretical ideas, clinical experience and practice wisdom, socio-political discussions and a focus on advocacy, we hope that this Congress of the World Association of Infant Mental Health will provide an opportunity to contribute to writing stories of policy and practice that will lead to resilience, recovery and regeneration for all babies and young children and the communities in which they live.

A river curving and curling its way around the landscape makes Brisbane one of the most unique capital cities in Australia. Brisbane is a green city with an enviable subtropical climate and diverse population. It is one of the fastest-growing cities in Australia and is known for its vibrant urban precincts, outdoor lifestyle and friendly locals, which makes it a relaxed place for us to meet.

While you are here, consider taking the opportunity to explore further afield and visit some of the beautiful sights of our amazing country.

We are excited to welcome scientists, infant mental health experts and clinicians from all over the world to the 17th World Congress of the World Association of Infant Mental Health in Brisbane. We encourage you to submit your work and share it with Infant Mental Health colleagues, at a Congress that we anticipate will be both professionally and personally enriching.

Elisabeth Hoehn  
Chair of the Local Organising Committee

Libby Morton  
Co-Chair of the Local Organising Committee
Invitation from the Program Committee

Dear Colleague,

On behalf of the Program Committee I am delighted to invite you to attend the upcoming WAIMH conference but also – and importantly - to submit your work to the conference. We are eager to receive your submissions and find a place for them in the conference. As the conference title points out, we are interested in your story: Stories of the studies you are involved in and the research you carry out, about the clinical work you do and interventions you are developing, about training the next generation of Infant Mental Health professionals, and about advocacy and public policy. Your story is what makes WAIMH's message, and we’d love to hear it.

We want to encourage those of you who are WAIMH “regulars” to continue with the tradition and come to Brisbane – you already know how stimulating and fun WAIMH conferences are. We also want to encourage newcomers to attend, participate, and contribute. If you work with babies/young children and their families and are invested in fostering their development and well-being you have a place with us, whether you are a mental health professional or work in related clinical and research fields that share these concerns.

We are very fortunate to have four wonderful plenary speakers: They were carefully selected to bring us cutting edge research and clinical approaches that take place at the intersection of biological, developmental, and environmental processes, involve risk and trauma at the societal and personal level, highlight resilience, and point to novel interventions supported by empirical evidence. In addition to these highlights we will have a range of exciting invited symposia and workshops, and we will tell you more about these over time in the upcoming announcements that will be posted periodically.

Looking forward to hearing from you and meeting you in Brisbane!

David Oppenheim
Program Committee Chair
Keynote Speakers

Professor Jonathan Green
Professor of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, University of Manchester, Honorary Consultant Psychiatrist, Royal Manchester Children’s Hospital, Manchester, United Kingdom

Professor Helen Milroy
Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, Professor at the University of Western Australia, Commissioner with the National Mental Health Commission, Australia

Dr Rosario Montirosso
Chief, 0-3 Centre for the at-risk, Scientific Institute, IRCCS Eugenio Medea, Bosisio Parini, Italy

Dr Kate Rosenblum
Professor Psychiatry, Obstetrics & Gynecology, University of Michigan, United States of America
WAIMH 2020 Review Panels

1. Advocacy and Infant Mental Health policy
   Tuula Tamminen
   Astrid Berg
   Margaret Holmberg
   Nick Kowalenko

2. Antenatal and perinatal practices
   Martin St-André
   Gisele Aptér
   Maria Muzik
   Franca Tani
   Frances Thomson-Salo

3. Attachment: research, security of attachment and disorders of attachment
   Neil Boris
   Kikuyo Aoki
   Anna Maria Speranza
   Joseph Coyne

4. Caregiving contexts
   Hiram Fitzgerald
   Karlen Lyons-Ruth
   Lori Roggman
   Laura Vismara

5. Cross cultural studies – Global strategies for infants, families and communities
   Kaija Puura
   Pälvi Kaukonen
   Paul Spicer
   Catarina Furmark

6. Early development, child health and mental health
   Holly Brophy-Herb
   Anna Huber
   Loredana Lucarelli
   Catherine Mcmahon

7. Evaluation and outcomes: scientific studies and early interventions
   Kai von Klitzing
   Judy Davies
   Judith Harel
   Ilona Luoma
   Daphna Dollberg
   Daniel Schechter

8. Infant mental health services, training, teaching, supervision and consultation
   David Oppenheim
   Lynn Priddis
   Sam Tyano
   Beulah Warren
   Patricia O’Rourke’s
   Jacqueline Wendland

9. Observation and assessment: diagnosis, treatment and clinical issues
   Miri Keren
   Nicolas Favez
   Maree Foley
   Sylvie Savelon
   Arja Siirtola

10. Parent-infant interaction and early relationship development
    Zeynep Biringen
    Mirjami Mäntymaa
    Lorraine McKelvey
    Eivor Fredriksen
    John Oates
    Sebastian Kraemer

11. Parenting and family process
    Jorma Piha
    Richard Fletcher
    Silvia Mazzoni
    Christine Puckering
    Laurie Van Egeren

12. Prematurity and high-risk infants
    Reija Latva
    Franco Baldoni
    Megan Chapman
    Eva Müller Cignacco

13. Problems, symptoms and disorders of the infant
    Campbell Paul
    Marie-Kaarin Korhonen
    Brigid Jordan
    Alexandra de Young
    Giampaolo Nicolais

14. Problems with parenting and high risk families
    families (e.g. adolescent parenting, parental substance abuse, family violence and child abuse)
    Charley Zeanah
    Vibeke Moe
    Rina Das Eiden
    Julie Larrieu
    Jean Wittenberg

15. Promotion and prevention in community context
    Deborah Weatherston
    Robin Balbernie
    Catherine Maguire
    Rochelle Matacz
    Chiara Pazzagli
    Marjaana Pelkonen
    Sally Watson
Instructions for the Submission of Abstracts

Abstract submission deadline: 15 September 2019, 11:59pm AEST (Brisbane, Australia)

Authors wishing to submit an abstract are requested to submit a maximum of 300 words (excluding title).

All abstracts must be submitted via the Congress website online abstract submission form [www.waimh2020.org](http://www.waimh2020.org)

Abstracts are invited under the following presentation submission categories:

- Brief Oral Presentation
- Poster Presentation
- Poster workshop
- Workshop
- Symposium
- Video presentation

For full details on the different presentation submission categories, please visit [www.waimh2020.org](http://www.waimh2020.org)

Abstracts are invited under the following themes (review panels):

1. Advocacy and infant mental health policy
2. Antenatal and perinatal practices
3. Attachment: research, security of attachment and disorders of attachment
4. Caregiving contexts
5. Cross cultural studies – Global strategies for infants, families and communities
6. Early development, child health and mental health
7. Evaluation and outcomes: scientific studies and early interventions
8. Infant mental health services, training, teaching, supervision and consultation
9. Observation and assessment: diagnosis, treatment and clinical issues
10. Parent-infant interaction and early relationship development
11. Parenting and family process
12. Prematurity and high-risk infants
13. Problems, symptoms and disorders of the infant
14. Problems with parenting and high risk families (e.g. adolescent parenting, parental substance abuse, family violence and child abuse)
15. Promotion and prevention in community context

For full guidelines on abstract submissions, please visit [www.waimh2020.org](http://www.waimh2020.org)
How to register

To register for the Congress please visit www.waimh2020.org and complete the online registration form.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registration Fees</th>
<th>Early bird until 16 March 2020</th>
<th>Standard from 17 March 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WAIMH Member</td>
<td>$800 AUD</td>
<td>$1000 AUD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non Member</td>
<td>$920 AUD</td>
<td>$1220 AUD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students**Low &amp; Low Middle Income Countries*</td>
<td>$440 AUD</td>
<td>$480 AUD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Middle Income Countries*</td>
<td>$680 AUD</td>
<td>$850 AUD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day Registration</td>
<td>$350 AUD</td>
<td>$350 AUD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accompanying Person (includes Gala Dinner and Welcome Reception)</td>
<td>$150 AUD</td>
<td>$150 AUD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Please note that we offer a Low, Low Middle and Upper Middle Income country registration rate. In order to qualify for this registration category your country of residence must appear on the official World Bank 2018 list. To view the list visit www.waimh2020.org

** To be eligible for the WAIMH Congress student rates you must be a current student enrolled in full or part time study. Evidence of your current enrolment status must be presented onsite when you collect your registration.

More information is available at www.waimh2020.org

The main Congress registration fee includes;

• Attendance at all sessions and entrance to the exhibition area
• Delegate bag and Congress materials
• Attendance at the Welcome Reception
• Opportunity to purchase a ticket to the Gala Dinner
• Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea breaks

The Accompanying person registration includes;

• Ticket to the Welcome Reception
• Ticket to the Gala Dinner

If guests and accompanying persons wish to only attend one (1) function, single tickets to either of the functions can be purchased via the online registration form.
Awards

WAIMH Awards 2020

WAIMH offers five important awards in recognition of individuals from across the world who have made very important contributions to the Infant Mental Health community in the course of their careers. Interdisciplinary by design, WAIMH invites nominations from the fields of health, mental health, early care and education, early intervention, hospitals, colleges and universities, legislatures, to name just a few.

There are 5 award categories:

- WAIMH Award
- Sonya Bemporad Award
- Serge Lebovici Award
- Rene Spitz Award
- WAIMH New Investigator Award*

*Please note: This category has different requirements for nomination materials. See below.

WAIMH Award

Given in recognition of significant contributions to the World Association for Infant Mental Health, either directly or through one of the WAIMH Affiliate Associations.

Sonya Bemporad Award

Given in recognition of significant contributions to the advancement of social and public policies that contribute to the mental health and overall benefit of infants, toddlers, and their families. Nominees typically are not involved in service delivery or scientific or clinical studies of infants. Legislators, officials, advocates, media representatives, foundation directors, and concerned citizens may qualify for the award.

Serge Lebovici Award

Given in recognition of significant contributions to the international development of Infant Mental Health. Nominees typically are individuals who have been actively involved in collaborative efforts that have cross-national implications for infant mental health.

René Spitz Award

Given in recognition of significant lifetime contributions to clinical and/or experimental research on topics related to Infant Mental Health. Nominees typically are individuals who have made substantive scientific contributions to the interdisciplinary field of infant mental health.

WAIMH New Investigator Award

WAIMH offers a special award for a promising new investigator.

The purpose of the WAIMH New Investigator Award is to recognize and encourage promising new investigators in Infant Mental Health. The applicant must be a member of WAIMH or must be sponsored by a member of WAIMH. The applicant must have earned a university degree no more than eight years prior to the application deadline.

The individual selected as new investigator receives a cash award, a plaque, and acceptance of his/her paper for publication in the Infant Mental Health Journal (this involves exposure to the peer review process as a way of assisting the investigator’s professional development). In addition, the new investigator must be prepared to present his or her work at the following world congress.

Required nomination materials

Required nomination materials for the WAIMH Award, the Sonya Bemporad Award, the Serge Lebovici Award and the Réne Spitz Award include:

- A 250-500 word statement indicating why the nominee should receive the award.
- A copy of the nominee’s resume, vita, or biographical sketch. If you are nominating a group, provide a complete description of the group and its members as well as a brief history of its relevant activities.
- Three letters of support from individuals who endorse your nomination.

Submit all nomination materials in one packet and e-mail to the WAIMH Central Office postmarked no later than December 31, 2019. The WAIMH Awards Committee will select each of these awardees.

Required nomination materials for the WAIMH New Investigator Award include:

- A statement indicating why he/she should receive the award
- A manuscript of the applicant’s research
- A curriculum vitae.

Submit all nominating materials in one packet to the WAIMH Central Office at office@waimh.org no later than December 31, 2019. The Programme Committee of the 17th WAIMH World Congress will decide the next WAIMH New Investigator Awardee after reviewing the applications.
Heading to Brisbane for WAIMH 2020? Why not cuddle a koala, discover South Bank and Streets Beach or fly north to Cairns and Snorkel the Great Barrier Reef while you’re here? Go on, extend your stay and make the most of Queensland’s sunshine. To get you started visit the website for pre and post touring deals and Brisbane activities and tour information.