

IAPA/june04

Special Interest Articles:

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## Inaugural Annual Conference

Members will be delighted to hear that the association is in the advanced planning stage for an annual international conference to be held in Melbourne towards the end of the year. This conference will be held under the auspices of IAPA, South Asian Forum on Mental Health and Psychiatry (UK), Indo-American Psychiatric Association (USA) as a WPA regional meeting. It will feature a number of invited international speakers.

An organizing committee is hard at work under the stewardship of Professor Bruce Singh and includes the Convener, Professor Jayashri Kulkarni, Assoc Professor Kuruvilla George, Assoc Prof Krishna Vaddadi, Nitin Dharwardkar and of course our indefatigable secretary Russell D'Souza.

We look forward to this annual conference becoming one of the keynote events on the international psychiatric calendar.  
RD & BE

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## Sydney Meeting

### Report on Inaugural IAPA (Aus) Sydney Dinner meeting on 10th February 2004

The meeting was **convened and chaired by Prof Perminder Sachdev Vice President IAPA (Aus) at the Port Orient Restaurant, Darling Harbor**. Attendance was about 30 with Shalija and Perminder conveying apologies from around 10 members who could not attend. Given the short notice this level of interest was encouraging. Of note members from the Hunter valley and Gosford etc were able to attend. Following a formal welcome by Prof Sachdev and drinks the agenda for the evening was spelled-out. The Chair then invited **Professor Bruce Singh** the Foundation President of IAPA to address the gathering.

Prof Singh in his address thanked the attendees and outlined events late last year including meetings with the US IAPA Past president that led to the formation of IAPA. He referred to member suggested objectives for IAPA

that had been taken on at the inaugural steering committee meeting in December and these were discussed. Prof Singh also discussed what was envisaged for IAPA (Aus) in the immediate future and for the medium term. A brief report on his and the Secretary's participation at the ANCIPS Mysore and meetings with the international members from USA, UK and Canada was touched on. His visit to NIMHANS and the meeting there with the seniors and their support of IAPA was also reported. He kindly gave members a brief summary of his background including his Indian ancestry, which was very well received. Prof Singh then open the floor to questions and discussions with regards to IAPA resulting a lively session. The meeting was agreed that IAPA was to be as inclusive as possible i.e. membership being open to Psychiatrists from the entire Sub continent. A number of members expressed an interest in contributing to their countries of origin.



## Sydney Meeting (contd.)

The audience was advised that spokespersons for IAPA at Government and College levels would be with Prof Bruce Singh and Prof Perminder Sachdev.

**Dr Russell D'Souza** General Secretary was then called by the chair to report on IAPA activities. He provided a brief update from the inaugural steering committee meeting following the visits of representatives of IAPA to various meetings in India. A brief report of the Inaugural Lunch on the 25th Jan in Melbourne was covered and the documents of incorporation of IAPA officially, together with the application form were displayed. The appointment of committee members and coordinators at all states and territories was also announced. The start of a newsletter edited by Ben Elijah and Russell D'Souza was also reported.

The proposed election to appoint office bearers in place of the care-taker office bearers was flagged after people had been given enough time to become paid up members. The plans for inaugural IAPA (Aus) meetings in Western Australia, South Australia and Queensland with the President attending and taking part, where reported The IAPA meeting in Melbourne on the 16th Feb 04 with Prof Trivedi speaking was announced and all were welcome to attend. He thanked the team of committed office bearers and in particular Prof Singh and Prof Sachdev for their commitment of resources and time (given their busy schedules) in bringing IAPA to this stage in its development.

Prof Perminder then invited **Prof Lashmi Yatam of British Columbia** Canada to speak. He congratulated us on the formation of IAPA and spoke of the crucial need for organization. Although part of the US IAPA they were also moving to have the Canadian Chapter. Some of their experiences were reported and Prof Yatam said he was confident that with the able leadership and depth of

experience available to IAPA (Aus) he saw a productive and useful future ahead.

Prof. Sachdev then invited attendees from the floor to come up and discuss matters of interest. Several members who came up and offered their support Prof Sachdev (Vice President IAPA) then addressed the attendees. The need to have an annual national meeting with a business and scientific component was brought up and discussed. The consideration of having this along with RANZCP Congress at a later date was also considered. It was agreed that this would be considered by the Steering Committee. Members requested adequate notice for the annual meeting in order that they attend. Prof. Sachdev then thanked the President and General Secretary for coming to Sydney, all the members, attendees and invited guests from Canada, UK, India and Middle East.

RD &BE



*Sydney Meet  
Deep in Discussion*



## Rural Meeting: Shepparton 27<sup>th</sup> April

Rural Psychiatrists including members from the Bendigo region met with the IAPA General Secretary at Shepparton on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April. Dr. Indranil Chakrabathi, Director of Bendigo Psychiatric Services chaired the meeting. Dr. D'Souza GS brought attendees up to date on the formation of IAPA, its aims, objectives and future directions. This was followed by an interactive open session with a discussion and exchange of views of the participating psychiatrists. All attending psychiatrists enrolled at the meeting and we are pleased to announce that Dr. Chakrabathi has taken on the role of Victorian IAPA Rural committee member. The meeting also included a scientific component with an update on the use and experience of the atypical antipsychotics.

This is a gratifying development and it is hoped that other Rural Groups Australia-wide will take up the task of organizing themselves. IAPA is aware that the delivery of quality psychiatric services in the 'bush' would not occur without the input of a large number of potential IAPA members. Being part of a dynamic organization would allow for the needs and skills of this group to be recognized. Committee members and our Rural Committee member are available for advice about setting up these chapters. RD

## US Visit

The IAPA (USA) Silver Jubilee celebrations were held in New York held along with the APA and was attended by IAPA (Aus) office bearers **Prof Bruce Singh President, Dr Russell D'Souza, General secretary and Dr Gin Mahli, National Scientific committee.**

**The Silver jubilee Scientific Program** from 1.30 pm to 4.30 pm at the Ramada New Yorker, was an interesting and engaging event that consisted of a Symposium: Born Confused-Myth or Reality, Presenters included Dr. Madhulika Khandelwal, Director, Asian American Center, University of New York and author of "*Recombining American, Becoming Indian: Indian Americans in New York City*", S. Mitra Kalita Author "*Suburban Sahibs*" and Ruth Ann Van Reken Author of "*Third Culture Kids*" The symposium was moderated by the eminent Analyst Dr. Salman Akhtar of Harvard Medical School and Professor of Psychiatry Jefferson Medical College. This was followed by the Outstanding Academician Award Lecture by Prof Shitij Kapur, of Toronto University and currently the Canada Research Chair for Schizophrenia and therapeutic Neuroscience. The lecture title was '*How Antipsychotics Work: From Receptors to reality*'

In the evening a Silver Jubilee Business Meeting & Banquet was hosted at the Shaan Restaurant, New York. This was a very lively function with the President's Address and the presentation of 5 awards. There was opportunity to meet and interact with IAPA Fellows and executives. IAPA Australia received recognition by Prof Sanjay Dube with a welcome to Prof Bruce Singh and R D'Souza. Office bearers also met British Indian Psychiatry association Past President Harish Gadvi. Prof Van, Past President IAPA USA who was in part the catalyst for the formation of IAPA (Aus) introduced IAPA office bearers to a number of APA Past presidents and executives. ....→ 4



Contd. US Visit

A sumptuous Indian Buffet with music and dancing followed photographs.

IAPA President Dube in his message wrote:

*"IAPA which only a quarter century ago was a fledging group with a handful of members, has now established itself as a dynamic and influential body that provides a strong voice..."*

RD

## YOUR OFFICE BEARERS

### **Russell D'souza: Inaugural General Secretary**

Born in Madras 1951 Completed MBBS from Madras Medical College, DTCD Madras University, MD from Madras University, Dip Mental Health Science, Melbourne University, MPM Monash University, Dip Clinical Trials Management Canberra University, American Board Certification in Disability Psychiatry.

Awards received: Fellowship of the International Society of Affective Disorders; RANZCP Research Presentation Award 1999, 'Telemedicine Research'; Nordic Society of Telemedicine Award 2000, Royal Society of Medicine UK Award 2002. Tele-Med 02 Research Award. Australian Representative on the International Society for Telemedicine 2001 2002. Executive member of the International Society for Bipolar Disorders and Australian Bipolar Society.

He has been involved in research in Telemedicine, Rural Mental Health, Bipolar Disorders, Demoralization and Spirituality and mental Health and the place of Spirituality, Leadership and Management in preventing workplace demoralization and enhancing work place outcomes.

Published several papers in peer reviewed Australian and International Journals and contributed to Book chapters and written several book reviews for journals.

Has been the guest on several programs with the BBC, ABC and SBS Radio and The ABC National TV program, Compass's 'Psyche and Soul'

Founder Director Centre of Excellence in Remote and Rural Psychiatry, Department of Rural Health, Faculty of Medicine, The Sydney University, Broken Hill 2000 to 2002. Currently Consultant psychiatrist, Koonung Centre Box Hill, Hon Senior Lecturer Department of Psychological Medicine Monash University, Hon Research Fellow, Primary mental health, Institute of Psychiatry at the Maudsley, London UK and Visiting consultant The Adult and Child Psychiatric and Counseling center, Satellite Beach, Florida, USA.



*Russell D'souza*



## **International Psychiatry Conference**

*Organised by IAPA (Aus) / Australasian South Asian Psychiatry Forum*

In Collaboration with:

South Asian forum on Mental Health & Psychiatry, UK Chapter

Indo-American Psychiatric Association USA

WPA Regional Meeting

26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> November 2004

Savoy Park Plaza

Little Collins Street

Melbourne Australia

### *Cultural Psychiatry - The Moral Case for International Mental Health*

This conference will also focus on The Australasian South Asian Mental Health professional's contribution to Australasian Psychiatry and International Psychiatry- the Case for International Mental Health

#### Speakers:

Prof Dilip Jeste MD  
Professor of Psychiatry and Neurology  
University of California, San Diego, USA

Dr. Vikram Patel MD  
London School of Hygiene and Tropical  
Medicine, UK  
Chairperson, Sangath, Goa, India

Prof. N. Mendis MD  
University of Colombo  
Sri Lanka (TBC)

Convener:  
Prof. Jayashri Kulkarni MD  
Professor of Psychiatry  
Monash University  
Chairperson National Scientific Committee  
IAPA (Aus) / ASAPF

Prof Bruce Singh MD  
Cato Professor of Psychiatry  
University of Melbourne

Prof. Prof Perminder Sachdev, M.D.  
University of New South Wales

Prof. Parameshvara Deva MD  
WPA South Asian Leader  
Brunei

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IAPA

Acting Editors  
Dr Ben-Sion Elijah  
Dr Russell D'Souza

We welcome articles,  
information and other  
material for future  
newsletters.

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NEXT Issue: Conference  
Preparations

*There is strength in  
numbers – send in  
those applications  
and support the*

Web Presence  
*See us at: TBA*

**IAPA**  
C/O Pine Lodge Clinic  
1480-1490 Heatherton Road  
Dandenong Vic 3175



## Office Bearers: Steering Committee

Inaugural President: Professor Bruce Singh

Inaugural Vice President: Professor Perminder Sachdev

General Secretary: Dr Russell D'Souza

Assistant Secretary (Organisation): Dr Nitin Dharwadkar

Assistant Secretary (Membership): Dr Viren Kothari

Treasurer: Dr Sathya Rao

### COORDINATORS

**VIC:** A/Prof Kuruville George.

Dr A/Prof Saji Damodaran

Dr Suresh Sundram,

Dr Ben-Sion Elijah

**NSW:** Prof Raj Kumar. Coordinators: Dr Shailaja Chaturvedi, Dr M Gilhotra

Hunter Valley: A/Prof. T N Srinivasan

**Qld:** A/Prof Tom George, Dr John Varghese. Gold Coast: Dr Cesar Braganza

**SA:** Dr R Nagesh, Dr B Motamari

**WA:** Dr S Chawla, Dr Anthony Davis, and Dr D Arya

**NT:** Dr Randhir Mutti

**ACT:** Dr Rajeev Kumar

**Tasmania:** Dr. A. Velayudhan

**New Zealand:** TBA

### About Our Organization:

We are a registered professional body comprising doctors working within the psychiatric field who can trace links (including generations removed) to the Indian subcontinent. This includes all professionals from India, Pakistan, Sri-Lanka and wherever else sub-continental migration and displacement have taken us over the generations. Membership is open currently to Psychiatrists, Medical officers and Registrars in Training. We hope that members will be drawn from both the public and private sectors. The organization hopes to fulfill professional, social and supportive roles.

**INDO AUSTRALASIAN  
PSYCHIATRISTS  
ASSOCIATION**

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