



Dear Presidents of National Psychiatric Societies,

***“Psychiatry: Integrative Care for the Community” –
Psychiatry’s Social Contract.***

The South African Society of Psychiatrists (SASOP) has been awarded the hosting of a World Psychiatric Association (WPA) International Congress during November 2016 in Cape Town. The congress will be held at the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC) from the 18th to 22th November 2016. The congress presidents will be the WPA’s President, Prof. Dinesh Bhugra, and the President of the SASOP, Dr. Mvuyiso Talatala.

“It is a great honour and pleasure to welcome you to Cape Town for the WPA International Congress with the theme “Psychiatry: integrative care for the community” hosted by the South African Society of Psychiatrists. It is the first time that a WPA International Congress is being held in South Africa.” (Dinesh Bhugra)

“On behalf of the South African Society of Psychiatrists, it is my greatest honour to invite you to the World Psychiatry Association International Congress that is to be held in Cape Town, South Africa, from 18 to 20 November 2016.” (Mvuyiso Talatala)

With the recent death of Nelson Mandela in December 2013, there was a fairly general realization in South Africa, and elsewhere, that reconciliation, transformation and integration of our communities and of our clinical practice, have not been completed or, in some instances, not even undertaken yet. The theme of this congress will therefore be ***“Psychiatry: Integrative Care for the Community”*** and will explore concepts, controversies and consequences of Psychiatry’s responsibility and accountability to society in terms of its scope of practice and of what can be considered as Psychiatry’s social contract.¹

“Time has come for Psychiatry to engage in a social contract with the people of South Africa, as well as with people in countries across the world in line with the theme of the 2016 Congress, which is “Psychiatry: Integrative Care for the Community”. (Mvuyiso Talatala)

The congress will consider how to integrate the developing scope of current psychiatric practice with emphasis on illness prevention, health promotion, clinical care, as well as rehabilitative interventions over the course of people’s life time. The congress will deliberate on the expanding systems required for all four dimensions of care to be integrated, including: Psychiatry’s core neuroscience content and evidence-base for clinical care (biological); established psychotherapeutic process (psychological) and active social involvement (social); undertaken within particular cultural, religious and spiritual contexts (spiritual).

¹ “Transformation also includes reconciliation and creating a nation united in the rich diversity of communities previously forced apart.” Nelson Mandela. State of the Nation Address, SA Parliament; 10 February 1999.

“Many countries in Africa are providing innovative services in spite of limited resources and we need to learn from each other and share experiences, successes and failures. Many traditional health care models already see physical and mental health integrated and we need to be open-minded about how we learn from other schools of medicine. As we progress through the 21st century, the recent economic downturn has made it even more challenging to deliver services for which demand is increasing.”
(Dinesh Bhugra)

In the process, the question of what aspects of psychiatric care and practice require further integration will be posed to member associations and delegates from the 18 different WPA Zones, as well as to the more than 65 different Sections focusing on different interests within the WPA.

“This Congress is a major step forward in helping to develop psychiatric services as well as the training of mental health professionals in a more integrated manner, and it provides a serious platform for discussion and debate to develop services which our patients will be willing to use. World Psychiatric Association is committed to improving the health care of psychiatric patients through raising standards of training, education as well as clinical practice. This Congress provides an excellent opportunity to share academic knowledge, increase social interactions and support each other.” (Dinesh Bhugra)

During the next two and a half years, interactive discussions amongst members and delegates on related congress topics will be pursued and encouraged through the use of available social media and electronic communication. Key contributions and regular updates to the process will be made available on the congress website:

www.wpacapetown2016.org.za.

On behalf of the SASOP and the WPA, you are cordially invited to reserve this date on the 2016 calendar, to actively participate in the process, and to prepare for your attendance and presentation on your specific local practice, or area of interest.

“I hope that, in 2016, you will also experience Cape Town as the refreshment station that it has been, as you continue in your endeavours to engage with and express Psychiatry’s responsibility and accountability in your communities.” (Mvuyiso Talatala)



Dinesh Bhugra (WPA President)



Mvuyiso Talatala (SASOP President)

With best regards



Bernard J van Rensburg

Chair Local Organizing Committee WPA IC Cape Town 2016

President-Elect South African Society of Psychiatrists (SASOP) 2014-2016

Secretary WPA Section on Religion, Spirituality and Psychiatry 2014-2017

C/O Healthman, Unit 16 Office Park, 203 Beyers Naude Drive, Northcliff, Johannesburg South Africa

email: bernard.sasop@mweb.co.za • Telephone/Fax: +27-11-489-0620 • Cell +27 82-807-8103

Contact Information

Queries: Charlene Jansen

Email: charlene@soafrica.com

Event Management:



SCATTERLINGS
CONFERENCE & EVENTS

Telephone: +27 11 463 5085

Fax: +27 11 463 3265

Website: www.soafrica.com



Screening of the promotional video for the WPA International Congress Cape Town 2016 during the closing ceremony of the recent 16th World Psychiatric Congress in Madrid, Sep 2014.