



24<sup>th</sup> June 2016

## **WFMH NEWS**

### **Message from the President**

It gives me great pleasure to provide you with an update on a number of WFMH current initiatives and I would like to seize this opportunity to thank each and every one of you that has contributed to all these positive developments. Your continued support and volunteering means a lot to global mental health.

### **WFMH Executive Committee**

Following the WFMH Board Meeting on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2016 I am very pleased to announce the following changes to the 2015-2017 WFMH Executive as a result of two of our Executive Committee members stepping down.

**Ingrid Daniels** has become the Interim President Elect (but will not become President unless elected to the office in 2017). Ingrid Daniels has been the Director of Cape Mental Health, the oldest community-based mental health non-profit organisation in South Africa, for the past 16 years. She holds a Masters in Social Science (Clinical Social Work) attained at the University of Cape Town and is in her final year completing her PH.D in Social Work at the University of Cape Town. In 1996 she was awarded the British Council's Helen Suzman Chevening Award and completed a 4 months scholarship at the Institute of Epileptology at Maudsley & Kings College Hospitals in the United Kingdom. She was the Chairperson of the South African Federation for Mental Health's Local Organizing Committee that successfully hosted, for the first time in Sub-Saharan Africa, the World Congress of the World Federation for Mental Health in Cape Town in October 2011. She was also awarded the prestigious South African Federation for Mental Health National Award in 2012 for the Outstanding Individual in Mental Health.

**Deborah Wan** becomes Immediate Past President. Deborah Wan served as President of WFMH from 2011-2013 and also served as Immediate Past President from 2013-2015. By profession, she is a registered social worker in Hong Kong. She was the chief executive officer of the New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association in Hong Kong for 28 years and retired in the year 2009. She is committed to mental health promotion and rehabilitation and has contributed to the development of mental health rehabilitation services in Hong Kong. She was appointed as Justice of Peace and awarded a Bronze Bauhinia Star medal in recognition of her services. Even after retirement, she continues her work on mental health



# World Federation for Mental Health

info@wfmh.com | PO Box 807, Occoquan, VA 22125 USA

promotion and the employment of persons with mental disabilities on a voluntary basis through the global network of WFMH, Workability International and Workability Asia.

**Jeffrey Geller** has become Vice President for Program Development for 2016-2017. Jeffrey Geller is a professor of psychiatry and an experienced community psychiatrist. He has extensive leadership experience and is a member of the American Psychiatric Association, the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law, and has published widely and has received many honours for his work in psychiatry and mental health.

Please join me in congratulating and welcoming Ingrid, Deborah and Jeffrey to their new roles in the WFMH Executive Committee. The current membership is:

President	Gabriel Ivbijaro MBE JP
President Elect (int)	Ingrid Daniels
Immediate Past President	Deborah Wan
Corporate Secretary	Porsche Poh
Treasurer	Janet Paleo
Vice President for Constituency Development	Robert van Voren
Vice-President for Programme Development (int)	Jeffrey Geller
Vice-President for Government Affairs	Ellen R Mercer

## **WFMH Website**

WFMH has appointed a new provider to upgrade the website. The website will become more dynamic and more mobile friendly. We hope that the changes will improve our ability to communicate with and engage our stakeholders.

## **WFMH Regional Conference – Cairns, Australia 16-19 October 2016**

We have received abstracts from over 22 countries so far and I want to extend our special thanks to the members of the Host and Scientific Organising Committees. We will be holding a Board Meeting and Assembly to ratify our updated By-Laws during this conference and will launch World Mental Health Day 2016 at this congress.

**We have extended the date for abstract submissions to 17 July 2016 and for posters to 31 July 2016. Further details are available at <http://www.wfmh2016.com/>**



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## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2016

17-19 October 2016 • Cairns Convention Centre

*Moving toward a mentally healthy community*

INCLUDING: Mental Health and Wellbeing | Government Issues and the Economy | Terrorism |  
Addiction | Information and Technology | Suicide and Self-Harm | Lived Experience and Carers

For further information contact Dulcie Bird  
Tel: +61 7 4053 6757 | Email: [dulcie.bird@kochfoundation.org.au](mailto:dulcie.bird@kochfoundation.org.au)

Early bird  
registration  
closes  
15 July 2016



Tourism and Events  
Queensland

[www.wfmh2016.com](http://www.wfmh2016.com)



## **Sad News – Stan Flache**

We are very sad to announce the passing away of one of our Past Presidents, Stan Flache, at the age of 97 in Wokingham, Surrey, UK. He was well liked and known to many of you.

Max Abbot, a Past President, pays the following tribute:

‘I knew Stan well. He preceded me as WFMH President from 1989-1991, having previously served as WHO Assistant Director General and having earlier spent a number of years as head of the WHO Western Pacific Office in Manila. He was a friend of one of our previous WFMH Presidents, Fanny Aldaba-Lim, who was a government minister in the Philippines. During Fanny’s Presidency Stan became our Senior UN and WHO Geneva Representative and played a critically important part in raising and maintaining the Federation’s profile with the WHO. Following his WFMH Presidency he resumed his UN Geneva role and I worked particularly closely with him at this time.

Polish by birth, Stan became a French citizen and was fluent in a number of languages including French and English. He was a highly sophisticated senior international civil servant. In his teens he was a survivor and refugee from the Warsaw ghetto. He qualified in medicine and worked as a medical officer with refugees and displaced persons for a number of years after World War 2 and subsequently moved up the ranks of WHO and other UN agencies/organs. Stan also had public health qualifications and this experience, and his global network of contacts, was of considerable value to WFMH.

Stan was a mentor and friend. He was also a strong supporter and I much valued his advice and wisdom during my 18 years on the WFMH Board and beyond. I have many fond memories, including times when he wined and dined myself and others at his Geneva apartment. He introduced me to Tom Lehrer. He had a great music collection, and a wry sense of humour.

Stan made a long and substantial contribution to the development of WFMH, especially to its standing with WHO. Others subsequently built on this foundation.’

Please join me in extending our sincere condolences to Dr Flache’s family, especially his daughter Chris Neen.

**Gabriel Ivbijaro**  
**President WFMH**