

THE LINK

The Official Newsletter of the International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN)

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The Brain and its Relationship to Child Abuse and Neglect

New methods bridge psychological and neurobiological separation

Until recently, developmental psychology and neurobiology have been studied in parallel. To some extent, this distinction reflects the different focus of these two branches of science. While developmental psychology is concerned with the observation and measurement of behaviour, cognition and emotion, neurobiology is concerned with the study of cellular, neurophysiological and biochemical processes in the brain and the autonomic nervous system.

It is now possible to study simultaneously the neurobiological processes accompanying or underlying observed behaviour, by the use of a variety of neurophysiological measures and brain imaging techniques. These methods enable the apparent mind-brain dichotomy to be bridged. While the relationship between observed behaviour and measured physiological function remains complex, these methods offer an excellent opportunity to improve our understanding of how early brain development impacts future behaviours. This technique also offers exciting new opportunities to examine the specific impacts of abuse and neglect on a child's development.

It has been shown that there are considerable changes in brain structure and function in association with both traumatic abuse and severe neglect. The fact that many

of these changes are related to aspects of the stress response is not surprising. Because brain development highly depends on the infant's early experiences, these new neurobiological findings shed some light on the many emotional and behavioural difficulties abused and neglected children exhibit over time. We now better understand issues such as hyperarousal, aggressive responses, dissociative reactions, difficulties with aspects of executive functions and educational underachievement.

These findings also underscore the importance of active, early intervention when child abuse and neglect are first recognised. Such early intervention offers the greatest hope for improving the chances that a maltreated child will achieve his or her developmental potential. The evidence on the protective effects of secure attachment in the face of stress clearly indicates a target for concern and treatment.

A detailed review of this important area of work, written by Danya Glaser is published in the *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry* (2000) 41:1, pp.97-116.

Danya Glaser, MD
ISPCAN Secretary, England

CRC Discussions and Comments Move Child Protection Forward UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Part 3 of 3

Violence Against Children

The Committee on the Rights of the Child devotes one day of general discussion every year (usually in its fall session) to a specific article of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) or to a theme in the area of children's rights. For both 2000 and 2001, the general discussion day theme is "Violence Against Children."

The first of these discussion days, held in September 2000, was devoted to State violence against children and covered two subtopics. Working Group I focused on the mistreatment, abuse and neglect of children in the care of the State (Chair: Jaap Doek; Rapporteur: Jo Becker; Human Rights Watch), while Working Group II focused on violence against children in the context of law and public order (Chair: Judith Karp; Rapporteur: Bill Bell, Save the Children UK). Representatives from various UN bodies attended these discussions as well as both international and national non-government organisations including Amnesty International, Defence for Children, Human Rights Watch, EPOCH-Worldwide, Terre des Hommes, the International Association of Juvenile and Family Court Magistrates, national Save the Children organisations and other national children's rights organisations from Australia, Belgium, Canada, Japan, Russia, South Africa, Thailand and the United Kingdom.

Based on these discussions, the committee recommended that the Secretary General of the UN conduct an in-depth international study covering all aspects of violence against children including State violence, violence occurring in the home and violence occurring in schools. The committee also recommended that the outcomes of such a study be used to formulate specific actions to prevent these forms of violence and to provide effective rehabilitative services. Other committee recommendations addressed the need for expanding public awareness of these problems, enhancing professional training, improving prevention efforts, developing alternatives for institutionalization, and monitoring the

incidence and response to these issues. For a fuller discussion of the issues presented during this meeting, see Report of the Committee on its 25th Session, Doc. CRC/C/100 October 2000.

A second general discussion day on this broad topic will be held on 28 September 2001. During this session, the committee will focus on violence against children in schools and within the family. Specific topics to be covered during this discussion day include: violence of teachers against students; violence and harassment by students against other students (bullying); the right to family privacy; the need for timely intervention in cases of child abuse within the family; effective reporting systems; developing a multidisciplinary response to child abuse; and the role culture, values and social attitudes play in determining appropriate discipline practices. Anyone with comments on these topics or related issues is invited to submit written comments to the meeting organizers prior to the event. These comments will be made available to all participants attending the discussion day. Since the purpose of this meeting is to discuss the topics of interest, no formal presentations will be included on the day's agenda.

Participants will divide into two working groups, one of which will focus on violence in the schools and the other on violence within the family. The objective of both groups will be to develop specific, concrete recommendations on how best to confront these issues. Participation is free of charge and open to all interested parties. However, the number of participants is limited so those interested in attending are urged to register before 14 September 2001. Those wishing to provide written comments for the discussion group to consider should submit these comments prior to 30 August 2001. Registration information (full name, organizational affiliation and contact information) as well as written comments should be sent to: mbustelo.hchr@unog.ch or pdavid.hchr@unog.ch. Given that the specific topics for

this discussion day are central to ISPCAN's mission, it is hoped that ISPCAN members and National Partners will make a special effort to provide at least written comments for consideration by the discussion group.

General Comments on Aims of Education

In monitoring the implementation of any human rights treaty (e.g. on Civil and Political Rights, on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, on Torture, etc.),

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Web News

Come visit the "My ISPCAN Community", the Members Only Area of our website, www.ispcan.org. There you will now find a variety of useful CAN prevention resources, event reports, special offers and past newsletters. A key benefit of the My ISPCAN Community is the searchable membership directory, where you can easily look up fellow ISPCAN members by name, city, state, country or discipline. Quickly check the accuracy of your own contact information or submit details to complete your listing. Soon to come: Discussion Forums (via bulletin board) and special interest listservs. If you have any questions about the site, please email Membership@ispcan.org.



Message from the President Using ISPCAN to Build a Strong Global Agenda for Children

Dear Colleagues:

For the first time in this year 2001 (and New Millennium) I send you my heartfelt wishes for effective and dedicated work for our cause: Child Protection across the globe reaching all four corners of the world.

As we progress toward accomplishing our goals we have many reasons to be proud:

- We are developing a broad, scientific response to our questions about the causes and consequences of child abuse and neglect;
- We have recruited many National Partner organizations around the world to work with us in accomplishing our mission;
- Our Society is being strategically re-evaluated and re-organized to more effectively meet the changing needs of our membership;

ISPCAN is increasingly being sought out by international institutions and NGOs needing advice and encouragement in establishing a more focused effort to address child maltreatment in all cultures and societies.

One exciting example of this last point was our participation in the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children meeting held in January 2001 in New York. While there, we presented sessions and talked with representatives from organizations around

the world emphasizing the need for a strong, global agenda for children that includes a strong focus on child abuse prevention as a universal need. This meeting also was an opportunity to re-affirm our commitment to upholding and promoting the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Regarding professional education, this year we are sponsoring two main events: Latin-American Regional Conference in Buenos Aires (October 2001) and European Regional Conference in Istanbul, Turkey (August 2001)

I invite our members in these areas to actively participate in at least one of these meetings. These meetings will allow you not only to share your own expertise but also to benefit from the training offered- at an international level - by others in the child protection field.

We also encourage you to use these meetings and other gatherings in your country to organize national societies. By joining with your colleagues in your community, you will be better able to change your country's culture into a more pro-active and child-friendly one. Such national societies have been and are being created through the mobilization of local professionals. By democratically discussing goals and processes, these societies and their members help build the foundation of our common struggle to secure the rights and dignity of all children.

Let us go ahead in our daily practice, trusting in the future, based on our faith that better days for children in the world are just some steps in front of us.

Sincerely,
Franklin Farinati, MD
ISPCAN President
Brazil

Japan and Britain Join National Partner Program

ISPCAN is delighted to announce and extend a warm welcome to the newest members of our National Partners Program – the Japanese Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect and the British Association for the Study and Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect. With these additions, ISPCAN has formal partnerships with nine national associations that share our commitment to building an effective multidisciplinary response to child abuse and neglect.

The Japanese Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (JaSPCAN) is a multidisciplinary association of physicians, nurses, legal experts, social workers and other professionals dedicated to the treatment and prevention of child abuse and neglect. The Society addresses the problem of child maltreatment by developing basic and practical research, promoting

collaboration among public and private agencies, and raising public awareness. To accomplish these objectives, JaSPCAN sponsors annual conferences drawing nearly 3,000 participants and publishes a regular newsletter for its members. In November 1999, the Society launched its own journal *Kodomo No Gyakutai To Neglect*. In addition, JaSPCAN has worked for legislative changes within Japan, successfully influencing the content of the Child Abuse Prevention Law that was enacted in November 2000. The society plans to sponsor two major training events in 2001: an International Symposium on Child Abuse and Neglect and the 7th National Conference in Kobe in December 2001.

The British Association for the Study and Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (BASPCAN) works to protect children from suffering, harm and ill treatment and to promote methods and services to safeguard child welfare. Their educational and awareness efforts are targeted not only to professionals working in the field,

but also the general public. BASPCAN's 2000 members come from all aspects of child protection work including police, law, nursing, pediatrics, psychology, psychiatry, probation, education and various academic fields. The Association's publications include a highly regarded professional journal, *Child Abuse Review*, and a membership newsletter, *BASPCAN News*. Hosting national congresses in child protection every three years, BASPCAN's 2000 event followed the theme "Meeting Children's Needs: The Opportunity for Change in Child Protection." BASPCAN will hold study days during 2001 addressing the following topics: Subdural Bleeds in Infants; Neglect; Thresholds; and Violence in Families.

Katherine Whiteside
ISPCAN Membership Manager
U.S.A.

THANK YOU, SHEILA!

For the past three years, ISPCAN has been very fortunate to have had Sheila Crow serve as Link editor. Under her leadership, the Link established a new format and expanded its content. We are very grateful for Sheila's dedication and commitment to this project. However, new job responsibilities at the University of Oklahoma's Health Science Center (Sheila is now the Director of the Palliative Care Program) and enrollment in a doctoral program in higher education administration has required Sheila to resign as Link editor.

We want to thank Sheila for her service to ISPCAN. Through her efforts, we have been better able to serve our membership and improve communication among CAN prevention professionals worldwide. We wish her every success in her new career.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

APSAC Ninth National Colloquium

Dates: 20 - 23 June 2001

Venue: Washington DC, USA

Theme: A New Era of Leadership

Organized by: American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC)

Contact: APSACEduc@aol.com

VIII European Conference on Child Abuse & Neglect

Dates: 24 - 27 August 2001

Venue: Istanbul, Turkey

Theme: Improving Child Protection Policies & Practices

Organized by: Turkish Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, Prof. Dr. Esin Konanc, Conference Chairperson

Contact: zeytinoglu@superonline.com and congress@magister.com.tr

2001 ISPCAN Latin American Regional Conference on Child Abuse & Neglect

Dates: 17 - 20 October 2001

Venue: Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Contact: asapmi@hotmail.com

Eastern European Regional Conference

Venue: Tartu, Estonia

Main Focus: Training of Estonian specialists who are working with sexually abused children, their family members and young offenders

Dates: May 10-12, 2001

Organized by: Tartu Support Center for Abused Children, Dr. Ruth Soonets - Chair of Organizing Committee, Tallinn Child Support Center

Contact: ch.abuse@online.ee

ISPCAN Highlights 4 Initiatives at UNGASS Meeting

ISPCAN joined with a number of other national and international organizations in calling attention to the needs of children as part of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on Children, Second Substantive Session of the Preparatory Committee Side Events, 2 February 2001, New York. As part of this event, ISPCAN President-elect Marcellina Mian, M.D., (Canada), presented a workshop, titled "Global Initiatives on Child Abuse Prevention." The workshop shared information on ISPCAN activities undertaken in the last few years to address the problem of child maltreatment around the world.

The UNGASS meeting also was attended by ISPCAN President Franklin Farinati, M.D. (Brazil) and Executive Director Kimberly Svevo, CAE. President Farinati stressed the importance of ISPCAN's participation because of the opportunity to meet with other key international NGO leaders from around the world, as well as the goal of making child abuse and neglect a priority to be addressed by this World Summit on Children. Governments and NGOs are working with the United Nations for the purpose of developing a document to guide their focus on and protection of children. This important document will be voted on and hopefully adopted by all governments at the final UNGASS meeting in September 2001.

The workshop provided information on 4 main projects:

- World Perspectives, which is a compilation of data regarding child abuse in some of the various countries where ISPCAN has its members (almost 2000 members in over 100 countries).
- World Vision International Child Abuse Project, in which ISPCAN executive council member Deborah Daro, Ph.D., consulted to gather data on the institutional response to the problem of child abuse in a sample of countries served by World Vision.
- Integrated Multi-Sectoral Approach to Child Abuse Prevention at the Country Level, a joint project of ISPCAN, the Child Violence and Injury Prevention (ChildVIP) Project and the World Health Organization (Geneva, Switzerland).
- ISPCAN Training and Local Capacity Building Program for Child Physical/Sexual Abuse Prevention and Treatment in Developing Countries, which is supported by the Oak Foundation (Geneva, Switzerland).

To view the complete set of presentation slides and figures on these initiatives, please visit ISPCAN's Members Only Area at www.ispcan.org.

Marcellina Mian, MD
ISPCAN President-Elect, Canada

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Part 3 of 3

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the review Committees often issue so-called "General Comment" papers. While these documents can serve a variety of functions, each paper generally elaborates on one or more of the treaty's specific articles. At its 26th session in January 2001, the Committee on the Rights of the Child adopted its first General Comment, titled "The Aims of Education" [Art. 29 (1) CRC]. This General Comment describes the importance of this article in the following manner:

"The aims of education [in Art. 29 (1)] are to promote, support and protect the value of the Convention: the human rights and dignity innate to every child. These aims are all linked directly to the realization of the child's human rights and dignity and takes into account the child's special development needs and evolving capacities; the holistic development of the full potential of the child [29 (1) (a)], including respect for human rights [29 (1) (b)], enhanced sense of identity and affiliation [29 (1) (c)], socialization and interaction with others [29 (1) (d)] and with the environment [29 (1) (e)]. The General Comment elaborates on the functions of Article 29 (1) CRC and on Human Rights education and the implementation of Article 29 (1) and the monitoring and review thereof."

For more details, readers should refer to the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights's web site.

If a copy of the General Comment is not yet available from this source, readers may contact: mbustelo.hchr@unog.ch

Major international events

Two major events relating to children's rights are scheduled for 2001.

World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, 1-7 September 2001 in Durban, South Africa. United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on children, 19-21 September 2001 in New York City.

The World Conference meeting will be used to showcase the Committee's first General Comment on the aims of education. Likewise, the Committee wants to use this forum to highlight the crucial importance of education in preventing and combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

The upcoming UNGASS meeting will assess the implementation and impacts of the Plan of Action for children, which was adopted at the 1990 World Summit on Children (WSC). Based on this assessment, the group will adopt a new Plan of Action to cover the current decade.

For both international meetings, preparatory committees are working on draft outcome documents (Declaration, Plans of Action). Besides UN bodies, those working in both international and national NGOs can play a very active role in providing comments to the preparatory committees on their early drafts. For more information on these meetings and the work of the preparatory committees, readers should contact the

Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights in Geneva (for the World Conference) and UNICEF New York (for the UNGASS).

New Committee Members Elected

The bi-annual election of five Committee members took place last month. These members shall officially be inaugurated at the Committee's next Session (21 May to 8 June 2001).

At its 26th session, the Committee reviewed national plans for implementing the CRC from the following countries: Latvia, Lithuania, Egypt, Saudi-Arabia, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Dominican Republic, Liechtenstein and Palau. Following this review, the Committee adopted the Concluding Observations and Recommendations for each of these States. Similar reviews will be conducted for the following countries during the Committee's next session: Denmark, Turkey, Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guatemala, Cote d'Ivoire, Oman, Buhtan and Monaco.

Anyone with questions on these plans or the Committee procedures should contact Jaap Doek at jaapedoek@cs.com.

Jaap E. Doek
Rapporteur of the Committee on the Rights of the Child
The Netherlands

ISPCAN Secretariat Report

As noted in several of the articles included in this issue, ISPCAN Councillors and staff have been very active in promoting the organization's educational and advocacy objectives. In January, ISPCAN sponsored 15 speakers from all parts of the world to participate in the 15th Annual San Diego Conference on Responding to Child Maltreatment sponsored by Children's Hospital. Our efforts included not only an all-day institute addressing global issues in child maltreatment, but also nine individual workshops presented throughout this week-long meeting. Collectively, these efforts raised awareness of the risks facing children and the efforts of professionals worldwide to effectively treat and prevent all forms of maltreatment.

Attendance at this meeting by a number of ISPCAN Councillors also allowed us to hold several planning meetings that were instrumental in moving our work plan forward. Specific meetings included: the Conference/Congress Committee, led by Kevin Browne (UK); Training/Education & Consultation Committee, led by Irene Intebi (Argentina) and Faculty Sub-Committee, led by David Chadwick (US). Following the San Diego meeting, ISPCAN President Franklin Farinati (Brazil), Congress Scientific Program Co-Chair Jon

Conte (US) and myself, met with the 2002 ISPCAN Congress (Denver) Organizing Committee including Congress Chair Richard Krugman, Carrie Nolan, Don Bross, and Rob Clyman.

Directly from Denver, ISPCAN President Farinati and I traveled to New York where we attended the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children. We were joined in New York by President-Elect Marcellina Mian. As noted in the article on this topic in this issue, Dr. Mian presented a workshop, titled "Global Initiatives on Child Abuse Prevention" that provided us an opportunity to introduce the attendees to ISPCAN's work and the importance of addressing the problem of child abuse within the context of securing children's rights.

Directly from New York, the ISPCAN President and other officers joined staff in the Secretariat office in Chicago to work on a variety of membership and organizational issues. The ISPCAN Officers (President Farinati, President-elect Mian, Treasurer Barbara Bonner (US), Secretary Danya Glaser (UK), and Personnel Committee/new LINK Editor Deborah Daro (US)) and I ended our time together with a weekend meeting of the Strategic Planning Task Force.

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Conference Updates

Istanbul to Host 8th Annual European Conference

ISPCAN's 8th European Regional Conference on Child Abuse & Neglect will be held in Istanbul, Turkey, 24-27 August 2001. Jointly sponsored by the Turkish Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect and ISPCAN, the conference's central theme will be "Improving Child Protection Policies & Practices." Presentation and workshop subtopics will include the following: Reviews of child protection systems in Europe and how they address child abuse & neglect; Children's rights approach to child protection; Impact of recent research on understanding, assessment, prevention

and treatment of child abuse and neglect; Understanding and preventing different forms of child abuse and neglect in society including schools, media, institutions, child labor; street children, and commercial sexual exploitation; and Understanding and better responding to risks children face as a result of such issues as armed conflicts, ethnic cleansing and natural disasters.

For more information and registration, please visit the conference website linked to ISPCAN's Events page at www.ispcan.org. We hope you will join us this August!

New Argentine CAN Prevention Society Announces Latin American Conference

On 6 December 2000, ASAPMI (Asociación Argentina para la Prevención del Maltrato Infantojuvenil), Argentinean Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect) officially started to function, after being introduced to the professional community at the Argentinean National Ombudsman Venue in Buenos Aires.

More than 200 professionals attended the event where the ASAPMI Executive Committee proposed developing a multidisciplinary organization committed to enhancing the prevention, treatment, research and awareness of child abuse and neglect. ASAPMI's priority is to encourage and improve professional networks that include both governmental and NGO agencies and programs. It is ASAPMI's interest to promote not only greater national coordination within Argentina, but also regional coordination throughout Latin America.

In recognition of this broader mission, the newly created society is organizing the 6th ISPCAN Latin American Congress on the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse

and Neglect (the First Argentinean Congress on the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect) to be held in Buenos Aires 17-20 October 2001. Following the theme "Revisiting programs, promoting projects," the scientific program will include an ISPCAN Training Institute of master classes presented by ISPCAN Councillors (October 17th) and several discussion panels, workshops, interviews with child abuse and neglect experts, and daily presentations about new strategies NGOs and governmental programs are developing throughout Latin America.

ISPCAN members interested in attending or presenting their work at the Congress, should contact:

A.S.A.P.M.I

Email: asapmi@hotmail.com • Telefax: (541 1) 4813 8593

Lanzilotta Congreso

Email: monica@lanzilotta.com.ar • TE: (541 1) 4952-2577

15th Annual San Diego Conference on Responding to Child Maltreatment & ISPCAN Institute on Global Issues in Child Maltreatment



Participants gather at the San Diego Conference.

For the third year, ISPCAN hosted an International Institute and sponsored a series of workshops focusing on international issues as part of the 15th Annual San Diego Conference on Responding to Child Maltreatment on 22-26 January 2001. The Institute program, which was offered immediately prior to the opening of the full conference, focused on developing and implementing individual and global measures for assessing the relative risk for abuse or neglect within populations and societies. Some 30 professionals from a variety of disciplines attended this event. The program and speakers for this full day training event included the following:

- "Tailoring Research Methods for Child Protection, Evaluation, And Development"- presented by Prof. Kevin Browne (UK).
- "The State of the Child: Strategies for Monitoring Child Well-Being and Our Efforts to Protect Children"- presented by Dr. Deborah Daro (USA) and Prof. Franklin Farinati (Brazil).
- "Exploring Various National Definitions of Child Abuse Risk Factors with the Goal of Improving an International Approach"- panel presentation by Dr. Barbara Bonner (USA), Prof. Kevin Browne (UK), Dr.

Tamar Cohen (Israel), Dr. Ruth Soonets (Estonia), Prof. Franklin Farinati (Brazil), Dr. Kim Oates (Australia) and Dr. Deborah Daro (USA).

Prof. Browne's presentation addressed the research methods generally used to examine the incidence and prevalence of child maltreatment within populations and societies and the implications of this line of research on the detection of specific families presenting an elevated risk for abuse or neglect. In presenting this research, Prof. Browne drew on examples from Russia, Greece, Romania, England and North America.

In the following session, Dr. Daro and Prof. Farinati examined the range of indicators generally used by international and governmental bodies to monitor child well being within a country or culture. These indicators cover a wide range of health, education and socio-economic indicators generally used to compare risk levels within and across countries. They also presented more descriptive and population-based survey methods used by some to capture a more specific picture of the conditions for children in different countries that both contribute to or prevent child abuse and neglect.

The final panel presentation provided summaries of the way risk is defined and monitored in a variety of countries including the USA, Estonia, Israel, Australia, Brazil and the UK. In addition, Dr. Browne presented a draft of a cross-cultural risk assessment measure being developed by the World Health Organization. In summarizing the panel presentations, Dr. Daro noted the strong similarities in the frameworks being adapted across the different countries, with all of the measures seeking to balance the contribution of individual and systemic factors in determining a child's relative risk for maltreatment.

In addition to the International Institute, ISPCAN supported a number of workshops during the conference, providing a useful cross-cultural perspective to the variety of issues facing professionals involved in the treatment or prevention of child abuse. The workshops were

uniquely designed to bring an international perspective to the San Diego Conference and to introduce the latest methods and models of child abuse prevention and treatment being implemented worldwide. These sessions and the main speakers included:

- "Promoting Child Welfare and Protection in Eastern Europe"- presented by Prof. Kevin Browne.
- "Profile on Developing Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention in Estonia and Russia"- presented by Dr. Barbara Bonner (USA), Dr. Tatiana Balachova (Russia) and Dr. Ruth Soonets (Estonia).
- "Toward a Global Strategy of Child Violence Prevention"- presented by Dr. Marcellina Mian (Canada) and John Kydd (USA).
- "Religious and Cultural Complexities in Addressing/Treating Child Abuse in Asian Families"- presented by Dr. Irene Cheah (Malaysia) and Bernadette Madrid (Philippines)
- "Risk Factors for Abuse: Formulating an International Approach"- presented by Dr. Tamar Cohen (Israel), Prof. Franklin Farinati (Brazil).
- "Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Children with Sexual Behavior Problems"- presented by Dr. Barbara Bonner (USA).
- "Alternative Models and Strategies for the Legal Protection of Maltreated Children in Underdeveloped Countries"- presented by Henry Plum (USA).
- "Children, Adolescents and Adults with Aggressive Sexual Behavior: Similarities & Differences"- presented by Dr. Barbara Bonner (USA).
- "Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Strategy Development: International Issues of Culture and Religion"- presented by Dr. Tamar Cohen (Israel) and Dr. Irene Cheah (Malaysia).

Anna Quintanilla, MA
ISPCAN Education/Fundraising
Manager, U.S.A.

CAN TRAINING AROUND THE WORLD

ISPCAN Member Hosts CAP Training in Estonia



Estonia training participants came away with new insights into CAP issues.

"You have made me understand that I am responsible for children's safety."

These words, spoken by a member of the newly organized Child Assault Prevention (CAP) team in Estonia, reflect the feelings of many CAP facilitators around the world. CAP is a program of the International Center for Assault Prevention (ICAP) and has community-based primary prevention programs in 26 US states and 16 countries. Its objective is to empower children with strategies to prevent verbal, physical and sexual assault and to educate the adults in their lives to recognize abusive situations and respond in support of children.

The CAP program originated in the US in 1978 and, since that time, has been widely disseminated. With workshops designed for parents, educators and children, CAP provides a positive and empowering approach to the problem of child abuse and neglect.

Dr. Ruth Soonets, a member of ISPCAN's Executive Council, recently hosted a CAP training in Estonia. Dr. Soonets had this to say about the program: "I appreciate highly the level of the training, the information that was provided as well as the professional level and skill of the trainers. I will suggest the CAP program to the key persons of Eastern Europe and I will praise the methods on which the training is based. I believe it would be extremely necessary and warmly welcomed as an important way of preventing child abuse."

During the past four years, CAP programs have been initiated in Moldova, Yugoslavia, Slovenia, Kyrgyzstan, Croatia, Ukraine and Estonia. They join previous projects in Japan, England, New Zealand and Canada. In each of these countries, teams of caring citizens are formed and trained to implement CAP in community schools. The reaction has been overwhelmingly positive. A team member in Moldova writes, "Many children in our country are lacking love, affection, care and support. They are being beaten and humiliated. I am glad that there appeared the CAP Project to fight these things. I feel we are truly making a difference."

Like all effective programs, the CAP Project requires a strong commitment from community leaders in order to be successful. For almost a year, ICAP staff work with interested country leaders, helping them create the coalitions that are necessary to begin this strong advocacy work for their children. Before a community program can begin in the schools, it must first be accepted and welcomed by the agencies and organizations responsible for nurturing, educating and protecting the children in the community. With a core group of educators, law enforcement officials, legislators, clergy, social service workers, judicial officers, media, medical staff and others fully supporting the program, it is much more likely to succeed. With its success comes a community-wide acceptance of the fact that being safe is a basic human right which should be afforded to all children.

Workshops in the schools help teachers and other school staff understand the importance of prevention. In addition, they learn to recognize abused and neglected children and are given information on reporting and working with the agencies in the community which are mandated to protect young people.

Parents are given comprehensive workshops explaining abuse and neglect. They are offered parenting tips and given strategies to talk with their children about these sensitive subjects.

In addition to the adult workshops, CAP offers children a workshop in which strategies are discussed regarding peer assault, stranger danger and assault by someone the child may know and trust. In each of the scenarios discussed, the children actively participate and offer suggestions for their own safety.

Pat Stanislaski, U.S.A.

National Conference on "Child Abuse - Size of the Problem and Challenges" Warsaw, Poland

The Polish National Conference, jointly organized and sponsored by ISPCAN and the Medical Center for Postgraduate Education, was held in Warsaw 18-19 November 2000. In addition, private and government financial support for the event was received from the Ministry of Health, Johnson & Johnson, and the local McDonald's restaurants. Elizabeth Bak, a nurse and ISPCAN member in Poland organized the event.

The Polish Minister of Social Policy, Barbara Labuda, served as honorary patron of the event. Minister Labuda's support was very important in gaining the attention of Polish Government and generating broad political interest in the problem of child abuse and neglect in Poland.

The conference offered the following plenary sessions:

Child Abuse in Poland and in the World, Physical Abuse, Sexual Abuse, and Psychological Abuse

The role of the pediatrician in the identification of child abuse (Part I and II)

Following each plenary session, participants had an opportunity to ask questions and expand on the points made by the presenters. Workshops also were offered to allow for more in-depth discussion of several topics, including the evaluation of physical and sexual abuse, psychological therapy for abused children, detection of medical conditions mistaken for child abuse, and child abuse prevention strategies.

The event's faculty included a team of local and international professionals. Speakers from the United States included Dr. Barbara Bonner (ISPCAN Treasurer), Dr. Carole Jenny, and Dr. John Stuenkel. Speakers from Poland included Colonel Ryszard Siewierski, Dr. Monika Sajkowska, Prof. Bibiana Mossakowska, Prof. Andrzej Marcinski, Prof. Karol Sliwka and Prof. Irena Norska-Borowka.

This two-day program brought together 165 Polish professionals working in the fields of medicine, social work, education, law enforcement and clinical psychology. Representatives from the District Committees for Child's Rights Protection from the entire country also actively participated in the conference. While the conference primarily addressed the concerns of medical professionals' problems associated with child abuse, the material presented also was relevant for other professional groups seeking current research information and resources regarding the treatment and prevention of all forms of child abuse and neglect.

In evaluating the conference, participants agreed that the event had accomplished its major objectives: improving the knowledge base of professionals in Poland; working with abused and neglected children; and strengthening interdisciplinary cooperation and networking within the country. As a result of this meeting, the Government is exploring ways to more actively collaborate with the Medical Center for Postgraduate Education and other regional organizations.

Anna Quintanilla, MA

ISPCAN Education/Fundraising Manager, U.S.A.

ISPCAN Workshop on Multidisciplinary Approach to Child Abuse & Neglect in Pakistan.

The Child Rights and Abuse Committee for Pakistan Pediatric Association organized a workshop on Multidisciplinary Approach to Child Abuse and Neglect in collaboration with ISPCAN, on 16-18 November 2000 in Lahore, Pakistan. Thirty-five professionals from the fields of medicine, social work, education, law, psychology and psychiatry participated in the event.

Plenary sessions and workshops covered the following topics: the rights of the child under the constitution of Pakistan; physical abuse; sexual abuse; emotional abuse; child neglect; legal issues; and developing a multidisciplinary approach to child abuse.

Following a welcome and presentation of the event's major objectives by Dr. Tufail Mohammad Khan, Justice Nasim Hassan Shah, who is the former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, presented the main address. Justice Nasim Hassan Shah described children's rights in light of the Pakistani constitution. This presentation was followed by Prof. Fehmida Jalil (Pakistan) and Prof. David Southall (UK) who discussed the signs and symptoms of physical abuse in children.

Individual presentations were then offered by the following diverse group of professionals: Prof. Harendra de Silva (physician from Sri Lanka); Dr. Gulzar Ahmad (psychologist from Pakistan); Dr. Mohammad Ayub (psychiatrist from Pakistan); Prof. Shaukat Raza Khan (senior pediatrician from Pakistan); and Ms. Hina Jillani (lawyer and human rights activist from Pakistan).

In order to develop a work plan for moving forward, workshop participants divided into small groups to discuss plans for a multidisciplinary approach to child abuse and neglect that would be applicable to Pakistan's unique cultural and legal structures. After discussing their specific approach, each group presented their key conclusions to all participants at a plenary session.

In evaluating the three-day event, participants expressed high satisfaction with the event's structure and content. Most felt that they had received high quality information and skill building. The participants also recommended that future events be held that would provide both similar and more advanced material for a variety of professional disciplines.

Anna Quintanilla, MA

ISPCAN Education/Fundraising Manager, U.S.A.

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Recognizing Contributions of Time and Resources during
October 2000 - March 2001

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(contributions of \$ 50,000 & Above)

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Special thank you to the Center for Child Protection at Children's Hospital in San Diego, the organizer of the 2001 San Diego Conference on Responding to Child Maltreatment.

NEW ISPCAN MEMBERS (★ new countries)

ISPCAN warmly welcomes new members joining from October 2000 through March 2001

BOLIVIA

Victoria Gabrielle Lidchi

BRAZIL

Silvia Benetti
Giuliana Elisa dos Santos

★ BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Dora Maria Carbonu

CANADA

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CHILE

Maria Beatriz Vizcarra

CHINA

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Niels Michael Michelsen

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Director General, Dept for
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NICARAGUA

Abbie Shepard Fields

NORTHERN IRELAND

Helga Sneddon

NORWAY

Gro Eines

Else Berit Kristiansen

Marit Hoem Kuam

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Stephen J. Wirtz

★ UZBEKISTAN

Elmira Isakbaeva

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Mayumi Green

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Jonathan Brakarsha

Announcing this Year's Complimentary Membership Recipients

ISPCAN is pleased to present the 2001-2002 Developing Country Honorary Membership Award recipients and commends them for their work in child protection around the world. The Award program aims to recognize emerging leaders in child abuse and neglect prevention and provide them with complimentary ISPCAN memberships for

two years. Extending ISPCAN benefits to those who might not otherwise be able to join, the program receives in exchange a rich collection of materials and information on child welfare work across the globe. Co-sponsored by Elsevier Science, the Awards also include a two-year subscription to *Child Abuse and Neglect: The International Journal*.

Rosana Canale, ARGENTINA

Alicia Sanchez de Mingarro, ARGENTINA

Sigma Huda, BANGLADESH

Francis Glago, BENIN

Elizabeth Patino Duran, BOLIVIA

Gwen N. Lesetedi, BOTSWANA

Sandra Cristina da Silveira, BRAZIL

ISPCAN-Oak Training Project Representative, BRAZIL

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An Interview with ISPCAN's New Council Secretary (term 2000-2002)

Dr. Danya Glaser works in the Department of Psychological Medicine at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children in London. She has been a member of ISPCAN since 1985.

Q What is the most important goal you hope to achieve as Secretary of ISPCAN for the next two years?

A To help facilitate the functioning of The ISPCAN Council in its role to support members

Q How long have you been a member of ISPCAN, how did you originally learn about ISPCAN? How long have you been a member of the ISPCAN Executive Council? Why do you believe ISPCAN's interdisciplinary and international philosophies are important in addressing Child Abuse and Neglect?

A I was introduced to ISPCAN through the Journal, joined in 1985 and was elected to the Executive Council in 1998. Child Abuse and neglect are universal problems. As the great anthropologist and psychiatrist Gregory Bateson said 'Difference is information'. We need to learn from our respective experiences and counteract the isolation of working in this field, which sometimes is a reflection of the isolation the children themselves feel. Because of the complex nature of child abuse and neglect, which includes the personal experience of the child as well as society's, which often deny it, a multidisciplinary response is the only effective one.

Q What is your actual profession, what contributions have you made to the field already, and what was the cause of your initial interest in Child Abuse Prevention/Treatment? What are the key issues which those in your profession are facing and must address to assist in the overall goal of reduction of child abuse worldwide?

A I am a child and adolescent psychiatrist and have worked with child abuse and neglect since 1974, by which time I already had a passionate affection, concern and interest in children. Inspired early on by my teachers and colleagues, notably Arnon Bentovim and Margaret Lynch, my work in the early days of recognition of sexual abuse initially contributed to the investigation and treatment

process and the development of multidisciplinary work. This included the vital interface with the law and the need to remember the children who could become lost in a complex and emotive process. More recently my interests have extended to emotional or psychological abuse and neglect which are at the core of much child abuse and neglect, but are under-recognized. We are now also becoming aware of the effects of child abuse and neglect on the brain. The key challenge for our profession is the painful recognition that some of the parents with whom we work are capable of harming their children.

Q In the United Kingdom, what are the key CAN issues that need to be addressed by professionals? What national organization is also active in CAN prevention and addressing these issues?

A In comparison to many countries worldwide, we are fortunate in the UK in the growing recognition of the absolute needs of children for welfare and protection from abuse and neglect, and the existence of a law to underpin this. The key issues for professionals are how to achieve effective and early enough intervention which includes protection and treatment, balancing the needs of children with the preservation of the family, when human resources are over stretched.

Q What role should and can ISPCAN play in this work internationally?

A ISPCAN'S greatest role is facilitating the exchange of information between those working in this field. This exchange occurs in many different ways, the LINK being one, training being another and face-to-face networking being probably the most important one, which ISPCAN can facilitate through regional initiatives.

Q Has ISPCAN's focus changed or expanded in the last 10-15 years from its original goal of serving the needs of a professional membership, and if so, how?

A There is an ongoing debate about whether we should expand our focus, from interpersonal child abuse and neglect to the wider area of child adversity and vulnerability. Global communication has forced our awareness of many dangers to children posed by the social and natural environment including poverty, war, child exploitation, HIV and natural disasters. ISPCAN is a small organization

which cannot directly tackle any of the environmental issues. We can and are now working with large international organizations and NGO's in increasing their awareness of the increased vulnerability of children to child abuse and neglect, whenever there are particular environmental and social adversities and disasters. ISPCAN's advocacy role can be expressed effectively through education and information exchange. Our constituency are members and professionals working in the field, and membership organizations. Our dialogue extends to policy makers.

Q Do you feel it is important for ISPCAN to continue expanding its outreach to professionals in developing countries facing issues with the complicating factors of limited resources and sometimes cultural and religious barriers to addressing child abuse and neglect? If so, how?

A Yes, it is essential that as an international society we need to continue to reach more professionals worldwide, as a joining together in the common aim of ensuring the well-being of children. However, we need to be sensitive to the fact that it is local people who are the experts in identifying and finding solutions to their particular issues. ISPCAN can only be a vehicle for information and personal exchange, and a facilitator for the formation and support of local organizations and networking.

Q Do you feel that children will be increasingly served by the work of ISPCAN and its affiliates and partners in the next 5 years? 10 years? What will it take to improve their prospects for healthy and safe childhoods?

A There is more hope than certainty. There are adults (and sadly some adolescents) who have the capacity to hurt and harm children. In situations of adversity, children are always the most vulnerable. Through supporting each other working in the field, ISPCAN can maintain public awareness of the vulnerability of children and of the need for society to preserve and nurture our future human resource.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts with Link readers.

Kimberly Svevo, CAE
ISPCAN Executive Director, U.S.A.

ISPCAN Secretariat Report

(continued from page 3)

And while all this was going on, ISPCAN's Cameroon National Partner CASPCAN was organizing and hosting a World Congress on Sexual Exploitation of Children Preparatory Meeting in Dakar, Senegal.

As we move forward, ISPCAN members around the world are preparing for the upcoming US National Partner APSAC's Colloquium in June; the August ISPCAN European Regional Conference; the October Latin American Regional Conference; and upcoming training events ISPCAN will be supporting in 2001 both through our ongoing education efforts (in Estonia and Albania) and through our recently enacted partnership with the Oak Foundation. With the generous support of the Oak Foundation and the leadership of Training, Consultation & Faculty Committee Chair Irene Intebi, planning teams have been established in six countries (Kenya, South Africa, Brazil, Argentina, Malaysia, Thailand) to develop a series of training events over the next several years to enhance the professional response to child maltreatment and to build the infrastructure for greater coordination and interdisciplinary partnerships among local professionals.

To support the Oak initiative and to increase the access of our members to the latest information regarding best practice, ISPCAN staff is in the process of identifying and evaluating child abuse and neglect prevention training resources that are being used throughout the world. Our goal is to categorize these materials and assess their utility. The results of this project and specific information on how to access the most promising

of these materials will be made available to our members through the ISPCAN Web site. In fact, in coming months, you will see a variety of technological developments on our Web site including a discussion forum, links to other relevant pages and a "members only" database.

If you are interested in contributing to any of the above projects – please let us hear from you. Contact me at Exec@ispcan.org. I look forward to hearing from you.

Finally, a brief staff update. We were sorry to lose Education/Fundraising Manager Junita Upadhyay in 2000. Junita's contributions were central to our efforts to expand funding for training projects in developing countries and to provide scholarships to professionals working in these regions. We miss her and wish her and her family (particularly her new son) the very best.

While departures are always difficult, the good news is that we welcome our new Education and Training Manager – Anna Quintanilla, M.A. Originally from Poland, Anna has an educational background focused on children and education policy and experience in supervising childcare facilities and related programs. Since joining us at the end of November, Anna has assumed responsibility for the logistics and planning of ISPCAN's education and training efforts, the faculty database and the scholarship program. Welcome Anna!

Kimberly Svevo, CAE
ISPCAN Executive Director, U.S.A.

Join ISPCAN in our mission to support individuals and organizations working to protect children from abuse and neglect worldwide.

Benefits of ISPCAN membership:

- Monthly subscription to the prestigious *Child Abuse & Neglect: The International Journal*
- Informative membership newsletter, The LINK and other special publications
- Membership directory
- Reduced rates at the biennial international congresses and certain other sponsored events worldwide
- Provides networking opportunities and member information exchange

Goals of ISPCAN

ISPCAN is dedicated to the prevention of maltreatment of children, promotes the welfare of children, and works to strengthen their rights through publications, research, conferences, congresses, training events, working groups and seminars throughout the world.

Membership is from January to December. Members joining mid-year will receive back issues of the Journal for that year. Members joining after October 1, will be made members for the following year (unless they indicate they wish present & following year benefits).

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ACA Against Child Abuse, Hong Kong

APSAC American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children, USA

BASPCAN British Association for the Study and Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect

CASPCAN Cameroon Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, Cameroon

JASPCAN Japanese Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect

NAPCAN National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, Australia

NOPCA National Organization for the Prevention of Child Abuse, Belize

PKM Malaysian Association for the Protection of Children, Malaysia

SASPCAN South African Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, South Africa

Mission: To support individuals and organizations working to protect children from abuse and neglect worldwide.

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ISPCAN MEMBERSHIP DUES (check all that apply)

- Regular Membership _____ \$ 95.00 1 year _____ \$ 180.00 2 years
- *Developing Country Membership (Per World Bank Reports) _____ \$ 50.00 1 year _____ \$ 90.00 2 years
- Donations _____ \$ _____

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