

**Division of Professional Practice (Division 17)  
E-News from OUR TEAM:  
(MARCH, 2021)**

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**February-March: 'Monthly Snapshot'**

As always, the monthly IAAP E-News provides an opportunity to reflect on key events of the past month.

- **The World in the Time of COVID-19**

As we write (22.2.21), the WHO Coronavirus Disease 'dashboard' indicates that there are now **111,102,016 confirmed cases** of COVID-19 world-wide, including **2,462,911 deaths** (compared to 25.1.21: 99,363,697 confirmed cases; 2,135,959 deaths; 28.12.20: 79,673,994 confirmed cases; 1,761,381 deaths; 23.11.20: 57,882,183 cases, 1,377,395 deaths; 29.10.20: 43,766,712 cases, 1,163,459 deaths; 26.7.20: 15,581,009 cases, 635,173 deaths; 20.6.20: 8,385,440 cases, 450,686 deaths; 26.4.20: 2.8million cases, 200,000 deaths). See: **WHO:**

[https://covid19.who.int/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMkPFX79Px7QIV2w0rCh2N\\_w2GEAAAYASAAEgKQm\\_D\\_BwE](https://covid19.who.int/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMkPFX79Px7QIV2w0rCh2N_w2GEAAAYASAAEgKQm_D_BwE)

Whilst the death toll in the USA has reached 500,000 (today) - over double the next highest toll in Brazil (see: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-56150141>) - the **good news** is that

rates of infection and death are slowing. Many of the vaccination campaigns across the world are going ahead at unprecedented speed, with more than 100 million people across 66 countries receiving at least one COVID-19 jab in several months (see:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2021-02-04/covid-19-vaccines-production-pfizer-moderna-astrazeneca-novavax/13109264>) Israel leads the way in terms of per capita vaccination rates, the UAE

second, and the United Kingdom, the USA, Chile, the EU and Brazil also achieving astonishing rates of cover in just a short time (see: <https://ourworldindata.org/covid-vaccinations>)

However, it remains unclear whether there will be a smooth transition back to a "new normal", as new variants from the UK, South Africa and Brazil threaten to challenge the efficacy of the three main vaccines (Pfizer, AstraZeneca and the evolving Novovax variety). It currently appears that lethality of infection is considerably diminished amongst those who

are vaccinated. However, transmissibility remains unclear – leaving some nations under cautious ‘relative lock-down’, with borders closed (e.g. Australia)  
(For summaries of the unfolding situation during 2020, see previous Division 17 E-News editions.)

There remains considerable **uncertainty and anxiety about the state of the world** as we move into 2022. All we can do, as we have done over the past year, is ‘watch this space’ and reflect on our role as psychologists, and how we can contribute to the communities we serve at this time of ongoing health crisis.

#### Articles:

- **“Why does the pandemic seem to be hitting some countries harder than others”**

See: [https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2021/03/01/why-does-the-pandemic-seem-to-be-hitting-some-countries-harder-than-others?utm\\_source=nl&utm\\_brand=tny&utm\\_mailing=TNY\\_Daily\\_022221&utm\\_campaign=aud-dev&utm\\_medium=email&bxid=5bd66f892ddf9c619438901f&cndid=21388342&hasha=089663d0748b74d8e78dccf03faa7cd2&hashb=5b9324a7fd7dd5e6186a84bf197433a65508d721&hashc=77b7c1a9bb0979836c22f00a89ece66e6f72a03c94b079be53ff540eb9c3a67c&esrc=footer\\_unit\\_business&utm\\_term=TNY\\_Daily](https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2021/03/01/why-does-the-pandemic-seem-to-be-hitting-some-countries-harder-than-others?utm_source=nl&utm_brand=tny&utm_mailing=TNY_Daily_022221&utm_campaign=aud-dev&utm_medium=email&bxid=5bd66f892ddf9c619438901f&cndid=21388342&hasha=089663d0748b74d8e78dccf03faa7cd2&hashb=5b9324a7fd7dd5e6186a84bf197433a65508d721&hashc=77b7c1a9bb0979836c22f00a89ece66e6f72a03c94b079be53ff540eb9c3a67c&esrc=footer_unit_business&utm_term=TNY_Daily)

- **“The Awful Uncertainty of the coronavirus death toll”**

[https://www.newyorker.com/science/elements/the-awful-uncertainty-of-the-coronavirus-death-toll?utm\\_source=nl&utm\\_brand=tny&utm\\_mailing=TNY\\_Daily\\_022221&utm\\_campaign=aud-dev&utm\\_medium=email&bxid=5bd66f892ddf9c619438901f&cndid=21388342&hasha=089663d0748b74d8e78dccf03faa7cd2&hashb=5b9324a7fd7dd5e6186a84bf197433a65508d721&hashc=77b7c1a9bb0979836c22f00a89ece66e6f72a03c94b079be53ff540eb9c3a67c&esrc=footer\\_unit\\_business&utm\\_term=TNY\\_Daily](https://www.newyorker.com/science/elements/the-awful-uncertainty-of-the-coronavirus-death-toll?utm_source=nl&utm_brand=tny&utm_mailing=TNY_Daily_022221&utm_campaign=aud-dev&utm_medium=email&bxid=5bd66f892ddf9c619438901f&cndid=21388342&hasha=089663d0748b74d8e78dccf03faa7cd2&hashb=5b9324a7fd7dd5e6186a84bf197433a65508d721&hashc=77b7c1a9bb0979836c22f00a89ece66e6f72a03c94b079be53ff540eb9c3a67c&esrc=footer_unit_business&utm_term=TNY_Daily)

#### Ways in which we can assist:

##### with the Ongoing Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on mental health:

- **Professional Support for Health Center Executive Leaders: A Practice Model for Facilitated Dialogue Series during COVID-19:**

“Leaders of healthcare organizations have faced challenges of immense magnitude and scope during the COVID-19 pandemic. Research suggests that leadership stress and associated behaviors are significant determinants of stress and burnout in their employees. Efforts to assist leaders in effectively managing stress may have substantial benefits for healthcare organizations. Providing professional and personal support for healthcare executive leaders presents both a challenge and an opportunity for psychologists and other mental health consultants.”

**Co-authored by “one of our own Division Executive”, this interesting article highlights a practical way to help by managing stress amongst CEOs in the primary care setting during COVID-19:** [https://iaapsy.org/site/assets/files/2130/ceo\\_facilitated\\_dialogue\\_d\\_d\\_prescott.pdf](https://iaapsy.org/site/assets/files/2130/ceo_facilitated_dialogue_d_d_prescott.pdf)

- **Ideas both for us as practitioners and for our clients: “Looking after your mental health during coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions”**

(advice from the Australian Government)

See: <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/ongoing-support-during-coronavirus-covid-19/looking-after-your-mental-health-during-coronavirus-covid-19-restrictions>

#### Division Activity:

- **Our Executive Team are commencing regular zoom meetings this year** (from 27.2.21) to enhance the activities of the Division of Professional Practice. Top priority amongst these are the initiatives of our Secretary General: Pedro Neves, as follows:
  - **“101 members in 101 day initiative”:** ‘one of IAAP’s flagship actions’ for the first half of 2021, this new project has the goal of involving current members in Division

membership recruitment efforts, whilst increasing overall new memberships'. We are planning to recruit all our Division members' to support in achieving this objective.

- **"Members professional activities"**: As mentioned in our previous E-News (see January/February), a positive new initiative has been the compilation of IAAP members' current activities (in each Division). We would be most grateful if members could send us any up-dates about professional initiatives, publications, activities, awards, etc. which we can profile (both in the cumulative list and also in our E-News/Newsletters).

**Please send to:** [robvines@bigpond.com](mailto:robvines@bigpond.com) and  
[susanh2\\_mcdaniel@urmc.rochester.edu](mailto:susanh2_mcdaniel@urmc.rochester.edu)

We hope all of you will add to this ongoing, cumulative record of the Division member's activities – currently available on our webpage:

[https://iaapsy.org/site/assets/files/2110/copy\\_of\\_division17memberachievements2019-20\\_rv.pdf](https://iaapsy.org/site/assets/files/2110/copy_of_division17memberachievements2019-20_rv.pdf)

- **Webinars:** To supplement our previous/first webinar on "Integrated Mental Health Care": <https://iaapsy.org/members/webinars/the-critical-role-of-psychology-in-an-integrated-primary-care-model-presented-by-iaap-division-17/>, our executive team are planning a further webinar on **"The Necessity of a Bio-psycho-social Approach to mental and general health presentations"**. Given the success of the webinar initiative, the IAAP webinar calendar is fully booked to the end of this year, so ours is to be scheduled in **October, 2021**.

Please send any further ideas (to email addresses above) about possible webinar topics that may be useful in your professional practice. We are hoping to increase this way of interrelating with our members.

- **International Congresses:**

The status of the **ICP: International Congress of Psychology in Prague: July, 2021**

(postponed from July, 2020) **has been confirmed as a 'hybrid' event** – partly face-to-face attendance, partly by remote attendance on zoom. Our Division team will be presenting a double-symposium (accepted by the ICP committee) entitled: **"The role of psychology in integrated mental health care: an international perspective"**. This will also be done in a 'hybrid' way, as some of us are unable to leave our countries-of-origin (due to uncertainty about being able to get back in and/or having to quarantine upon return – e.g. Australia); others have been told by their 'institution'/university that there is to be no international travel by staff in 2021. Our symposium team is therefore likely to be, at this stage, "50/50" – i.e. face-to-face and remote.

**Brief Description of the Symposium:**

The symposium will provide an overview of current progress in integrated psychological service delivery in the primary care setting in a number of western countries: USA, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Norway and the United Kingdom. These integrated services attempt to redress the ongoing "medicalisation of unhappiness" across the western world and the sub-optimal care provided in which medication is still frequently the first (and often only) treatment of choice, leaving the crucial psychosocial dimensions of mental and general health under-treated. Integrated primary mental and general health service delivery has evolved over the past twenty years to include evidence-based psychological interventions in the primary care setting. Symposium participants will canvas progress in a number of different areas in their specific countries and provide an up-date internationally on key issues relevant to this mode of practice. All welcome to attend!

Please contact us if you have items to share, questions to ask, ideas to put forward in relation to Division 17 activities.



**Robyn F. Vines, Ph.D.**  
**President Division of Professional Practice**

**(February, 2021)**

**Division Website:** <https://iaapsy.org/divisions/division17/>

**Division Newsletters:**

- **October, 2020:**  
[https://iaapsy.org/site/assets/files/2044/div\\_17\\_october\\_newsletter.pdf](https://iaapsy.org/site/assets/files/2044/div_17_october_newsletter.pdf)
- **December, 2019: (End of Year Summary: 2019)**  
<https://iaap.createsend1.com/t/ViewEmail/t/CB562312D9AFD69D2540EF23F30FEDED>

**Division 17 E-News Bulletins:**

- **Link to Division Website:** <https://iaapsy.org/divisions/division17/>

**UNITED NATIONS INTEGRATED CARE INITIATIVE:**

[https://iaapsy.org/site/assets/files/1222/undoc\\_integratinghealthintopriarycare\\_pdf.pdf](https://iaapsy.org/site/assets/files/1222/undoc_integratinghealthintopriarycare_pdf.pdf)