

Division of Professional Practice (Division 17)
SEPTEMBER E-News 2021

Robyn Vines PhD: President
Susan McDaniel PhD: President-Elect



President
Robyn F. Vines, Ph.D.
School of Medicine
Western Sydney University
Australia



President-Elect
Susan McDaniel
Depts. of Psychiatry & Fam Med
University of Rochester Medicine
USA

Emails:

- robynvines@bigpond.com; r.vines@westernsydney.edu.au
- SusanH2_McDaniel@URMC.Rochester.edu

Contents:

- **Reflections on August-September**
- **The World in the time of COVID**
- **Geopolitical events this month: Afghanistan, Lebanon, Cuba**
- **Division 17 Activity: IAAP Early Career Marathon**

Reflections on August-September:

As our monthly E-News comes around again, it's astonishing to reflect on events that have occurred, and how quickly the world can change in such a short space of time. This month seems to have been particularly turbulent, with the rapid spread of the more infectious, possibly more lethal Delta mutant of COVID-19 and the recent events in Afghanistan which have left the whole world in shock.

COVID-19: As I write from Australia (23.8.21), 14 million of our population of nearly 26 million are in strict lockdown - mainly in the two key cities of Sydney and Melbourne. Whilst the numbers may appear low compared to other places, the country is at risk as numbers rise exponentially due to greater virulence of the Delta variant, low vaccination rates, early vaccine hesitancy and an initially slow campaign, all of which have left the country vulnerable. The rate of growth and spread of Delta is truly astonishing, with a 'race on' between increase in vaccination rates vs spread of the variant. The Delta variant has surprised virologists with how it 'popped into existence' and how it has so rapidly taken over. Discussions as to the **future of potential variants** is preoccupying the medical profession:

See:

- https://medicalrepublic.com.au/predicting-the-next-strain-of-covid/51330?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=What%20doesn't%20kill%20you%20mutates%20and%20tries%20again&utm_content=What%20doesn't%20kill%20you%20mutates%20and%20tries%20again+CID_5472df2c3e5e52999d7d91fc338e1f15&utm_source=TMR_CM&utm_term=Predicting%20the%20next%20strain%20of%20covid

- <https://www.abc.net.au/radio/programs/coronacast/three-scenarios-for-our-future-with-covid/13499752>
Broadcast: Wednesday, 18 Aug 2021

whilst others, including we psychologists, are preoccupied with the **'human cost' of lockdowns in terms of isolation, loneliness and economic devastation:**

See: <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/record-demand-lifeline-help/13506944>

Record demand for Lifeline help

'Lifeline' (telephone crisis counselling service) has experienced unprecedented demand for help this month, as the Delta variant plunged large parts of the country into lockdown. The three busiest days in Lifeline's 57-year history have been in August with the service receiving a record 3,500 calls on Thursday. Broadcast: Fri 20 Aug 2021

The World in the Time of COVID-19:

As we write (23.8.21) the WHO Coronavirus Disease 'dashboard' indicates that there are now **211,373,303 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 4,424,341 registered deaths world-wide**, an increase of nearly 20 million registered cases in the past month alone ... (compared to 26.7.21: 192,284,207 confirmed cases; 4,136,518 deaths world-wide; 22.6.21: 178,202,610 confirmed cases; 3,865,738 deaths; 23.5.21: 166,346,635 confirmed cases, including 3,449,117 deaths; 5.21: 152,535,452 cases, 3,198,528 deaths; 22.3.21: 22,524,424 cases, 2,703,620 deaths; 22.2.21: 111,102,016 cases, 2,462,911 deaths; 25.1.21: 99,363,697 cases, 2,135,959 deaths; 28.12.20: 79,673,994 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).

As of **19 August 2021**, a total of **4,562,256,778 vaccine doses** have been administered (compared to 24.7.21: 3,646,968,156 vaccine doses; 16.6.21: 2,413,847,050 vaccine doses).

See: WHO:

https://covid19.who.int/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIkPFX79Px7QIV2w0rCh2N_w2GEAAAYASAAEgKQm_D_BwE

Just under 4.6million new cases were registered during the past week, the highest number for 14 weeks, still below the earlier peaks in January and April this year. The USA and Europe remain the COVID epicentres with 21½ % and 16% respectively of all new cases, followed by South East Asia (14%), the Middle East (12%) and South America (7%). Five countries, including Canada, have now vaccinated more than 70% of their population while 20% of all countries have vaccinated more than half.

For further details see Saul Eslake's: 'Coronavirus Impact Chart': <https://www.saul-eslake.com/> and [Coronavirus Impact Chart Pack 2021-04-24.pdf](#))

Geopolitically, August has shocked the world with:

- the unforeseen dramatic and rapid **return of the Taliban to power in Afghanistan:** (See: <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/saturdayextra/who-are-the-taliban-in-2021/13506318>) leaving many of the 36million Afghani population terrified and despairing about their future, with women and children amongst those most vulnerable. The geopolitical 'tectonic plates' seem to have shifted with the 'Western Quad Alliance' of the US, Japan, India and Australia: (see: <https://edition.cnn.com/2021/03/11/asia/quad-us-india-japan-australia-intl-hnk/index.html>) now facing the consequences of a haphazardly abandoned Afghanistan - with China, Russia, Pakistan and Iran having drawn together in support of the Taliban: (See: <https://www.justsecurity.org/77801/cias-former-counterterrorism-chief-for-the-region-afghanistan-not-an-intelligence-failure-something-much-worse/>)
- the **near total collapse of Lebanon** one year after the appalling explosion which rocked Beirut:
See: <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/saturdayextra/an-australian-writer-reflects-on-the-beirut-port-blast-one-yea/13484200>
- **Rebellion in Cuba** after 60 years of Communist Rule:
See: <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/saturdayextra/8.20/13504786>

amongst multiple other world-wide occurrences characterising this turbulent month.

All of these events have impacted both ourselves as professionals and the clients whom we try to help navigate and 'survive' this complex time. Many have 'News Fatigue' and prefer to isolate themselves from the daily trauma meted out on the media. It's a difficult balance to achieve between 'being informed' and resisting the vicarious (and direct) trauma caused by these events.

DIVISION ACTIVITY (AUGUST-SEPTEMBER, 2021)

- **IAAP Early Career Marathon:**

The Division of Professional Practice will be participating as a discussant in the first IAAP Early Career Marathon: a dynamic on-line conference, integrating research and practice.

As outlined by the IAAP President: Professor Christine Roland-Levy:

"The Early Career Marathon is a one-of-a-kind virtual event dedicated to student and early career psychologists. Selected participants have submitted a brief presentation (15 minutes) on their research to be reviewed by top psychologists around the world. Presentations and reviews will be shown during a 24-hour marathon with time for questions and answers. The marathon will start on Saturday, October 16 at 8:00 AM UTC and end Sunday, October 17 at 8:00 AM UTC. Awards will be given for the top two presentations overall and the top presentation from each continent."

For further information about the Marathon, please contact:

Nicole Brandt | IAAP Operations Center Manager:

phone: +1 317 205 9480

nbrandt@hollandparlette.com

- **The Division of Professional Practice team recently presented an on-line symposium at the ICP: The International Congress of Psychology in Prague**

- <https://icp2020.events.whova.com/>
- <https://www.icp2020.com/scientific-program/scientific-programme/>

entitled: ***"The role of psychology in integrated mental health care: an international perspective"***.

For the Powerpoint of the symposium overview: see Division 17 August E-News:

- https://iaapsy.org/site/assets/files/2182/iaap_2021e-newsdiv_17_august_shm.pdf
- https://iaapsy.org/site/assets/files/1222/robyn_vines_presentation_icp2021.pdf

Brief Description of the Symposium: An overview of integrated psychological service delivery in the primary care setting in a number of western countries. The aim of integrated care is 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. The smaller-than-usual team of symposium participants will canvas progress in their specific countries and provide an up-date on key issues relevant to this mode of practice. All welcome to attend! (see website above)

- **ICAP, 2022 (now 2023): as mentioned in August E-News, Professor Judith Gullifer** (Monash University, Australia) is to be our '**Division 17 Manager for ICAP, Beijing**' (now: July, 2023). Please let us know if you wish to contact her to suggest or contribute papers, symposia, posters, etc. for this major Congress.

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

(September, 2021)

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

Division Newsletters:

- **October, 2020:**
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: [LINK](#)