

# WAIMH Board Report

20th November 2018

## **Rome 16<sup>th</sup> WAIMH Congress**

The activities of WAIMH recently have been very much preoccupied with preparing for and enjoying the successful Rome 16<sup>th</sup> WAIMH Congress.

The Scientific Program Committee and Board has received very helpful feedback about the conference. There was an excellent attendance at the Congress, which also meant that there was significant stress upon the venue capacity. Perhaps paradoxically a good number of respondents to the feedback survey felt that there were too many sessions occurring. This issue will be an important one for the scientific program committee for 2020 to consider. The SPC is currently working on early plans for the program, building on the theme and exploring plenary speakers.

The SPC is keen to encourage anyone with a good proposal for a presentation or symposium to start collecting ideas and potential co-presenters.

**WAIMH Congress 2022:** they're have been several submissions considered for the Congress in 2022 and an agreement for the likely host city is currently being finalised.

**WAIMH website:** the new website has now been launched, and we encourage all interested persons to have a look and explore the website. We are very keen for lots of social media participation in sharing ideas, new developments in policy and lobbying processes in respect of infants and families worldwide. This means lots of feedback to the Board as well.

**WAIMH Position Papers:** Building on the Position Paper on the Rights of Infants, and especially inspired by the productive position papers from AAIMH, the board is developing further position papers on several important topics relevant infants worldwide. Infants around the world are currently exposed to high levels of violence, war, family disruption and WAIMH is keen to be able to support workers in the field with relevant position papers.

**The WAIMH Executive Committee** has had several online conference committee meetings, and with the generous assistance of the University of Tampere and coinciding with a small regional meeting, will convene in Tampere in Finland early June 2019.

The Board is also addressing ways of supporting training in infant mental health in countries around the world. A number of Board members will be participating in and representing infant mental health at associated conferences in South Africa, the US, Europe, Asia and Australia.

The international **WAIMH Affiliates** have been very productive and had successful meetings during the Rome Congress. Anna Huber was confirmed as the new Chair of the Affiliate Council and Jane Barlow as the Affiliate Representative. The WAIMH Board wishes to consult with Affiliate organisations about redesigning our membership arrangements so that joining or renewing members of affiliate organisations can also become WAIMH members in one transaction. The board therefore has asked affiliates to provide details of member numbers and renewal period, in order to develop a proposal to put to affiliate associations. Other Affiliate working groups will be developing a resource for working with refugee families, and guidelines for preparing a WAIMH congress bid and the process of co-preparing a WAIMH Congress.

Who are we? The website has an informative page about membership of the board, and who is involved in the various activities of WAIMH. <https://waimh.org/page/board>

The Board is very keen for your responses and participation, and if you're able to explore the website and give us some feedback it would be extremely welcome.

Wishing you well,

Campbell Paul

President-elect WAIMH

Anna Huber

WAIMH Affiliate Council Chair & Secretary/Hon Treasurer