

# News from the WAIMH Affiliates Council

Affiliates Corner May 2011

First, we want to extend our deepest wishes and support to colleagues and families in Japan who are amidst managing the aftermath of the devastating environmental crises. In addition we know that many of you have contributed to funds to support the re-building efforts and we thank you for this.

Second, over the next couple of months the Presidents of each affiliate will be sent a survey to complete with their Executives, on behalf of their affiliates. This survey aims to construct a clearer picture of the training and educational needs of affiliates, to facilitate knowledge-sharing across affiliates and to find ways to bolster WAIMH membership across affiliates.

Third, you may have noticed the word is now out regarding WAIMH Congress, April 2012 in Cape Town, South Africa. As plans unfold, there is much evidence to suggest that this is going to be a wonderful richly textured congress. Abstract submissions are open as of 1 May and we encourage each of you to consider submitting an abstract or participating in other ways to the success of this Congress.

Finally, we are always keen to hear from any of you about the activities/projects that you are engaged in. Big or small, it is news to be shared through the mailing list that is actively managed by the central office at [office@waimh.org](mailto:office@waimh.org). In addition, if there is an issue that you want support with, drawing on the collective wisdom and expertise of the affiliates is another way to express our shared membership.

Wishing you all the very best over the next few months,

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## The pediatric consultation: A first encounter with infant mental health

Affiliates Corner

By Nahir Bonifacino (Psychologist, Psychoanalyst), Dora Musetti (Child Psychiatrist), Andrea Plevak and Magdalena Schelotto (Pediatricians), Uruguay

### Introduction

This project is being carried out in Uruguay, a little country located in the south of South America, between Argentina and Brazil. Uruguay has a population of 3.300.000 inhabitants and half of them live in the Capital City (Montevideo).

At present, substantial changes in the

Public Health Policy are being introduced in our country. There is high interest in the implementation of programs for the promotion of health and education about health at the primary level of care. These programs, many of which are already in progress, are especially aimed at infants and their families. Tools and training to detect early indicators of deviations from healthy development are very useful for the purpose of these programs.

Our project offers the possibility of early detection of risk indicators in healthy emotional development during the first years of life. We are part of an international network of teams working with the Alarm

Distress Baby Scale (Alarme DétresseBébé, ADBB) under the supervision of Prof. A. Guedeney, Paris, France. One of the main goals of this project is to intensify the application of an interdisciplinary approach (pediatricians, day care center staff and infant mental health professionals). We wish to promote a more integrated perspective of the infant's health by expanding the knowledge that pediatricians have about healthy development in the first years of life. In this way these professionals can become agents of health prevention and early detection.

All the children in our country attend