

# Infant Mental Health Association of Turkey (IMHAT)

Affiliates Corner August 2011

By Nese Erol

[Nese.Erol@medicine.ankara.edu.tr](mailto:Nese.Erol@medicine.ankara.edu.tr)

[profdrnese.erol@gmail.com](mailto:profdrnese.erol@gmail.com)

As an affiliate of WAIMH, the Infant Mental Health Association of Turkey (IMHAT) was founded in 2005 by its present president Nese Erol (Ph.D.) and her colleagues. Currently the affiliate mainly comprises of 94 individual members from various disciplines such as child psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, developmental psychologists, pediatricians, social workers, nurses, child developmentalists, speech and language pathologists and psychological counselors. The administration of IMHAT is in Ankara. It has no branch offices but has representative members in various institutions around the country. IMHAT collaborates with universities and non-governmental organizations such as the Turkish Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, the Turkish Psychological Association and the Foster Care and

Adoption Association of Turkey. Presently, the main activity of IMHAT is training. It is in the process of developing and therefore is striving to increase awareness regarding the field of infant mental health among professionals and the public in general. Training is provided in the form of lectures, workshops and courses, all of which has aroused great interest and enthusiasm among professionals in the area. Also professionals from various disciplines are trained in clinical assessment and treatment in Ankara University Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry - Infant Mental Health Unit, where the founders of IMHAT are presently affiliated with. Membership to IMHAT is mainly encouraged through training activities in national child psychiatry and psychology meetings. The members of the association are awarded for their researches and projects on infant mental health.

Affiliate web site: [www.bebekruhsagligi.org.tr](http://www.bebekruhsagligi.org.tr)

## The most important challenges we face as an affiliate are:

1. The paucity of professionals interested in the field;
2. Economic difficulties hindering especially international training opportunities;
3. Insufficient number of infant and toddler assessment tools developed for the Turkish culture;
4. Insufficient awareness, knowledge and experience of the public and policy makers who are critical in supporting the development of the field of infant mental health.

ANKARA ÜNİVERSİTESİ TIP FAKÜLTESİ  
ÇOCUK VE ERGEN RUH SAĞLIĞI VE  
HASTALIKLARI ANABİLİM DALI  
BİLİMSEL ETKİNLİKLERİ



**BEBEK RUH SAĞLIĞI**  
(0-3 yaş)

XXIV. Prof. Dr. Mualla Öztürk  
Çocuk Ruh Sağlığı Sempozyumu

28 Şubat / 1-2 Mart 2011  
Ankara Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi  
50. Yılı Konferans Salonu, Cebeci Yerleşkesi  
ANKARA



The above picture of a mother and a baby, and the two photos on the next page are from the lullaby documentary by Tülin Sertöz (read more on page 19).