

By Maree Foley (Chair of the Affiliates Council), Switzerland

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Greetings to all WAIMH Affiliates. Over the past few months WAIMH has been engaged with a number of key projects such as: preparations for the WAIMH Congress in 2016; the social media initiative; and the ongoing development of the statement concerning infant rights. In addition, the Infant Mental Health Journal (IMHJ) saw a change in Editor-in Chief. We welcome Paul Spicer as the new Editor-in-Chief and say a huge thank you to Hiram Fitzgerald for his work, over many years as Editor-in-Chief.

This brief update alerts you to a few forthcoming Affiliate issues: updating affiliate profiles; a brief survey to update the voting process; and an invitation for you to contact us with any ideas you might have to further develop the Affiliates' Council.

Annual Update of Affiliate profiles

Over the next month each affiliate president will receive an email with a request to update your affiliate profiles. We understand this is another demand on your time however, keeping our profiles up to date with current contact details helps us to communicate efficiently with each other. It's also an opportunity to check how each affiliate is going with regard to maintaining 10 financial members. As discussed earlier, we are here to support affiliates that are struggling with this aspect of their affiliate status. In addition, we acknowledge that affiliates are dynamic social systems, therefore, sustaining close communication between affiliates and the AC is important so we can work together to celebrate each affiliate's work and provide support during more difficult times.

Voting system within the AC

After continuing discussions since 2010 and online surveys inviting your views, we are now ready to invite you to vote. As such in March of this year you will receive an online invitation to vote. To recap, you will be asked to agree or disagree with the following recommendation:

When voting for the election of AC officers: each affiliate will receive one vote except in cases where:

An affiliate is made up of more than 1 country.

In this instance, each country within that affiliate (up to 5 countries) will hold one vote each; and

In countries where there are more than 1 affiliate.

In this instance, the country will receive 1 vote per affiliate, up to a maximum of 5 votes, irrespective of whether or not that country is comprised of more than 5 affiliates.

Affiliate news

We welcome your news, ideas and queries. We invite you to contact us with a brief update of an event, an exciting project that you are part of, or an ongoing issue that is of particular concern to your affiliate. It is always great to hear from you and to be able to share your experiences with other affiliates.

Perspectives from Masters and Doctoral Students

By Angela McLaughlin, University of Edinburgh, Scotland

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This column focuses on the perspectives of clinicians/students who are engaged in infant mental health research at Masters and Doctoral level. It features a sample of current ethically approved research projects. The column aims to highlight the diversity of student research across the globe that is being conducted by WAIMH members, while also providing a global community of interest and support for each student's research.

If you are a WAIMH member/WAIMH student member who is currently engaged in Masters or Doctoral research, and you

have ethical approval for your study, we invite you to share a little bit about your study. This would entail providing the following:

1. Project working title;
2. Name of your institution and department;
3. Name/s and institutions of your supervisors; and
4. A working abstract about your research.

This column features two current doctoral research projects. The first project overviewed here is research being conducted by Ms S. Christine Bartram, The University of Warwick, Medical School, Division of Mental Health and Wellbeing, Coventry, UK. The second is being

conducted by Angela Lisa McLaughlin (University of Edinburgh). Angela is in the final year of her PhD in Clinical Psychology. Her research was presented as a poster at the World Association for Infant Mental Health's, World Congress (Edinburgh, 2014).