

Hi had a wonderful way of helping younger colleagues like me to move forward with their careers. Ever since our first meeting, he recruited me to work as a reviewer, first for the WAIMH Congresses and then, once I had gotten my PhD, for the *Infant Mental Health Journal (IMHJ)*. In addition to that, Hi has generously offered me and many other younger colleagues opportunities to contribute to special *IMHJ* issues about infant mental health or chapters in books. As a result of these opportunities, my list of publications got longer and, of importance, I also found that I had developed a large network of colleagues from around the world I might not have met otherwise. I am grateful to Hi for all that he has made possible for me.

Now that I have been the Executive Director of WAIMH for two years, I am truly thankful for the years that I have known Hi and worked as “Hi’s Shadow” (as we often joked about). The basics of the work around preparations for WAIMH World Congresses and many other responsibilities became familiar to me through Hi’s guidance, as well as his understanding of the unique characteristics of WAIMH as an organization.

People working in and for WAIMH are like a family where we take care of each other, so that we all in turn can care for infants and families around the world. In many ways, Hi has been my father figure in the WAIMH family and very important, both professionally and personally. Thanks to Hi I also got to know Dee, one of the warmest and most down-to-earth teachers I know, with whom it was easy to reflect on all sorts of problems, big or small. So, if you hear me calling Hi and Dee “dad and mom,” that is my way of showing them my gratitude and affection and thanking them for all the support they have given me.

Tribute Celebrating Hiram Fitzgerald: Forty years with Infant Mental: A lens from the international Alliance for the Advancement of Infant Mental Health

By Nichole Paradis, LMSW, IMH-E, Infant Mental Health Mentor-Clinical Executive Director, Alliance for the Advancement of Infant Mental Health

I can say that I have known Hi now for about 10 years. But I have known OF Hi since the very beginning of my work in this field 25 years ago. Hi is a giant in infant mental health, especially in Michigan. His height and commanding voice lend to this “giantness,” but mostly it is his reputation that looms large. Many years ago, I asked Hi to send me his curriculum vitae so that I could print it out to keep on file with Endorsement records (back when paper files were still a thing). Hi said to me, “You don’t want to print it out, it’s far too long.” I asked that he send it anyway. And of course, he was right. I had to refill the printer twice because Hi’s CV is an astounding 106 pages. It is a remarkable tribute to his commitment to scientific inquiry, but also to Hi’s support and promotion of people, organizations, and most of all, infants and families. What also stands out about his CV is the number of other giants in the field that he has mentored and with whom he has collaborated. It seems Hi’s passion creates a gravitational pull that has attracted hundreds of other experts. Together, they have advanced the field and paved the way for the application of research into practice.

The Alliance for the Advancement of Infant Mental Health (Alliance) is one of the many organizations who owes much to Hi. Hi was one of the founders of the Michigan

Association for Infant Mental Health, the organization that “gave birth” to the Alliance. Hi was integral in establishing the *Infant Mental Health Journal* and served in several editorial capacities since its beginning; he was Editor-in-Chief for at least eight years. Last year, because the Alliance has some responsibilities for managing the *IMHJ*, I had the privilege of chairing the committee to select the next Editor-in-Chief. Hi, of course, was crucial to this effort. Hi shared his incomparable institutional memory that helped me to more fully understand the role the *IMHJ* itself has played in lending legitimacy to the field of infant mental health.

Hi has been a supporter of the Alliance and our mission to build and sustain a diverse, reflective, skilled, and relationship-based workforce that supports pregnant women, infants, young children and their families with cultural humility. He lets us know when he sees us getting it right, and he lets us know if he sees us missing something important. The Alliance owes Hi a debt of gratitude for his honest feedback. It drives us to do the best possible job for the infant-family workforce. This is just a small part of what makes Hi Fitzgerald a giant force for good for the infants, caregivers, and parents around the world. On behalf of the leaders from the 32 associations for infant mental health that make up the Alliance, we say THANK YOU, and congratulations on an absolutely extraordinary career!