

IPA Istanbul Meeting

By Engin Eker

Meeting Chair

I am pleased to report to you that the 2007 IPA Eastern European Regional Meeting, held in Istanbul, Turkey on 3-6th May 2007 with collaboration from the Psychogeriatric Society of Turkey, was a tremendous success. The meeting, under the theme, “Multidisciplinary Approaches to Psychogeriatric Care”, attracted more than 340 participants from around the globe. Over 1/3 of the attendees were from Turkey. My fellow Turkish colleagues and I are proud to have delivered a unique international IPA program to our region once again.

The meeting began Thursday 3 May with a welcoming message from myself and Dr. Joel Sadavoy, President of IPA, followed by a slide show showcasing the exquisite beauty that is distinctly Turkey, shown through the lens of the very famous Turkish photographer Izzet Keribar. The meeting concluded Sunday 6 May appropriately with Dr. Sadavoy’s plenary session on the current state of psychogeriatric treatments. In between was an exemplary program full of top-quality educational sessions, exhibits from the recognized industry leaders, and of course many opportunities to discuss the latest developments in the field with colleagues from around the globe.

The rich and diverse scientific program included five plenary sessions, four panels, and thirteen symposiums. A total of 69 speakers representing 13 different countries, including Turkish colleagues, contributed to the scientific program. In addition, over forty posters, and twenty-eight oral presentations were given as well, illustrating the tremendous commitment and expertise of new leaders in the field. To be certain, the scientific program had something for everyone.

The plenary lectures were given by recognized experts in the field including Michael Davidson, George Grossberg, Robert Howard, John O’Brien, and Joel Sadavoy. They spoke on topics that are at the forefront of the specialty and each speaker’s unique perspectives were

well received. These sessions were recorded and will be made available on the IPA Learning Portal at a later date.

Our symposia and panel discussions were well attended and featured many local and international speakers, and in many a mix of both. The panels focused on such diverse topics as “PTSD in Elderly”, “Somatization in Elderly”, “Sexuality and Elderly”, and “Physical and Mental Anti-aging Application in Geriatrics”. The symposia were equally diverse, including topics such as “Protecting Older People From Abuse and Neglect”, “European Developments in ECT”, “Basic Principle of Health Economics and Its Application in Mental Health”, and “Oscillatory Brain Dynamics in Psycho-physiology and Their Clinical Applications”.

Keeping with our desire to focus on issues affecting all disciplines, the scientific program also featured the IPA Forum on Mental Health Facilities and Nursing Homes, serving as a discussion of the key issues affecting this important issue. This was followed by a meeting of the Mental Health Facilities Task Force to further discuss the efforts of this important IPA Task Force and attracted the interest of many participants. Both efforts were chaired by John Snowdon, please contact him at jsnowdon@mail.usyd.edu.au for more information about the latest activities of the task force. Later in the week, some conference attendees toured a local nursing home.

What makes an IPA meeting truly special are the collegial opportunities that exist to meet with one another and discuss the issues that are affecting the specialty in their region. There was no shortage of such opportunities at this meeting. On Thursday evening, a welcome reception was held at the historic library of Istanbul University. Over food and drink, attendees were captivated by a piano recital from one of the most famous pianists in Turkey, Tuluğhan Uğurlu and later were given a guided tour of this amazing structure. On Saturday evening, guests of the Gala Dinner were provided dinner and entertainment by a local Turkish band. With dancing through the evening, the Gala Dinner gave attendees the chance to relax and enjoy each others company before traveling back home.

I am pleased that the IPA 2007 European Regional meeting was such a success. Thank you to all who attended, presented, and contributed to the meeting. The IPA community is strong in Turkey and we look forward to seeing you again in our country.