

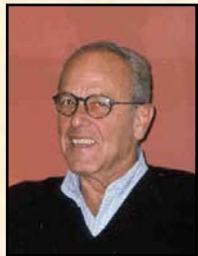
trauma_globalhealth

June 2007 Newsletter

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- Letter from Duncan Pedersen
- Our website and communication resources
- The Douglas Hospital's new image
- Country News, etc

Letter from Duncan Pedersen



Since our latest meeting in March, when the program was officially launched, we have all gone back to our work routines and continued working on the first stages of the project implementation.

Here are a few good and important news about the progress of our program that will be of interest to all of you. First, I have the pleasure to introduce to you this inaugural newsletter on "trauma_globalhealth" - the running title for our Global Health Research Initiative: Teasdale-Corti Team Grant Program entitled "Political violence, natural disasters and mental health outcomes: developing innovative health policies and interventions." I am sure you all will agree the new e-name is not only shorter to recall, but also easier saying in one go without running out of breath.

First Management Committee Meeting Montreal, March 2007.



Bottom row, left to right-M. Agusno (Indonesia), B. Sharma (Nepal), N. Supartini (Indonesia), H. Afana (Gaza), C. Chadwick (OIR), C. Weerackody (Sri Lanka), L. J. Kirmayer (McGill). Second row: C. Rousseau (McGill), N. Diaz-Granados (Toronto), O. Naiberguer (OIR). Back row: C. Errazuriz (McGill-DHRC), D. Pedersen (McGill-DHRC), A. Young (McGill)

Letter (cont.)

From now on we will be using this name in our daily exchanges and webpage domain; the full title of the program will be kept mostly for official documents and publications.

This first newsletter responds to the obvious need for all of us to stay in touch in one way or another beyond the etiquette required of emails and formal exchanges. The webpage (under construction) and the future video-conferencing system may render this newsletter obsolete in a few months, but for the time being it will be helpful to circulate it among us hoping it will give us all a quick feedback of what's happening and who is doing what. Of course, we welcome you all to send updates on local news, brief notes, photos, and anything which may be of interest to other members of our network.

We wish you a successful first year and I look forward seeing you soon!

Duncan

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Website

www.mcgill.ca/trauma_globalhealth

We are working on the website for the "trauma_globalhealth" initiative. The site, hosted on the McGill University server, will be launched in 6 weeks. Its main purpose is to provide a platform where the general public, students and academics, scientists and researchers can find information about the program, its goals, institutions and collaborators. Moreover, this is an opportunity for everyone to share their interests and contribute to the website content. The website will include, amongst other things: an overview of the program; pages for each country site and local initiatives (research, capacity building, knowledge transfer); a description of each team, a mini-biography for each team member; a list of resources, and much more. We hope to build a rich and interesting site for us all as well as for our visitors. Because of the magnitude of this project, both geographically and culturally, we will need your collaboration to make this webpage a success. You will soon be invited to send us relevant information to complete it.

Local News

Montreal, Canada

Douglas Hospital turns a page



On March 21st 2007, the Douglas Hospital and Research Centre became the Douglas Mental Health University Institute. The face of the Douglas is changing, and its image is being updated with the launch of a unique logo for the Hospital and the Research Centre, to denote its recent change in status and its new mandate and mission.

Mini Grants

Chantal Chantal Robillard, post doctoral fellow at McGill, was awarded the first minigrant of the program to work a research protocol together with Medicos Descalzos (Guatemala) on mental health issues encountered in the practice of traditional midwives in Mayan villages.

Rethinking trauma Course at McGill

In May, the course "Rethinking Trauma", organised by Duncan Pedersen, was offered for the first time as part of the 13th Summer Program in Social and Cultural Psychiatry, at McGill University. The course generated - somewhat unexpectedly - a great deal of interest and attracted 35 international and local graduate students, clinicians and researchers.



Our first international fellows arrived!

Two fellows from Sri Lanka have come to Montreal to attend the 13th Summer Program in Social & Cultural Psychiatry. Varuni Ganepola, psychologist, is here on a 3 month fellowship and is working with Jaswant Guzder and Cecile Rousseau at the Jewish General Hospital. Judy Jeyakumar, psychiatrist, was also in Montreal for 1 month on an in-service research & training scholarships.

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Country News

Sri Lanka



Chamindra Weerackody

The Sri Lankan team has successfully submitted their work plan for year 1. Since then, the McGill DHCR officials and INASIA /PRDA have signed the partnership agreement. The Sri Lankan team is now ready to start their field operations. Congratulations to the Sri Lankan team lead by Chamindra Weerackody and Shanti Fernando!

Nepal

The Nepal Team has recently submitted their work plan and is in the process of signing the partnership agreement. Shortly they'll be ready to start their field operations.

Guatemala



Collaborators and Traditional Midwives attending the meeting in Chinique (Medicos Descalzos)



The first international course entitled "Perspectivas Socioculturales en Salud Mental de Poblaciones Afectadas por Violencia Organizada y Desastre Naturales" was held in Guatemala City, from April 15-25, 2007. There was a fantastic turnout: more than 70 people attended, including health workers, the NGO community, academics and students. Moreover, the first field site visits were completed during the following days with a heavy agenda of visits and new contacts. The McGill team was escorted by Victor Lopez, the Guatemalan team leader, and visits were made to Chichicastenango, Chinique, and Huehuetenango, close to the Mexican border.

Communication tools for the program

Testing different platforms

As you all know, we are exploring other platforms and software such as McGill's WebCT and Moodle to organise the communication within the group and to channel the distance learning we want to put in place. You will soon receive a McGill guest account number and ID to work on WebCT. Moreover, the tests with Marratech technology are going well and we will soon be ready for a video conference meeting.

Stay posted and keep us informed of major news and developments you would like to share with other members in our next issue of the newsletter.

Send us your news!

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