



WORLD ASSOCIATION FOR
INFANT MENTAL HEALTH

16TH WAIMH WORLD CONGRESS

Rome | May 26-30, 2018 | Ergife Palace Hotel

Nature <> Nurture

New challenges for a 3rd millennium Infant Mental Health



www.waimh2018.org

R O M E

2 0 1 8

REGISTRATION

Early bird deadline expires February 28



WAIMH PRESIDENTIAL CALL ROME



Kai von Klitzing, MD
President of WAIMH

All Roads Lead to Rome...

It is with great pleasure that we - the World Association for Infant Mental Health (WAIMH) - announce that the 16th World Congress for Infant Mental Health will be held from 26 to 30 May 2018 in Rome, Italy. I cordially invite you take part in this exceptional event.

Why should we take the road to Rome?

Several historical figures have testified that Rome is worth visiting. Sigmund Freud, for example, visited Rome in 1897 for the first time after he had worked on his resistance in his self-analysis. After his stay he concluded in a letter to Fliess: "My trip to Rome was overwhelming, a highlight of my life." Around one hundred years before that, Johann Wolfgang Goethe visited Rome not once but twice, and lived there for 15 months (between 1786 and 1788). He praised his stay in the eternal city: "Oh wie föhl ich in Rom mich so froh" (Oh, how happy I feel in Rome), in stark contrast to the way he felt facing the grey days of northern countries. And 275 years before that, in 1511, a young Augustinian monk named Martin Luther undertook a long pilgrimage from Germany to Rome to visit the city of the popes and martyrs. When entering the city he fell to his knees and exclaimed: "Sei gegrüsst, du heiliges Rom, wahrhaftig heilig..!" (Greetings, you holy Rome, truly holy...!). But years later when he looked back to his four weeks' stay he described Rome as a "hotbed of sin". What he saw in the city contributed to his urge to reform the Christian church.

It has taken WAIMH 38 years, since it was founded, to come to Rome. I am sure that - like the examples mentioned earlier - WAIMH's visit to Rome will be an amazing experience. I am convinced that all the participants in our world congress will find the visit to Rome will be worthwhile. I promise that it's not just the wonderfully warm weather in May, the imposing antique monuments, the fantastic architecture from various epochs, and the world-famous Roman cuisine, that will delight you. The conference program, arranged by our Program Committee chaired by Kaija Puura, will be equally excellent. I call on scientists, clinicians, and Infant Mental Health specialists all over the world to participate by submitting your proposals (abstracts) for the scientific program. Our friends from the Italian Association for Infant Mental Health (AISMI), under the leadership of Giampaolo Nicolais, will be wonderful hosts and will connect our international participants with the regional, national and European tradition of early care and Infant Mental Health work.

It is said that all roads lead to Rome. The claim refers to the Milliarium Aureum, a monument erected by the Emperor Augustus in the central forum of ancient Rome. All roads were considered to begin at this monument, and all distances in the Roman Empire were measured relative to it. The meaning of the proverb is that many different routes can have the same intended goal. To a certain extent, this multi-finality also applies to the development of young children. Crosscultural studies show that very diverse conditions (different family structures, methods of care, parental ideals and attitudes, and socio-emotional conditions) can lead to positive developmental outcomes. But this multi-finality of developmental pathways does not imply complete arbitrariness. Just as we would never reach Rome if there were no roads, railway stations or airports, no infant can thrive without a caring environment to help them develop a trusting relationship to themselves and others. WAIMH has defined the basic conditions that are essential for infant development, such as sensitive caregiving relationships, nurturing, and legal protection; and in our position paper on the rights of infants (<http://www.waimh.org>) we advocate that these needs should be guaranteed as rights for all infants all over the world.

As scientists, clinicians and Infant Mental Health workers we must painfully acknowledge that the challenges to implementing this are immense. In many families and neighborhoods, violence, neglect and abuse are common. Many infants grow up in conditions of poverty, violent conflict, and war. Our host country Italy is situated in the centre of the worldwide refugee crisis. Millions of refugees, among them many young children, trying to flee poverty, war and persecution find themselves stranded on the Italian coast after a life-threatening trip across the Mediterranean Sea in leaky and dangerous boats. Not even the wealthy European countries, let alone the rest of the Western world, seem able to muster enough solidarity and support to take the pressure off Italy and help to distribute these stranded refugee families so that they have a chance of a life in human conditions. Clearly, this is not a road that leads to healthy child development. We, the WAIMH and the AISMI board, have decided to highlight these problems, which jeopardize the development of so many infants, in central symposia and keynotes of our congress.

I very much look forward to meeting you all in Rome in May 2018. I am sure that our conference will be a highlight not only of WAIMH's history, but also of our personal and scientific lives. Don't miss it!

[Read more about the Rights of Infant on the WAIMH website](#)



WELCOME FROM THE LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE AND AISMI

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to participate in the 16th World Congress of the World Association for Infant Mental Health from the 26th - 30th May 2018 in Rome, Italy.

We are delighted that a WAIMH Congress will be held in our country for the first time!

As the proverb goes, echoing a universal sentiment and longing for centredness, "all roads lead to Rome". We feel that this is just the right time for the WAIMH world to gather in the eternal city - a time when our disciplines face extraordinary challenges that require solid clinical and research knowledge in order to promote wise policies for the well being of our children and societies.

The very theme of the Congress, "Nature < > Nurture - challenges for a 3rd millennium Infant Mental Health" indicates that, while knowledge on the basic determinants of child development is increasingly accurate and sophisticated, each of us bears the responsibility to promote, protect and guarantee a development that is **human** under every respect. From the possibilities provided by genetic engineering to the ongoing tragedy affecting migrant children and their families, we have to be ready to act in favour of the best interest of children in the light of both scientific knowledge and ethical awareness.

With its unparalleled historical, cultural and spiritual heritage Rome will pleasantly host us, uncovering all its magic during the best time of the year with sunny and mild weather. We hardly doubt that many of you will take the chance for a longer staying in Rome and in our country - another reason why the Congress cannot be missed!

While some of the most prominent figures in Infant Mental Health will join our plenary speakers addressing key topics particularly relevant for the Congress' theme, we really look forward to receiving many contributions from all of you in order to enjoy a rich and articulated final scientific programme.

Looking forward to welcoming you to Rome in 2018!



*Massimo Ammaniti Chair
of the Local Organizing
Committee*



*Giampaolo Nicolais
President of AISMI,
Italian Association for
Infant Mental Health
Co-Chair of the Local
Organizing Committee*



MESSAGE FROM CHAIR OF THE SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Dear Colleagues,

the 16th World Congress of the WAIMH in Rome 2018 has its theme on the interplay between nature and nurture and its challenge for 3rd millennium Infant Mental Health. Our world has always been constantly changing, but perhaps never before has the rate of change been so fast. The big question is how do these changes affect us, our children and their children. Particularly some of the new and constantly developing technology we are using hold great promises, but at the same time also threat. This time our congress plenaries will address both old and new aspects of nature-nurture interplay. Our plenarists for Rome 2018 include Professor Massimo Ammaniti (Italy) Professor Jay Belsky (USA), Professor Hasse Karlsson (Finland) and Professor Jenny Radesky (USA). The plenaries present new data on prenatal stress and its effect on both the mother and the developing infant; how the use of smartphones, tablets and computers will affect child development during the early years; and, how our individual characteristics can affect our susceptibility to different environmental stressors. We have not forgotten the global changes in climate and world politics, as the Presidential Symposium will address the crisis facing refugee infants and their families in so many countries around the world.

As a novelty for this Congress we have created two Plenary Interfaces of Research and Clinical Work, where a researcher and a clinician will present on the same subject and, with the help from a moderator, will create an interesting discussion. One these interfaces will address prenatal stress and another will discuss how fathers influence the development of their sons.

Our committee again proposes a range of ways in which you may be able to present your research, clinical work and other innovations. We have also tried to provide better structures for both clinical and scientific abstract submissions. So please, do feel welcome to submit your work to the 16th World Congress in Rome 2018 to be shared with your colleagues worldwide.



Kaija Puura
Finland
*Chair of the
Programme
Committee*



Campbell Paul
Australia



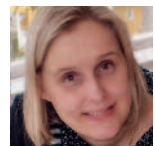
Miri Keren
Israel



**David
Oppenheim**
Israel



Giampaolo Nicolais
Italy



Reija Latva,
Finland



WAIMH REVIEW PANELS

Advocacy and Infant Mental Health policy

Tamminen Tuula (*Chair*), Berg Astrid, Emde Robert, Holmberg Margaret, Migliaccio Luca, Simonelli Alessandra

Antenatal and perinatal practices

St-André Martin (*Chair*), Aptér Gisele, Muzik Maria, Quagliata Emanuela, Tani Franca, Terrone Grazia, Thomson-Salo Frances

Attachment: research, security of attachment and disorders of attachment

Boris Neil (*Chair*), Aoki Kikuyo, Cavanna Donatella, O'Connor Tom, Salo Saara, Speranza Anna Maria

Caregiving contexts

Fitzgerald Hiram (*Chair*), Candelori Carla, Kaukonen Pälvi, Lyons-Ruth Karlen, Roggman Lori, Vismara Laura

Cross cultural studies - Global strategies for infants, families and communities

Tomlinson Mark (*Chair*), Kondel Tejinder, Spicer Paul, Valeri Giovanni

Early development, child health and mental health

Puura Kaija (*Chair*), Brophy-Herb Holly, Huber Anna, Leppänen Jukka, Lucarelli Loredana, Swain James

Evaluation and outcomes: scientific studies and early interventions

von Klitzing Kai (*Chair*), Davies Judy, Dollberg Daphna, Harel Judith, Schechter Daniel

Infant Mental Health services, training, teaching, supervision and consultation

Oppenheim David (*Chair*), Nonnis Enrico, Priddis Lynn, Tyano Sam, Warren Beulah, Wendland Jacqueline

Observation and assessment: diagnosis, treatment and clinical issues

Keren Miri (*Chair*), Facchini Sergio, Favez Nicolas, Foley Maree, Mäntymaa Mirjami, Savelon Sylvie, Siirtola Arja

Parent-infant interaction and early relationship development

Biringer Zeynep (*Chair*), Cesaro Adele Nunziante, Kramer Sebastian, McKelvey Lorraine, Meiri Gal, Oates John

Parenting and family process

Piha Jorma (*Chair*), Fletcher Richard, Mazzoni Silvia, Puckering Christine, Schmitt Florence, Van Egeren Laurie

Prematurity and high-risk infants

Latva Reija (*Chair*), Baldoni Franco, Chapman Megan, Longobardi Emidia, Müller Cignacco Eva, Shoemark Helen

Problems, symptoms and disorders of the infant

Paul Campbell (*Chair*), Furmark Catarina, Korhonen Marie Kaarin, Muratori Filippo, Nicolais Giampaolo

Problems with parenting and high risk families (e.g. adolescent parenting, parental substance abuse, family violence and child abuse)

Ammaniti Massimo (*Chair*), Moe Vibeke (*Co-Chair*), Zeanah Charley (*Co-Chair*), Das Eiden Rina, Klein Annette, Larrieu Julie, Luoma Ilona, Wittenberg Jean

Promotion and prevention in community context

Weatherston Deborah (*Chair*), Balbernie Robin, Maguire Catherine, Matacz Rochelle, Pazzagli Chiara, Pelkonen Marjaana, Watson Sally