

INPEA BULLETIN

INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE PREVENTION OF ELDER ABUSE



May 2008



World Elder Abuse Awareness Day A Celebration of the Power of Collective Creativity

We are on the threshold of the **3rd annual World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD)** and what an amazing journey it has been since that first magical day in June 2006 at the UN.

The concept of WEAAD has sparked the imagination and inspired people around the world.

The official stage is set: Ottawa, Canada.

Support has been phenomenal. **The government of Canada** as official host is providing the venue, simultaneous translation and a luncheon on June 16th. **The government of Ontario** is hosting a reception and the Rosalie Wolf Memorial Award will be presented at this time. We have received funding from **AARP, IAGG** and the Canadian **National Institute on Elder Care (NICE)** of which INPEA Board Member, Lynn McDonald is the Director. It is so fitting that WEAAD is taking place in Ottawa: we will never forget, that without the initial funding from the government of Canada, INPEA would not be where it is today. This year WEAAD has been expanded to a two day learning experience: national and international speakers will describe their initiatives as they highlight the need for greater recognition of elder mistreatment and suggest appropriate action and solutions.

Everyone must take credit for the unprecedented success of World day – it is not just a celebration for those at the official gathering in Ottawa. It is for all those, around the world who have embarked on this odyssey of adventure – those who have shared the vision, the impossible dream, that people everywhere could be moved by the concept that collectively, we have the power to affect change. Wherever you are on World Day, be it in The Gambia or Korea or Australia, our heart and spirit will be one as we nurture our diversity and human potential. We will sing the same song – our voices will resonate around the world. Happy World Day everyone!

Also taking place in Ottawa on June 15th will be a day long strategic planning meeting for INPEA. Comments have appeared previously in this column noting the need for INPEA to revisit its bylaws, develop a conceptual framework and examine policies and procedures. We hope to have an external facilitator for this process and look forward to reporting back to the membership on the outcome from this session.

Our guest editor for this issue has been Ariela Lowenstein. She has gathered reports from around Europe which all reflect the high level of activity by INPEA members. We appreciate Ariela's cooperation and diligence in compiling these articles.

Our next guest editor will be Mala Kapur Shankardass from India.

Elizabeth Podnieks

COMMENTS FROM THE GUEST EDITOR



Dear INPEA members,

Welcome all INPEA members. We are working in an exciting period regarding developments in: awareness raising of the topic of elder abuse and neglect, internationally, regionally and nationally. Advancements in accumulated knowledge bases and knowledge transfer. We also see evidence of more policies, legislation and services.

The issue of this bulletin will focus on activities in the European Region. It will include a report on the EU Brussels conference on elder abuse and neglect, a short report on recent prevalence studies on the topic, reports from several countries in the region and preparing towards WEAAD nationally.

Policy makers, researchers and practitioners were all very active during this year in advancing the topic of elder abuse and neglect. On the macro policy level the European Commission now perceives the issue as an important social problem and is committed to “put” it on the agenda of member states. This was reflected in the convening of an expert group by Commissioner Spidla, the Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and further organizing a large EU conference in Brussels on March 17. You will note below the activities during this conference. Regarding the development of knowledge bases, several recent prevalence studies had been conducted, i.e., in England, Germany, Spain and the Czech Republic. In 2005 the results of such a prevalence study were published in Israel. Also, many developments occurred in the service systems of various countries as you will read in this bulletin.

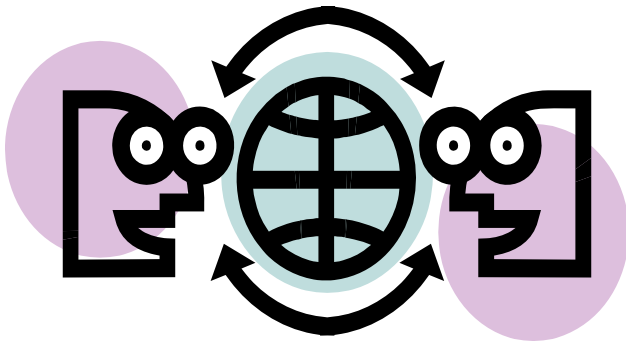
Thus, I hope that you would enjoy reading and learning as cross national comparisons and new ideas are a fertilized ground for all of us to collaborate and combat elder abuse and neglect.

Wishing you all a good and fruitful WEAAD during this coming June.

Yours Ariela Lowenstein
INPEA European Regional Representative

BRUSSELS CONFERENCE

MARCH 17, 2008



Raising awareness to the issue of elder mistreatment was reflected in the Conference on “Protecting the dignity of older persons – The prevention of elder abuse and neglect”. This conference was organized by the Commission for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, based on discussions with an expert group that acted further as part of the steering committee for the conference. This group consisted of some of INPEA key national representatives from Europe: from Germany – Thomas Goergen and Gabriele Walnetich (INPEA European board

member), Czech Republic – Jan Lorman, France – Francoise Busby, Italy – Giovanni Lamura, UK – Bridget Penhale (INPEA European board member) and INPEA European Regional Rep. – Ariela Lowenstein from Israel.

The conference was held in Brussels on March 17, opening speech given by Commissioner Spidla and attended by about 300 participants from governments, NGO’s and organizations working and/or interested in the topic. Several key lectures were delivered by most of the above group as well as by the Secretary General of INPEA – Susan Somers during the final panel.

The conference reflects the commitment of the European Commission towards tackling the issue of elder abuse and neglect and “putting” it forward on the European agenda, to develop policy and interventions. Ministers from Czech Republic, Italy, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden participated actively and also expressed the commitment of their governments to the topic.

Material could be downloaded from: http://ecd.europa.eu/employment_social/spsi/elder_abuse_en.htm

During the conference data was presented on recent prevalence studies conducted by Simon Biggs and Net Can in the UK and by Thomas Goergen from the German Police University in Germany. Similar prevalence studies had been conducted in Spain by Isabel Iborra from the Queen Sofia Center in Valencia, by Jan Lorman from Zivot 90 in the Czech Republic and by Zvi Eisikovits, Ariela Lowenstein and Tova Band-Winterstein in Israel.

Additionally, the EU approved a seven country prevalence study coordinated by Sweden – the ABUEL project. A group is also working on preparing a proposal for conceptual development in the area of elder abuse and neglect.

Following the conference an informal INPEA meeting was held and minutes can be found on the INPEA web. We welcomed a new member from the ‘Flemish Reporting Point for Elder Abuse’ - Gerd Callewaert, who is Belgium national representative.

On the next page there is a press release from AGE following the Brussels conference, see a picture taken during the meeting.

BRUSSELS CONFERENCE

MARCH 17, 2008

PRESS RELEASE - AGE

Brussels, 28 March 2008

AGE calls for EU Strategy to combat elder abuse and ensure quality long term care for the elderly



(L-R) Ami, Gerd Callewaert, Gabriele Walentich,

At a conference organised by the European Commission on “Protecting the dignity of older persons – the prevention of elder abuse and neglect” on Monday 17 March 2008, AGE called on Commissioner Spidla and the Member States to adopt an EU Strategy to prevent elder abuse and promote quality long term care services for the elderly. “A year ago, Commissioner Spidla, you promised AGE General Assembly to do something to prevent elder abuse and you have kept your promise. On behalf of AGE members I would like to thank you, but the work is not over, it is only starting”, said Anne-Sophie Parent, Director of AGE at the closing panel of the conference. The high level of participants and the presence of several ministers at the conference on elder abuse confirmed what the recent Eurobarometer showed, i.e. that elder abuse is a serious concern for a majority of citizens across the EU and the EU should take action. “We recommend to the Commission to use the discussion paper presented to the conference and turn each of the proposed actions into a real commitment. The Commission should propose to launch a European Strategy to combat elder abuse and ensure quality care for the elderly”, added Parent. This would link perfectly with what Minister Larsson of Sweden proposed on behalf of the next Presidency trio. AGE feels that the issue of quality elder care and the fight against elder abuse should be an integral part of the renewed Social Agenda and should be addressed in the framework of EU Demography cycle.



REPORT FROM BELGIUM

The Flemish Reporting Point for Elder Abuse was established as a project in September 2002 and is operational since January 2003. It is a part of the a Flemish social services organisation, "Centrum Algemeen Welzijnswerk Zuid-Oost-Vlaanderen".

Its working area is restricted to the Dutchspeaking part of Belgium: the district of Flanders and the Dutchspeaking part of Brussels Capital District. The French- and German speaking part of Belgium is covered by CAPAM (centre d'aide aux personnes âgées maltraitées). Since the 1st of July 2007, the Flemish ministry of welfare has given a structural recognition and funding to the reporting point, which means that its viability no longer is questionable.

The aims of the Flemish Reporting Point are: To raise public awareness concerning elder abuse; Breaking the taboo that still surrounds elder abuse; registration of every reported case of elder abuse, in order to gain insight into the nature and prevalence of the phenomenon of elder abuse; to provide information and advice to everyone concerned or interested; to constantly build on a professional network in order to provide for the best intervention when needed in specific cases of elder abuse; to train elders, professionals, home carers, volunteers and students in order to increase their awareness and expertise concerning elder abuse and how to recognise it and deal with it; influencing and advising policy bodies: federal, regional, supralocal and local governments and institutions; to stimulate scientific research; keep on gaining expertise concerning every possible aspect that has to do with elder abuse; follow up of international developments

Current activities include: central telephone number: unique and cheap number for the whole covered region. This number can be used by everyone to report cases, to ask information and advice, to ask for a possible intervention. The calls are answered by our social worker; central registration of reported cases; website that is permanently updated; leaflet available; information sessions for elderly, volunteers, students, home carers; training sessions for professionals concerning early detection and approach; networking:

in the light of increasing awareness: a play, called "Georges", is touring through Flanders during the period September 2007 – December 2008; scientific research: currently, Gerd Callewaert is preparing research concerning the approach of elder abuse by social services; in the context of the European Daphne II-project "Breaking the Taboo – Empowering health and social service professionals to combat violence against older women within families": as co-financing organisation for Belgium, we are co-author of the report "Breaking the taboo – overview of research phase"; permanently providing of articles for popular press, professional magazines, journals for professionals

Report from **Belgium** - Preparation of WEAAD 2008

We will organise a conference on 13/06/2008 in Brussels. There will be speakers available and the possibility to follow workshops with topics related to elder abuse (e.g. case management, early detection, approaching elder abuse, cooperation with police and justice)

Contact: Flemish Reporting Point for Elder Abuse, Mr. Gerd Callewaert MSc,
e-mail: meldpuntomb@skynet.be

REPORT FROM SPAIN



Madrid City Hall

The overall objective of this program is to prevent situations of social isolation of those older than 65 years of the city of Madrid, as well as emergencies and deaths at risk of social isolation or abandonment.

The activities are diverse:

Detection. A team of psychologists and social workers are visiting people who are living alone to screen social risk and all the cases of emergencies are reviewed (those cases that required

door opening by police or fireman)

Intervention. With conventional measures in cases of social necessity (home care, day centres, telecare and coordination with health services), volunteers in cases of loneliness and a specific psychological support at home in case of social isolation

Monitoring. There is a permanent observatory of emergencies, searching information to determine whether cases are socially isolated people.

Awareness. We speak about the problem in several forums. Publications have been made. We go to public establishments (shops, markets, restaurants,...) to solicit cooperation of workers. A central call is available to meet the demands.

Training. We have included the issue in training programmes for professionals. Organizing specific forums for technical workers from the social/health field

Research. To know the profile and risk factors of people in isolation

On February 22, 2008 an international conference: On Prevention and management of the Use of Physical Restraints with the Elderly in long term care was held in Madrid. The past February 20th and 21st were celebrated in the Spanish National Institute for Older Persons and Social Services - IMSERSO the "*International Conferences on Prevention and management of the Use of Physical Restraints with the Elderly in long term care*", in the framework of the Program "*to Untie the Older Persons and Patients with Alzheimer's Disease*".

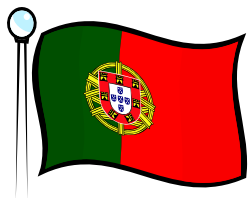
These Conferences, organized by the IMSERSO and the Spanish Confederation of Older People's Organizations **CEOMA** have supposed a milestone in the formation on Restraints for professionals in Spain.

Pilar Serrano Garijo (Madrid City Hall)

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REPORT FROM PORTUGAL



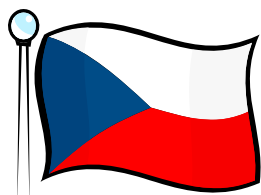
I have encouraged several students and other people to become members of Inpea through our site online. I have told them that after their subscription, the direction of INPEA send to me the details of their contact and I will construct a mailing list for all people interested on the topic of elder abuse in Portugal, at the research or at the social or political level. I intend to create a Portuguese network able to attend, identify and report elder abuse episodes. The first step is to have all over Portugal, INPEA members to represent, act and accomplish at a regional level the goals of our Global network to attend, identify, report elder abuse episodes and make a data base coordinated by me.

Additionally, I was at the university of Coimbra, Portugal, presenting 6 hours of education on elder abuse research and prevention to post graduate students of psychology. I was too at the University of Turku, Finland, doing a conference about Research on Ageism, titled Ageism: Trying to focus on the multidimensionality of then phenomenon (6th October, 2007)

In my university there will be 4 hours of training about elder abuse and neglect in a post graduate course on psychology of aging (next March)

José Ferreira Alves, Ph.D
INPEA National Representative from Portugal

REPORT FROM CZECH REPUBLIC



Jan Lorman, INPEA national rep. is planning a big conference in Prague towards 2009 on the topic: Protection of Dignity and Human Rights of Seniors in the Context of Long-term Care Development, within the frame of the Czech Presidency of the Council of EU 2009. It will include the following topics: Political and philosophical basis for pro-senior policy with emphasis on acknowledgement policy and equity libertarianism; Prevention and solution of senior abuse in long-term care; Palliative care in the old age as a tool for human dignity and an alternative to euthanasia; Long-term care, comparison of approaches and concepts in the framework, search for common standards; Information and other advanced technologies as a threat to and protection of human dignity and human rights in the old age – gerontotechnology; The Nature of Geriatric Frailty and Options for Its Practical Intervention; The Media Image of the Elderly - The Role of the Media in Protecting the Dignity and Human Rights of Seniors

Jan Lorman, INPEA national rep



REPORT FROM ALBANIA

In continuation to the public awareness over the chronic issue of the elderly on 23 January 2008 LSI (political party), the network of elderly associations and other active older people of Tirana (the capital of Albania) organized an extended meeting about the draft-law in favour of improving and supporting better standards for the Albanian elderly. ASAG (Albanian Society for All Ages) campaigned in favor of the draft and on 25 January 2008 published an article in the daily newspaper "Albania", while on the December-January 2008 issue of "Physiology" a national magazine, a dossier about ageing was published thanks to ASAG lobbying.

The draft – law for elderly, towards a new vision

The elderly are tired of their resources being siphoned off. Their families tired of seeing their children without food, education, healthcare, basic necessities of life. What makes them being tired is being excluded.

LSI (political party), the important initiative of ASAG, to launch the "Political Document & International Plan of Action on Ageing" in Albania and the network of older people associations made possible the drawing of a modest draft – law: "Care for individuals of third age". This draft-law is the result of an intensive and voluntary work by the personalities of elderly network. The cooperation brought upon while drawing this draft-law has another important symbolic dimension: the appreciation of people's contributions. It is, therefore, that the draft-law introduces for the first time the obligation of the Albanian government to allocate funds and resources for the involvement of the older persons in the social-cultural-political life of the country by promoting cultural activities, facilitating transportation, providing free medications, health care, psychological rehabilitation etc.

To keep political parties and leaders accountable to the people is a valuable role that can be played by social movements. Social movements ensure the legitimacy, spirituality and values of political action. This does not require social movements to turn into political parties. But requires due diligence in their interaction with political groups and leaders to ensure that principles that have brought this movement together, for instance, human rights, equal gender, friendly environment on ageing, are upheld at all times.

The law's future implementation and impact depends on all of us. The real strength and power lies in the passion of people. This is the passion for justice, for participation, for what is true democracy. It is the capacity to energize people to struggle for their fundamental human rights. The challenges that lie ahead are both awesome and formidable. We demand better living conditions. The efforts of the network of older people associations to build a bridge of communication between the political and social agenda bring forth a fresh paradigm in establishing and upholding our true values.

First, it represents a space both physical and temporal for this diverse movement to meet, network, and, quite simply, to feel and affirm itself.

Second, the affirmation of this law is a retreat during which the movement gathers its energies and charts the directions of its continuing drive to confront and roll back the processes, institutions, and structures to support and enhance our civil society.

REPORT FROM ALBANIA

Third, the cooperation provides a site and space for the movement to elaborate, discuss, and debate the vision, values, and institutions of an alternative world order built on real interests for the elderly.

Often, social movements and governmental institutions become victims of people without vision who failing to meet the basic requirements of their professional environment abuse openly driven by the sole purpose of personal enrichment, thus moving backwards and misleading the advancement and development of important policies and projects.

It is therefore, that our last initiative in cooperation with LSI and other active players to eradicate poverty among the elderly should be supported by the broad public and the political strata to ensure its endorsement by the government.

We will need legs of a marathon runner to lay the foundation towards true democracy.

Ermira Pirdeni, Director/ founder of ASAG

e-mail: asag@gmx.net



REPORT FROM INPEA ISRAEL

ACTIVITIES FOR World Awareness Elder Abuse Day- 15.6.08

A steering committee was set up. The committee is comprised of representatives from Welfare Ministry, Health Ministry, Eshel (The Association for the Planning and Development of Services for the Aged in Israel) and the Ministry for Senior Citizens. A flyer encouraging organizing activities will be sent to social welfare departments, health care organizations and NGO's. Materials and ideas for activities will be included.

Special events will be held through June in order to mark the day:

On the national level:

- The House of Parliament will dedicate a special hearing on Elder abuse and Neglect. The event will take place on 17.6.08. The discussion will be led by the Minister for Senior Citizens.
- A conference will take place on 18.6.08 under the auspices of three Ministers (Minister for Senior Citizens, Welfare Minister, Minister of Health), and with presence of the General Director of JDC-Eshel (The Ass. for Planning & Development of Services for the Aged in Israel). The conference is aimed at raising awareness and dealing with issues concerning interventions in regard with Neglect.. 500 professionals from all over the country are expected to attend.
- The publication of the book, *Elder Abuse: Intervention and Prevention*, which details models for intervention in cases of elder abuse.
- Distribution of a booklet for professionals on the detection and assessment of elder abuse and neglect.

REPORT FROM INPEA ISRAEL

On the community level:

- Workplace seminars for social workers, physicians, nurses and other professionals who work with the elderly.
- Circulation of a petition for raising awareness and for further identification with the cause.
- Distribution of stickers and fliers which advertise a 'hot line' to report abuse.
- Screenings of films produced by JDC-ESHEL's Audio-Visual Department, including: "My Son," which deals with elder abuse by a family member (an adult offspring living with his mother), "Good Intentions," which presents the problem in the institutional setting and "From the bottom of my heart" which deals with Neglect. (It is important to note that a new film on methods for intervention in cases of elder abuse and neglect is in final stages of production).

Interventions

JDC-ESHEL, in conjunction with the Welfare Ministry, leads the public awareness campaign with an intervention program that is implemented within the Social Services Department of the Municipality of Tel-Aviv. The multi-faceted program encompasses:

- A. Establishing Specialized Units for Elder Abuse composed of social workers, a para-professional and an advisory team (as detailed below). Social workers employ various methods for intervention such as casework and/ or group therapy for the victim, casework and/ or group therapy for the perpetrator, supplying supportive services and using legal means such as restraining orders against the abuser, appointment of a guardian for the victim, or other legal recourse.
- B. Raising awareness among elders, their family members and among professionals
- C. Establishing an interdisciplinary team of experts, including a psychiatrist, geriatric physician, attorney, and a welfare officer for the court. The team convenes on a regular basis to address the most complex elder abuse cases reported and treated.
- D. Training programs for professionals aimed at detection, assessment and intervention on elder abuse.
- E. Evaluation Study

National Rep. Dr. Sara Alon, ESHEL



UN REPORT

Developing an effective UN NGO Team requires identifying and recruiting individuals who have unique qualifications compatible to the UN's thematic areas and Committees within which INPEA seeks to have an impact. Pat Brownell our Main Representative to the UN HQ NY has long applied such a criteria as necessary to keep our UN NGO ranks full with professional and capable representatives. Continuing to serve on Pat's team in NY, is her assistant, Susan Somers, joined by INPEA Treasure and Fordham Professor of Economics, Robert Brent, Jackie Berman, a researcher at NY City Dept for the Aging, and Temple Byer, Pat's current INPEA Student representative, we introduced Temple in our last UN Report. INPEA's New Department of Public Information or "DPI" Representatives for the INPEA NY team is Wook Kim, PhD, who we are pleased to add to the team:

Welcome Wook Kim to INPEA UN NGO Team, UN HQ NYC

Professor Brownell is proud to invite her former graduate student, Professor. Wook Kim, to assist with INPEA NGO activities at the UN HQ in NYC. Wook is in NYC for a year, and we see him as a promising asset to INPEA for now and when he returns to Korea.

Wook Kim, Ph.D. first knew INPEA when Dr. Patricia Brownell visited Korea in 2007 for an International Conference on Aging. Since then, he has been interested in the work of INPEA in dealing with elder abuse issues globally and is a strong supporter of the INPEA's mission. He is a social work professor at Kyonggi University in Korea and currently a visiting professor of Fordham University in New York. Being a gerontologist and an expert in aging, Wook's concern has been working with the elderly to help maintain their dignity and pride in this youth friendly society. Wook has conducted several studies regarding age discrimination and elder abuse to understand current situations of older adults and to suggest the ways to reduce ageism and elder abuse.

Wook is eager to learn about other nation's and persons' experiences of protecting and intervening in elder abuse and to share his experience and expertise with others. In his own words Wook tells us: "Working with INPEA gives me a great honour. INPEA's mission is consisted with my professional work and personal interest of understanding and helping elders. Without doubt, older adults should live with dignity. It is our responsibility to help them fully enjoy their life without any societal discrimination toward them. Preventing elder abuse is an extremely critical issue because it is related to quality of life and human rights. I am happy to have this opportunity to supporting the work of INPEA."

Moving to Geneva... Well, that is what the Human Rights Council did in 2006 and INPEA followed: With the awesome support of INPEA's friend, Astrid Stuckelberger, Chair of the UN NGO Committee on Ageing, Geneva and Charles Henri Rapin, INPEA National Rep Switzerland, Susan Somers has developed INPEA's Geneva Team at the HRC with no less than stellar professionals who are passionate about protecting vulnerable elders. It is with pleasure that we introduce two of our Geneva NGO Representatives Ursula Barter-Hemmerich and Ulrike Wagoner, MD.

UN Human Rights Council Session, Geneva,



UN REPORT

Welcome Ursula Barter-Hemmerich to INPEA UN NGO Team, Geneva.

Ursula first met INPEA, in Geneva at our 2006 WEAAD event held at WHO. Those who attended may not have realized it but she was the “melodic” voice of our translator—her first volunteer job for INPEA. Ursula is a linguist, having spent her entire professional life providing translations in several languages in and around the UN and WHO. She is a remarkable humanitarian, a terrific team-mate, and cool in a crisis, this having been put to the test this past March, at the 7th Session of the HRC, when she sat elbow to elbow advising me as I scrambled to revise our oral statement to fit within a specific HRC agenda item focusing on discrimination. In a few scant minutes. Together, we did it!

When INPEA invited Ursula Barter-Hemmerich to join INPEA’s NGO Human Rights team at the UN in Geneva. Ursula told us, “Serving INPEA as a UN NGO Representative in Geneva gives me great satisfaction.” Ursula has long worked in the area of ageing, being instrumental in the setting up of the NGO Working Committee on Ageing in Geneva in preparation for the 2002 Madrid UN Assembly and by working with a Christian Network on Ageing called CRESCENDO. Ursula has worked side by side with Astrid Stuckelberger, and we are indebted to Astrid for recommending Ursula. She has many talents and was elected Secretary of the NGO Comm. on Ageing in Geneva, to which Susan was also invited to attend this March. “It was a pleasure to experience firsthand the high level of esteem colleagues in Geneva afforded to Ursula”. “Her depth of compassion, sensitivity to and embracing of diversity, and her impressive business experience is hard to match. INPEA is indeed fortunate to have found Ursula.”

Ursula feels that given her age (82) it is very appropriate to be defending the rights of the older persons and told us that “I realise that there is much advocacy and sensitization required – we are far from being out of a job.”

“Susan came to Geneva for the Human Rights Council (HRC) so that we were able to meet and I feel privileged to be working with her; I have a lot to learn about INPEA but luckily I have a good knowledge of the UN System having worked for them most of my professional life and having done NGO work for over 20 years.”

Welcome Ulrike Waginger, MD to INPEA UN NGO Team, Geneva.

No less impressive is Ulrike Waginger, MD. You may be surprised to learn that Uli is our “student” Rep for Geneva, as she is studying Ageing with Astrid at the current time and wanted to immerse herself in issues of protection and intervention in abuse of the elderly. Uli explains this way:

“Helping the elderly to improve their quality of life has always been a huge aim in my life. It was the reason to educate myself in human medicine and molecular biology and to care for older persons in my nearer surrounding. After spending five years in bio-medical basic research focusing on age-related issues like rheumatology and brain research I finally changed to a more practical, interdisciplinary area of gerontology, i.e. public health. Elder abuse is a very important theme speaking of the elder’s quality of life. It touches me when older people are still allowed to experience the warmth of a person really caring and loving, but same way it hurts me to see older people neglected, mistreated or even harmed by any related person or strangers. For me there’s no question that one has to act, and I am happy to do so in supporting the work of INPEA”.

Ulrike Waginger MD

UN REPORT

As we welcome Ursula and Uli to our NGO team, we look forward to developing a strong and effective presence and continuing to have an impact at UN HQ in NY and at the HRC, and with help of dedicated and capable people such as Wook Kim, Ursula Barter, and Ulrike Waginger, we are sure to accomplish our mission.

Pat and I appreciate the support we receive from INPEA members and we hope the work of our Teams at the UN, with other NGO's, Nation States, and civil society will continue to add to INPEA's international impact and further our Mission. We will continue to provide updates and advise members of UN issues, and events important to INPEA.

Submitted by: Pat Brownell and Susan Somers



Ursula Barter, Ulrike Waginger, MD (student Rep - Geneva) and Astrid Stuckelberger

NORTH AMERICAN MEETING OF INPEA

Twilight, in beautiful Southern California was the setting for a meeting of the North American Regional Meeting of INPEA on February 11, 2008.

The meeting took place within the 2nd International Conference on Elder Abuse: Medical Aspects and Multidisciplinary Responses, presented by the University of California, Irvine School of Medicine, Program in Geriatrics, directed by Laura Mosqueda.

The meeting was chaired by Betty Malks, North American Regional Representative, and Laura Mosqueda, National Representative for the United States. INPEA members attending included Elizabeth Podnieks, INPEA Vice-President, Dr. Susan Kurrle, Regional Representative for Oceania, Dr. Gary Naughtin, Chair, Australia Elder Abuse Prevention Committee and Lisa Nerenberg (USA). About 15 people were present. The group especially welcomed Sharon Merriman-Nai from the National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA) and the Clearinghouse on Abuse and Neglect of the Elderly (CANE). Sharon is the keeper of the NCEA Elder Abuse list-serve which we all use on a near-daily basis. The meeting was exploratory in nature: the goals and objectives of INPEA were described and clarified. People were interested, questioning and very supportive. We need to get more information out to them and this will undoubtedly lead to greater involvement. Ideas and potential activities were discussed? The meeting opened the door for future collaboration and partnerships.

Elizabeth Podnieks



NCEA SPONSORS WEBCAST HIGHLIGHTING WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY INITIATIVES

It was more than exciting to join nearly 200 people across North America, on a live webcast, hosted by NCEA to encourage people to recognize World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) on June 16, 2008. The webcast provided specific information and ideas on what people and communities can do. Three experts shared their ideas on how to locate resources, including toolkits, press releases, posters and how to use other activities as vehicles for raising awareness.



Our own Betty Malks, Regional Representative for North America was outstanding as she took participants through our Tool Kit and other WEAAD initiatives. Trudy Gregorie, senior director of Justice Solutions highlighted Nation Crime Victims' Rights and Carolyn Petrak, NCEA Social Marketing and outreach director, featured elements of the Center's public awareness campaign, such as the NCEA Student Arts Competition. It was a truly memorable afternoon and a tribute to all the work underway by the sponsoring organizations. Special thanks to Kathleen Quinn, Executive Director, National Adult Protection Services Association (NAPSA)

Elizabeth Podnieks

INPEA WELCOMES WANG XIAO YAN!



We are delighted to announce a new member from China, Wang Xiao Yan. She has not only joined the Network, she is also coming to Ottawa and will present on the panel "Innovations from Around the World: Best Practices in Addressing Elder Abuse".

We want to take this opportunity to acknowledge two very strong supporters of the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, Jim Emmerton, Executive Director and Laura Watts, National Director, Canadian Centre for Elder Law. They are generously funding Wang Xiao Yan's attendance at WEAAD and we are very grateful to them.

Ms. Wang Xiao Yan is the founder and director of Community Alliance. She was educated at Columbia University. Her expertise includes management and elder care. After gaining corporate management experiences in USA, Ms. Wang joined public interest sector in China. In January 2006, her passion for the cause of senior citizens led to the launch of Community Alliance, one of the first public interest organizations pursuing social justice and welfare for the elderly in China. Ms. Wang also writes extensively. Two of her upcoming books available in both English and Chinese are "Development of Aging in China" and "Rural Aging in China".

Community Alliance is an independent grassroots non-profit organization based in Beijing. Its efforts empower and support the underprivileged and underserved elderly in local communities across China. As a public interest group, Community Alliance works for and with the elderly to protect their rights and access to a better quality of life. By working directly with local communities, facilitating the growth of citizen's groups, promoting public action and participation, and advocating public policy changes, Community Alliance hopes to alter the current trends in elder relations for the better.

CALL FOR NOMINATION!! ROSALIE WOLF MEMORIAL AWARD

The award commemorates the life of INPEA's founder. It is presented to "an individual who on an international level has demonstrated dedication and commitment to the ideals of Rosalie Wolf to prevent and reduce elder abuse and promote awareness through one or more of the following: research, education, policy, practice."

This year the award will be presented at the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) in Ottawa, Canada on June 16th, 2008.

Here is your opportunity to honor a person in the field who has shown passion and energy in bringing awareness to the field. Rosalie Wolf, brilliant and boundary-breaking, was a very humble person who loved to praise the unsung heroes of the elder abuse prevention community. So shine the spotlight on someone who you think has shown these qualities.

The nomination form is on the website: www.inpea.net and must be received by May 15, 2008.

A MESSAGE FROM A STUDENT IN THE US

Dear WEADD Community,
my name is Temple Byars the student U.S. INPEA representative for the United Nations. I am following up with a more detailed email about how your students can get involved in the WEADD events this June. INPEA is hoping to have student run events internationally, that will help spread the word about this important cause. In the past students have set up informational booths at their universities, performed theatrical presentations, passed out fliers and done presentations just to name a few of the ways students have participated. This is a chance for students to become creative in how they share information with their peers and the public. If one goes to the INPEA website <http://www.inpea.net/> and follows the WEADD link, one will come across the community guide which has information that can be used in discussing elder abuse. Looking forward to getting connected with other students interested in ageing issues. Thank you for your time.

Temple Byars
Social Work Intern for JASA and INPEA
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A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO SOME VERY SPECIAL PEOPLE

The WorldView on Elder Abuse Environmental hit a serious road block when it was discovered that 42 surveys, mostly from Latin America, had not been translated into English. The following people performed this time consuming task. We all owe them a huge debt of thanks:

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