



WORLD FEDERATION OF SOCIETIES OF BIOLOGICAL PSYCHIATRY

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Dear colleagues and friends,

As the year 2014 approaches its end, I thought this is an appropriate time for me to reflect on what WFSBP has accomplished over the years. As I embark on this exercise, I am reminded that it has been 40 years since the WFSBP was founded during the 1st Congress of Biological Psychiatry in Buenos Aires (24-28 September 1974). Having the privilege of being the 11th President of WFSBP, I wish to take the opportunity to pay tribute to my predecessors (starting with founding President Prof. Edmundo Fisher to the most recent Past President Prof. Florence Thibaut) who through their sustained commitment and tremendous efforts have transformed the WFSBP into a worldwide respectable institution. I also wish to acknowledge and recognize the contributions of the members of all past Executive Committees and the previous Presidents of National Societies who have continuously joined forces in organizing World Congresses and in conducting many scientific activities relevant to the mission of WFSBP. Moreover, the experts in biological psychiatry who have been members of various Committees within WFSBP have provided their invaluable advise to the Executive, while a good number of Task Forces were very efficient in producing outstanding consensus statements and treatment guidelines enlightening important specific facets of this vast and complex field of knowledge. Furthermore, the World Journal of Biological Psychiatry (WFSBP's official journal), diligently directed by its founder Prof. Hans – Jürgen Möller and subsequently by Prof. Siegfried Kasper, has become one of the most

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respectable psychiatric journals due to the superb contribution of a large number of Editorial Board members and the most constructive collaboration of many experts who have functioned as astute reviewers. I wish to convey my deep respect and special appreciation to each and every one of the above individuals for their efforts in promoting the vision and mission of the WFSBP and for contributing to advancing the field of Biological Psychiatry.

As we move from the past to the present and the future of WFSBP, it gives me immense pleasure to share with you some of the highlights of the accomplishments of the current Executive Committee:

- The new constitution of WFSBP, ratified in Prague (2011) and enacted in Kyoto (2013) is being fully implemented. The main goals of the constitutional changes were to secure continuity and stability within WFSBP's leadership; we do feel that the function of our Executive Committee is absolutely consistent with this goal.
- The various Committees within WFSBP have been restructured, while their specific goals and deliverables have been determined; the relevant information is already posted in our website.
- The WFSBP Task Forces are also undergoing a review with the objective to identify specific goals and deliverables; relevant information will be posted on the WFSBP website in the near future.
- The following WFSBP endorsed/co-sponsored congresses took place since the Kyoto 2013 Congress:
 - 2nd Eurasian Regional Congress of Biological Psychiatry, 5-8 June 2014, Bursa, Turkey
 - 1st Global Conference of Biological Psychiatry, 25-28 September 2014, New Delhi, India

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- 2nd Interdisciplinary Congress “Psychiatry and Related Sciences”, October 30th - November 2nd 2014, Athens, Greece

- Preparations for the 12th World Congress of Biological Psychiatry (Athens, 14-18 June 2015) are well under way. The core program (including lectures, debates, symposia, workshops) is already posted on our website. We have received a significant number of oral communications/ poster presentations so far; yet, in order to give the opportunity for those who missed the original deadline, we have extended it until 22nd January 2015.

On behalf of WFSBP Executive Committee, I wish you and your loved ones a Joyous Festive Period and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year. I will look forward to welcoming you all to Athens.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'C. Soldatos', written in a cursive style.

Constantin R. Soldatos
President WFSBP