

International Congress 6-10 March 2013

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The Hellenic Psychiatric Association in collaboration with the World Federation for Mental Health and the Society of Preventive Psychiatry is organizing an important International Congress on the Psychosocial Consequences of Disasters, from **6 to 10 March 2013** in Athens, Greece.

Disasters occur everywhere in the world and they are caused by a variety of causes, from the Tsunami in SE Asia and the earthquakes in a variety of regions including Greece and Turkey to the disasters that continue to occur in recent years due to the economic crisis. Economic crises can have very serious consequences. They do not occur in the abrupt, direct and dramatic way in which natural and human-made disasters do but they have similar potentially catastrophic consequences. The association of unemployment resulting from an economic crisis with suicide is one of the strongest ones.

We have decided to select this topic as the main theme of our congress because of its relevance to current financial developments in the world and especially in Europe and more so in the host country.

All the other disasters, natural and man-made, will also be reviewed under the light of a quickly changing world. The pace, the pattern and even the direction of this change is sometimes difficult to follow and exchange of ideas on this crucial issue would be most welcome.

So, this is the general framework of our congress. Any feed-back from you would be most welcome.

Topics other than Disasters will also be discussed and submissions of presentations on them are welcome.

With warm personal regards and looking forward to hearing from you and seeing all of you in March 2013

Yours sincerely

George Christodoulou