

FIRST INTERNATIONAL PSYCHOSOCIAL CONFERENCE IN EGYPT:

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH AND SOCIETY



Egypt, on 28 & 29 November 2012

www.ephase.org – info@ephase.org

Dear Madam, dear Sir

First of all, we would like to introduce our society, the Psychological Health & Awareness Society in Egypt (P.H.A.S.E) which is a non-governmental organization founded in 2006, in Egypt, with more than 70 active professional members. Its registration number is 6692 in Cairo Governorate and its main activities are as follows:

1- Counseling and treatment of patients suffering from psychological disorders, particularly those related to psychological traumas (abuse, domestic violence, natural disasters, and terrorism) and addiction.

2- Establishing prevention and community awareness programs.

3- Developing training for psychosocial teams and for the education and schooling personnel (teachers, school doctors, nurses...) to screen psychological disorders in schools.

4- Scientific research (e.g., setting up instruments adapted to the Egyptian population, organizing international seminars to foster scientific exchanges among professionals etc...).

From our experience came the realization of the need to organize a public conference where the importance of mental health in the community would be emphasized.

The main topics around which would be evolving the conference are mainly psychosocial phenomena that are frequently encountered in our societies and affect individuals, families, community institutions and society as a whole: Addiction, Violence and Coping with chronic illnesses.

Conference title: First International Psychosocial Conference in Egypt: Bridging the Gap between Psychological Health and Society.

The tentative date for the conference is 28-29 November 2012.

The conference will be under the good auspices of Cairo University Psychiatric Department, the World Psychiatric Association, the World Association for Social Psychiatry, and hopefully yours.

Guest speakers who showed a vivid interest to participate are:

Pr. Unaiza Niaz, MD, DPM, FRCPsych, Visiting Professor University of Health Sciences, Lahore, Pakistan; President Pakistan Society for Traumatic Stress Studies; Chair Section on Women Mental Health, The World Psychiatric Association; Secretary, IAWMH.

Pr. Robert Zachariae, MDSc, MSc; Psychooncology Research Unit, Dept. of Oncology, Aarhus University Hospital, Denmark.

Pr Saida Douki, Professor emeritus of Psychiatry, Tunis University.

Pr Amira Seif Eldin, Professor of Psychiatry, Community medicine department, Alexandria University.

Pr Soraya Al Turki, Professor of Anthropology, Head of Anthropology department, The American University in Cairo.

Pr. Mona M. Amer, Ph.D; Assistant Professor in Community Psychology, The American University in Cairo.

In addition to mental health professionals, we are hoping that policy makers working in the social area, medias and our partners i.e., from other NGOs, community and international institutions, to attend this conference.

Workshops, discussions and plenary sessions will be related to the topics mentioned hereunder.

The final program is still under preparation and will be ready very soon.

Suggested topics are:

-Islam and psychiatry: Psychiatry in the Arab spring countries;

-Women and mental health in Islamic societies;

-Psychosocial aspects of addiction;

-Psychosocial aspects of violence, specially against women and children;

-Coping with chronic medical conditions: Psychosocial aspects of cancer, chronic hepatitis and HIV.

We would be honored if your esteemed institution could support us on these different levels: scientific, organizational and financial.

The topics of the conference are extremely challenging for the Egyptian society and for the first time addressed in a public conference open to all the society actors.

This makes our task to find support from conventional sources of sponsorship for the organization of this conference very difficult.

These are the main reasons for our request to your esteemed institution.

Your support will be much appreciated for the organization and success of this first conference in Egypt.

Please, receive Madam, Sir, our most respectful greetings,

Pr. Samir Abolmagd, PHASE Chair Person

Professor of Psychiatry and Addiction Medicine, Cairo University