



## SPR International Task Force

2013 SPR Annual Meeting

San Francisco, CA, USA

A Follow-up

Dear International colleague,

We appreciate your connection with the SPR ITF and want to stay in touch.

Please find below a reminder of several issues that have been discussed during the 2013 SPR Annual Meeting, alongside issues we wish to develop and promote in the future.

Please note that your reflections and collaboration would be highly appreciated; hence, do feel free to be in touch with ITF members and/or advisory board.

## General Information: SPR International Task Force (ITF)

### **ITF Goals are:**

- To provide networking opportunities for international colleagues dealing with prevention science.
- To facilitate and support the sharing of prevention science scientific knowledge and ideas worldwide.
- To identify opportunities for establishing “seed monies” for international collaborations.

### **ITF Members:**

- *Brenda Miller* (Chair; USA): Senior Scientist at the Prevention Research Center, Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation at Berkeley, Ca. [bmiller@prev.org](mailto:bmiller@prev.org)
- *Moshe Israelashvili* (Israel): Associate Professor, School of Education, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel. [mosheil1@post.tau.ac.il](mailto:mosheil1@post.tau.ac.il)
- *Jeff Lee* (UK): Senior Scientific Advisor to Mentor International and Project Manager for the European Drug Prevention Quality Standards Phase 2 initiative at Liverpool John Moores University in the UK. [jeff@mentorfoundation.org](mailto:jeff@mentorfoundation.org)
- *Hanno Petras* (Germany, USA): Chief Prevention Methodologist and Principal at JBS International. [hpetras@jbsinternational.com](mailto:hpetras@jbsinternational.com)
- *Zili Sloboda* (USA): formerly the Director of Research and Development for JBS International, Inc. and currently advisor to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. [zsloboda@jbsinternational.com](mailto:zsloboda@jbsinternational.com)
- *John Toumbourou* (Australia): Professor and Chair in Health Psychology in the School of Psychology and Director of the Strategic Centre for Mental Health and Wellbeing Research, Deakin University, Australia. [john.toumbourou@deakin.edu.au](mailto:john.toumbourou@deakin.edu.au)

### **ITF Advisory Board:**

*Gregor Burkhart* (Portugal), *Josipa Basic* (Croatia), *Harrie Jonkman* (Netherlands), *Renati Solomon* (India), *Jeremy Segrott* (UK), *Meen Chhetri* (Nepal), *Dale Weiss*, (USA-NIDA), *Giovanna Campello* (UNODC), *Hanna Heikkila* (UNODC) and *Methinin Pinyuchon* (Thailand).

## **The International Networking Forum:**

About 150 delegates to the SPR Annual Meeting expressed their preliminary interest in the International Networking Forum (INF). About 50 actively participated in the networking forum meeting.

Several issues were discussed, including:

- ***The “Prevention Hub/Prevention Registry.”*** This is an initiative from Mentor International to provide a global focal point for sharing research, policy and best practice and for building networks to support all who are involved in the field of prevention. Working in collaboration with SPR and the European SPR it includes the building of a "Registry" of all who are working in the field of prevention including a focus on developing a database of those active in the field of prevention science. The Registry supports high quality practice, promotes collaboration and allows exchange of ideas to further efforts to promote global health. Launched on 26 June 2013 the database has over 1500 organizations and already over 100 have registered in the prevention science Registry. Moreover, recently the SPR Board approved the inclusion of presentations from the SPR annual meetings on the Prevention Hub website. This act further promotes the utility of The Prevention Hub as a valuable tool and platform for researchers and practitioners. You are encouraged to join - see [www.preventionhub.org](http://www.preventionhub.org) workgroup.
- ***Identifying components of successful international collaborations workgroup.*** The characteristics of successful international collaborations were discussed during the INF in large and small groups. The concept of stages in the development of international collaborations emerged. Stage 1: *Dating*: Getting to know prevention scientists can be supported by ensuring information is available on opportunities. The Prevention Registry was considered a potential step in this direction. The SPR international networking forum was considered a valuable opportunity for interaction and participants asked whether additional opportunities of this type could be developed. Encouraging regional organizations and structures may be a further way to encourage international collaborations. Stage 2: *Relationship*. Succeeding in this stage requires: a common language; interest in and respect for differences; clear plans; commitment of time; and financial investment. “Seed monies” for specific projects could potentially assist this. Stage 3: *Productive Collaboration*. A number of examples of successful international collaborations are emerging such that cross-national prevention science currently appears to be a promising field and worthy of attention within SPR.
- ***Creating "seed monies" to support international collaborations.*** Ideas regarding the potential process of recruiting seed money to support collaboration were discussed. Participants shared their own experiences and ideas, as well as the possible opportunities in their nations. Finally, several

recommendations emerged: 1. Information collection regarding the possible institution (e.g., Foundations, Ministries, and Organizations) and their current priorities is crucial. 2. The research title should be adapted to meet the current goals and preferences of the specific institution. 3. A good idea will always get more attention and be welcomed by institutions 4. Clear statements of what would the institution gain by supporting the study would promote the institution's readiness to grant the study 5. Speaking the "economy language" (i.e., translating the results of prevention research and/or intervention to money saved) helps the institution comprehending the benefits of supporting such an act. 6. Recruiting one nation's readiness to support a study would promote another nation's readiness to collaborate. Participants suggested paying more attention to possible grants suggested by emerging markets, such as Brazil. Finally, the theme of *positive youth development* was mentioned as a good starting point to achieve seed money for international collaboration.

- ***Identifying the organizations and structures that create an International Infrastructure that can support international collaborations and activities.*** These issues were first discussed in sub-groups, each of them devoted to one issue, and then presented and discussed with all the INF participants. Interestingly, despite the evident geographical, societal, political and situational differences, it was evident that many of the INF participants share both the same problems and agreed with several common conclusions and recommendations that emerged in the course of the meeting. Hence, there was a solid ground for communicating knowledge and experiences across nations and continents. Moreover, it was evident that International research initiatives would significantly contribute to existing knowledge on Prevention Science.

### **Sessions and roundtables of focusing on international research efforts:**

The annual NIDA International Poster Session and Reception was one of the major activities, within this year's SPR Annual Meeting that dealt with International issues. Other opportunities were those related sessions and roundtable, such as the Roundtable on "International Dissemination of Evidence Based Practice," chaired by Jeff Lee, with the participating discussion of Zili Sloboda, Giovanna Campello, Harry Sumnall, Fernando Salazar Silva and Rogers Kasirye. Altogether, in this year's SPR Annual Meeting there were about 90 presentations made by international delegates.

Nevertheless, the ITF believes that there is a need for more International presentations. Hence, currently several possibilities to encourage International submissions in the future were explored.

These issues and others have been discussed in a recent tele-conference with SPR President, Dr. Felipe Gonzalez Castro. He expressed his general support and encouragement.

**Finally, Links to the SPR website, the SPR newsletter, and Facebook page:**

<http://www.preventionresearch.org/>

<http://www.preventionresearch.org/prevention-science-journal/spr-community-newsletter/>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Society-for-Prevention-Research-SPR/431737460237334>

**Society for Prevention Research, 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting,  
May 27-30, 2014**

**Comprehensive and Coordinated Prevention Systems:  
Building Partnerships and Transcending Boundaries**

Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill, 400 New Jersey Avenue NW, Washington DC

**Mark your calendar!**

**INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING FORUM**

**WILL TAKE PLACE ON TUESDAY, May 27<sup>th</sup> 2014**

The International Networking Forum is designed to bring together colleagues who are working in the international arena on prevention science research, programs, and policies. This is an interactive forum and it is neither a workshop nor a didactic session; rather it is an effort to foster international collaboration in pursuit of promoting prevention science world-wide.

**Admission Free**