Welcome from congress patron Boris Johnson, Mayor of London



London's bid for the 2012 Games succeeded largely because of our desire to reach young people all around the world and to connect them with the inspirational power of the Games so they are motivated to choose sport. So I am particularly pleased that the emphasis for the World Congress in Cultural Psychiatry, to be held in the Olympic year, will be the resilience, wellbeing and diversity of young people. Sport allows people from all backgrounds to come together to join in positive activity and can help our young people to stay both physically and mentally healthy. I am committed to ensuring that the Games provide a genuine legacy for health and wellbeing and I look forward to welcoming young people from around the world to this great city in 2012.

Welcome address to the 3rd World Congress of Cultural psychiatry

Goffredo Bartocci, WACP President



We are now approaching the eve of the 3rd World Congress of Cultural Psychiatry. Thanks to you the members for your participation in the triennial World Congresses organized by the WACP, I can affirm that we have arrived at this important meeting sailing across calm and smooth waters.

Having been deeply engaged in the evolution of the WACP ever since its foundation, I look upon the London meeting with a deep-set awareness: the historical significance and importance of this international centre for the third World Congress of Cultural Psychiatry is self evident.

Indeed, this meeting does not only promise an update on the cultural psychiatry issues that are regularly proposed during our Congresses. The 3rd WCCP confirms the breadth of its mission exactly

through the focus placed on the problems of a crucial population for all possible ethnic groups: young people.

Let me briefly shed some light on the path pursued by the WACP and its most relevant initiatives.

The 1st WCCP, Current Perspectives On Research And Clinical Issues In Cultural Psychiatry Around The World, was held in Beijing in 2006. It was at this meeting that we established the Association formally. Since then, Chairman Prof. W.S. Tseng has stressed the fact that the strength of the WACP lies precisely in being entirely free of constraints vis-à-vis institutions or ideologies capable of misguiding the mission that we decided to pursue: an approach in anthropology and psychiatry aimed at understanding the needs of patients coming from any cultural and social background. At the same time, we were aware of having to concentrate our efforts on providing training for scholars in human sciences, enabling them to guarantee both clinical skills and flexibility in their choice of treatment. This theoretical and pragmatic flexibility proved to be effective also in the 2nd WCCP Cultural Brain And Living Societies held in Norcia (2009). On that occasion, we fully complied with WACP's theoretical and operational premises by delving into specific cultural psychiatry issues and enriching our epistemological experience by comparing apparently distant fields of study like neuroscience and cultural beliefs.

It is by building on this foundation that the 3rd WCCP (2012) represents, in the most appropriate location possible, the international consolidation of our scientific discipline. London is one of the most multi-cultural cities in the world and I am certain that, thanks to the hard work of Prof. Kam Bhui and his team, we will find scientific rigour combined with the fraternal hospitality that have always characterized our encounters.

Our inherited conglomerate of experiences drives me to be sure that this 3rd WCCP will put forward innovative and ground-breaking forms of psychiatry that are truly multi-disciplinary based on observation, interpretation, prevention and not only objectification. The results achieved by scholars of culture have reached an excellent level of maturity disclosing a transversal knowledge common to anthropology, social sciences, phenomenology, cross-cultural psycho-dynamics and even neuroscience. I have no doubt in asserting therefore that never like now does Cultural Psychiatry have the task of promoting democracy in the study of human sciences. It is an extremely demanding challenge. This is what we've been working towards all along and this is also what we must resolutely continue to pursue in the future.

This is the heritage of challenges that are now being passed down to the 3rd WCCP: an event that will undoubtedly turn out to be exceptional thanks to all the helping professionals who are aware that without a cultural approach, any psychological diagnostic and therapeutic activity would stop on the threshold of partiality, if the interpretation of mental disorder is only viewed as mono-cultural. I would therefore like to warmly invite you all to take part in this Congress, knowing that it will turn out to be a pleasant and fruitful event for everybody.

See you all soon.			

Mental capital, mental disorders, resilience and wellbeing through the life-course

Kamaldeep Bhui, 3rd World Congress of Cultural Psychiatry President



It is my great pleasure to warmly welcome you to the 3rd World Congress of Cultural Psychiatry in London. This is a very exciting year in which we are hosting the Olympic Games. The Conference venue Queen Mary University of London.

The Scientific profile of the 3rd World Congress will emphasise life-course understandings of mental distress, resilience and wellbeing, with a particular focus on young people. We are faced with many new frontier of cultural psychiatry, and a focus on life-course, well being, resilience, and young people is one of the new frontiers. Other themes include the neuro-scientific basis of violence and psychiatric symptoms, that neurobiology of violence and psychiatric symptoms; terrorism and conflict; self harm and suicide; diagnostic precision; culture and psychopathology; ethno-pharmacology; spirituality, religion and mental health; the future of cultural psychiatry; migration, training and education; public policy, service organisation and delivery, trainee workshops, media & mental health; 'research and reviews'; clinical practice and policy in a culturally diverse context.

The Mayor of London has agreed to be patron to the event in this Olympic year. The themes of sport and physical activity, youth and health will undoubtedly feature, not only within the Congress but in the Olympic environment as you travel to and from the Congress.

The Congress will be an important opportunity for scholars from diverse academic and practice disciplines to integrate and progress their learning, theorise and disseminate research to the public as well as to each other. The list of topics is broad, challenging and of importance to diverse disciplines, including psychology, religious studies, cultural studies, psychiatry, social sciences, anthropology, political science, arts and the laws, reflecting the complex definitions of culture that underpins cultural psychiatry and its practice and research.

I'd be delighted to receive further suggestions and proposals from you as early as possible in order to accommodate these within the programme. I invite proposals for symposia presentations, posters and videos session.

Thank you all for attending and contributing to wellbeing and mental health. I warmly invite you to attend and become key participants in this important phase in the growth of the World Association of Cultural Psychiatry.