

## **Barbara Stanley, Ph.D.**



### **Personal Statement**

My professional life has been devoted to understanding and preventing suicide and treating suicidal patients. IASR has played a central role in my development as a suicide researcher. I attended my first IASR meeting in New York City more than 15 years ago. It was a very small gathering but many of the world's experts in suicide were assembled to discuss the latest research findings on suicide prevention. I was already a member of IASR but that meeting cemented my commitment to the organization. As the only suicide prevention organization with a sole focus on research, I believe that it serves an important role in moving the field forward.

I co-chaired with Maria Oquendo the first joint IASR/American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Summit in New York City in 2015 and I helped forge the very successful partnership between the IASR and AFSP that continues today. For the meetings in 2017 and 2019, I served on the Scientific Advisory Committee. The Suicide Summit is the meeting where I feel most at home and most enjoy attending. I often find myself in the position of wanting to attend two or three presentations at the same time.

In addition, I am the editor-in-chief of the Archives of Suicide Research, the IASR official journal. The journal has grown tremendously under my leadership with the number of submissions far outstripping the number of manuscripts we are able to accept. In response to the journal's growth, through negotiations with our publisher, we have increased the number of pages allotted each year to the journal and therefore, we are now able to accept more manuscripts. Also, in recognition of the journal's growth, I asked Rory O'Connor to assume the role of co-editor in chief.

In my role as editor of ASR, I attend all IASR board meetings in an ex-officio capacity. This places me in an ideal position to understand the overall workings of the organization and the challenges it faces.

As president, my goals would be to promote the growth of our organization and to expand our efforts in developing suicide researchers. While we have attendance of about 500 at our Summits, the membership is still small. I think it is crucial to IASR to expand our membership and particularly to reach out to diverse communities. In addition, while we have membership representation in North America and Europe, other continents are not well-represented. With respect to developing suicide researchers, IASR's major activities have been the Summit and ASR. This year, under the leadership of Dr. Gil Zalsman, we have expanded our educational activities to include a meta-analysis workshop and a series of lectures in collaboration with AFSP on research methods issues that are particular to suicide research. I hope to expand on these wonderful new ventures.

### **Biographical Statement**

I am a clinical psychologist and I received PhD at New York University. I have spent most of my academic career at Columbia University where I am a Professor of Medical Psychology in the Department of Psychiatry at Columbia University and Director of the Suicide Prevention Training, Implementation and Evaluation program in the Center for Practice Innovations at New York State Psychiatric Institute where I develop suicide prevention training for clinicians throughout New York State. I am also a Research Scientist in the Division of Molecular Imaging and Neuropathology at New York State Psychiatric Institute where my research focuses on all aspects of suicidal behavior, non-suicidal self-injury and borderline personality disorder including assessment and intervention with suicidal individuals, clinical factors relevant to suicidal behavior and self-injury and neurobiological and biobehavioral influences on suicidal behavior. With my colleague, Dr. Gregory Brown, I developed the Safety Planning Intervention, an evidence-based suicide prevention intervention that is used internationally. In addition to my academic roles, I have been a practicing psychologist and have worked with many patients who grappled with suicidal feelings.

I have served on boards and committees of several professional organizations including AFSP, American College of Neuropsychopharmacology, the American Psychological Association and PRIM&R, a national research ethics organization. I have authored over two hundred publications, edited and co-written several books and I have been continuously funded by the National Institute of Mental Health for over 20 years.