

Dear IASR members,

This week I am concluding two years as president of the IASR.

First, I would like to thank the IASR board, Barbara, Diana, Kati, Lars and Vladimir for a great partnership and productive collaboration. Lars and Kati are leaving the board this week and a new president elect and new secretary will join. We extended the deadline for election for one week since only about half of the members voted so far and we feel it will be more democratic and appropriate to have a maximum number of voters for these two essential positions. So, if you haven't voted yet, please take a moment and vote via this link <https://suicide-research.org/2021-elections/> before January 3rd 2022 midnight CET.

Second, I would like to summarize the achievement of this board in the past two years. My term was mostly parallel to the spread of COVID-19, the largest pandemic in the past 100 years. Despite this fact we did quite a lot.



Two months ago, we concluded the **5th IASR/AFSP virtual Summit on Suicide Research** with more than 550 participants from 37 countries under the leadership of John Mann and Ping Qin. This was the largest summit ever. As an International Academy, we planned to hold this congress for the first time outside the US, in Barcelona, but unfortunately the COVID-19 pandemic had different plans. Hopefully in 2023 we will meet in Barcelona for a face-to-face meeting.

When I was elected two years ago, I promised to promote **educational activities** between summits. Despite the limitations on traveling, we succeeded to promote many educational activities prior to the summit for both senior and junior scientists.

The first **Metanalysis and Systematic Review workshop** with Prof. Stefan Leucht from Germany brought together more than 60 participants who learned how to conduct a metanalysis. These groups presented their findings in the IASR workshop during the Summit and will soon publish 4 excellent publications in our field.

In collaboration with AFSP we conducted **two virtual webinars for early career researchers on suicide research methods**. More than 50 Early career researchers participated in each webinar.

We finalized and published a SPOC, **short private online course, an introduction to suicidology**, open to all of you on our website (<https://suicide-research.org/iasr-spotlights/>)

During these two years we stabilized the financial assets and we have 83,000 USD in our bank account. We grew from 57 to 84 paying members and will do our best to increase this number.

With the approval of the general assembly of our members, we updated the bylaws and extended the terms of the current Treasurer (Vladimir Carli) and current Member-at-Large (Diana Clarke) until Dec. 31st 2022, in order to make the terms equal and continuous.

Our journal the Archives for Suicide Research is improving with an impact factor of over 3. The board also published a position paper regarding research of suicide during the pandemic in our journal, available here: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13811118.2020.1830242>



On **February 25th 2022**, if COVID allows us, we will do a **second “Introduction to meta-analysis” workshop in Rome**. This will be an “hands-on” exercise with RevMan (a software which is free to use for everybody) and will cover all the basics needed to “do it yourself” with the software. No prior knowledge is required. In case travel is not be possible we will convert the event to a virtual workshop. Register today at <https://suicide-research.org/iasr-meta-analysis-project/>

Finally, I would like to **thank again the IASR board members** that were leading all these activities with me: Dr. Diana E. Clarke, member-at-large, Dr. Vladimir Carli, Treasurer, Prof. Lars Mehlum, past President, Prof. Katalin Szanto, Secretary and Prof. Barbara Stanley, our Journal Editor and next President. I don't need to introduce Prof. Stanley and I am certain that under her leadership our organization will keep growing and improving to reach our mission to promote high quality suicide research.

I wish you and your families good health, Happy New Year, Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas.

Your sincerely

Prof. Gil Zalsman MD MHA

President, International Academy of Suicide Research