

Conflict Management and Conflict Resolution Section

World Psychiatric Association

A BRIEF HISTORY

Eliot Sorel, M.D., D.L.F.A.P.A., Section Founder

The George Washington University

XX Anniversary Symposium 1990-2010

Marrakech, Morocco

October 2010

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Antecedent Tributaries

- **Tumultuous decade of the 1980s**
- **Role of the psychiatrist in international conflict resolution**
- **Zagreb, Yugoslavia Symposium (Autumn, 1981)**
- **Role of social sciences in international human accords symposium**
- **Moscow, USSR (June 1987)**
- **Good will mission visits to USSR, glasnost, perestroika (1986-1989)**
- **The fall of the Berlin wall (Autumn, 1989)**
- **Catalytic euphoria of newly found freedoms, challenges ahead**

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Section Founding, Organization, First Meetings

- **WPA Executive Committee approved establishment of Section**
- **Oslo, Norway (August, 1990)**
- **Section first organizational meeting (October, 1990)**
- **At XII World Congress of Social Psychiatry, Washington, D.C.**
- **Section ratified by WPA Assembly, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
(October, 1993)**
- **Conflict, aggression, and violence: the healing roles of religion,
psychiatry, diplomacy**
- **First Section symposium, Budapest, Hungary (August, 1991)**

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Section Founders

- **Amelia Musacchio, Argentina**
- **Mauricio Knobel, Brazil**
- **Jean-Yves Gosselin, Canada**
- **Wu Chen I, China**
- **Marianne Kastrup, Denmark**
- **Mohammed Sha'alan, Egypt**
- **Pierre F. Chanoit, France**
- **Uwe Henrik Peters, Germany**
- **Janos Furedi, Hungary**

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Section Founders, *continued*

- **Shridhar Sharma, India**
- **Raphael Moses, Israel**
- **Adolfo Petiziol, Italy**
- **Charles Thesiger, Jamaica**
- **Yoshio Sakamoto, Japan**
- **Raymondo Macias, Mexico**
- **Yuri Popov, Russia**
- **Solomon Rataemane, South Africa**
- **Eliot Sorel, U.S.A.**

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Section's Mission and Vision

- **Explore the applications and limitations of psychiatric theory and practice to understand, manage, resolve conflicts**
- **Among ethnic groups, politically, economically, and culturally diverse systems**
- **Assess the impact of policy making, politics, and economics on psychiatry and vice versa**
- **Develop and test conflict management theory, compare practice and research in the same**
- **Initiate, develop, collaborative, mission and vision relevant, transdisciplinary projects**

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The Section by the Numbers

- **Organized more than 60 symposia**
- **Published 2 books:** *Images of Psychiatry, Romania* (2004);
Caribbean Psychiatry (2005)
- **Published 3 book chapters in *Advances in Psychiatry*:**
 - **“Violence Prevention and the Healing of Trauma”** (2002)
 - **“Populations’ Mental Health in Post-Conflict contexts”** (2005)
 - **“Post-Katrina New Orleans: Sustaining Multidisciplinary Approaches to Primary Care Through Policy Reform”** (2009)
- **Produced 2 DVDs:** *The Marshall Plan* (2005)
South Asia Tsunami Disaster (2005)
- **ECT Consensus Statement, Istanbul (July 2006)**

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Partnerships and Governance

- **WPA, APA, WASP,**
- **PAHO/WHO, NAS/IOM, NIMH**
- **Carter Center**
- **Trans-sectional collaboration, innovation proposed by the Section**
- **WPA International Congress, Rome, Italy (June, 1997)**

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Future Challenges and Opportunities

- **The Section's relevance in the 21st Century**
- **Renewing and expanding the Section's membership and leadership**
- **Augment trans-sectional collaborations**
- **Educational, services, research, and policy projects**
- **May the Section's next 20 years be at least as creative and productive as the prior 20**