

Greetings from WAIMH central Office – and from Finland to NFSU Congress, 27-28 October 2022

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President, Finnish Association of Child Psychiatry



WORLD ASSOCIATION FOR

INFANT MENTAL HEALTH



WAIMH Central Office – past and present

- WAIMH was founded 1980 as the World Association for Infant Psychiatry (WAIP), and then incorporated 1985 in Washington, DC, USA as the World Association for Infant Psychiatry and Allied Disciplines (WAIPAD).
- In 1992 the corporation named changed to World Association for Infant Mental Health (WAIMH) as the merger of the World Association for Infant Psychiatry and Allied Disciplines (WAIPAD) and the International Association for Infant Mental Health (IAIMH).
- The Office was in East Lansing, Michigan, with Dr Hiram Fitzgerald as the Executive Director, Tina Houghton and Dolores Fitzgerald took care of Office administration



About WAIMH

- The World Association for Infant Mental Health (WAIMH) is a not-for-profit organization for scientific and educational professionals.
- WAIMH's central aim is to promote the mental wellbeing and healthy development of infants throughout the world, taking into account cultural, regional, and environmental variations, and to generate and disseminate scientific knowledge.
- WAIMH is a membership association. Individuals from all parts of the world who are willing to promote the achievement of WAIMH's goals, as noted above, are invited to become members of the association.
- Note: although it is important to be a member of a WAIMH Affiliate, one still needs to be also an individual WAIMH member



WAIMH Central Office – past and present

- August 2008 the Central Office moved to Tampere, Finland, Dr Pälvi Kaukonen as the Executive Director, Kaija Puura as the Associate Executive Director
- The Office is affiliated with both the Tampere University
 - Faculty of Medicine and Health Technology and Unit of International Collaboration
 - Provides facilities (e.g. email, computers, printers, auditoriums)
- and Tampere University Hospital
 - Salary of the Senior Administrative Assistant, Ms Minna Sorsa
 - Office is located at the Hospital Campus



WAIMH Central Office – past and present

- 2018 Kaija Puura was appointed as the Executive Director, with Dr Reija Latva as the Associate Executive Director
- Ms Neea Aalto started as full-time Administrative Assistant in 3/2021
- The Office takes care of
 - WAIMH memberships
 - Layout and distribution of the Perspectives for Infant Mental Health together with the Editor-in-Chief Dr Maree Foley
 - Organizing WAIMH World Congresses together with Local Organizing Committees and professional congress organizers





New activities and role in the future

- Year 2022 WAIMH has created a series of 15 webinars in collaboration with Toronto Sick Kids and Tampere University
 - starting from Jan 15 – discount for WAIMH Members (350USD)
- The Perspectives has developed into a peer review journal with current topics
- WAIMH is also collaborating with the Child and Family Blog
 - Joint survey on topics for creating parent material for IMH professionals in different cultures
- The role of WAIMH will be
 - distributing knowledge of current infant mental health issues – like Covid-19 reliably and quickly
 - Organizing and developing training for different countries and cultures using the current technology



Thank you!

