



May 31, 2020

REPORT ON THE

International Congress in Spirituality and Psychiatry

4th Global Meeting in Spirituality and Mental Health

Organized by the WPA Section on Religion, Spirituality and Psychiatry

WPA Co-sponsored Congress

December 1-4, 2019, Jerusalem, Israel

The 4th Global Meeting in Spirituality and Mental Health was planned in Berlin, October 2017 during the meeting of our section at the World Congress of Psychiatry. The Organizing Committee Members were: Alan Fung, Canada; Avdesh Sharma, India; and Peter Verhagen, Netherlands; the Scientific Committee Members were: Alan Fung, Canada; Alexander Moreira-Almeida, Brazil; Bernard van Rensburg, South Africa (1960-2020); Rael Strous, Israel and the Local Organizing Committee included Essam Daod, Haim Belmaker, Pesach Lichtenberg and Rael Strous. The event was co-chaired by Prof Sharma and Prof Moreira-Almeida.

The Congress drew 348 participants from 35 countries. There were 24 speakers invited by the Scientific Committee. Additional plenary speakers were chosen by a quantitative rating process. In addition, there were 27 posters presentations.

The meeting had a large number of quantitative empirical studies of the role and importance of religion and spirituality in psychiatry, illness and treatment. In addition, lectures from all over the world from the Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, Christian, Jewish and other traditions exposed the participants to the varied yet somehow similar manifestations of religion in human psychic life throughout the world. The location in the heart of historic, cultural and religious Jerusalem was extremely conducive to interchange, mutual tolerance and particularly enthusiasm from our field within psychiatry and mental health. At the conclusion of the meeting poster awards were handed out as well as a founders' award to Prof Herman Van Praag.

Haim Belmaker

Local Organizing Committee Chairman

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