

# *Atlas*

PSYCHIATRIC EDUCATION  
AND TRAINING  
ACROSS THE WORLD  
2005



World Health  
Organization



World Psychiatric  
Association



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WHO Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Atlas : psychiatric education and training across the world 2005.

1.Psychiatry – education 2.Education, Medical – statistics 3.Academic medical centers – statistics 4.Atlases I.World Health Organization II.World Psychiatric Association.

ISBN 92 4 156307 9

(NLM classification: WM 19)

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Printed in  
Designed by Tushita Graphic Vision Sarl, CH-1226 Thonex

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## Contents

Acknowledgements .....	4
Foreword .....	5
Preface .....	6
Introduction.....	7
Method .....	8
Summary of results .....	9
Presence of psychiatric training programmes .....	10
Training programmes and infrastructure .....	12
Training curricula and teaching methods.....	16
Evaluation of training.....	21
Super-specialization and bilateral arrangement .....	23
Licensing and roles of national institutions .....	25
Case study.....	27

## Appendices

Psychiatric education and training across the world .....	28
WPA's activities in psychiatric education and training .....	30
Case study: A comparison in psychiatric training.....	31
Atlas respondents/key contacts and training institutes/bodies .....	35
Contributors of additional Information.....	40

## Acknowledgements

*Atlas: Psychiatric Education and Training Across the World* is the result of a joint collaborative effort between the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Psychiatric Association (WPA). The Project was supervised and coordinated by Dr Shekhar Saxena, WHO, Geneva. Technical support was provided by Dr Pallab K. Maulik and in the initial phase by Dr Pratap Sharan. Dr Benedetto Saraceno provided the vision and guidance to this project. Ms Rosemary Westermeyer provided administrative support and assisted with production.

Key collaborators from WHO Regional Offices include: Dr Thérèse Agossou, Regional Office for Africa; Dr José Miguel Caldas de Almeida, Regional Office for the Americas; Dr Vijay Chandra, Regional Office for South-East Asia; Dr Matthijs Muijen, Regional Office for Europe; Dr R.S. Murthy and Dr A. Mohit, Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean; and Dr Xiangdong Wang, Regional Office for the Western Pacific.

At WPA, the principal collaborator was Professor Roger Montenegro, WPA Secretary for Education. Support was received from the WPA Zone Representatives, especially in reaching National Societies or leading professionals in

countries where there were no WPA Member Societies. The Presidents, Secretaries, and other officers of WPA Member Societies responded to the questionnaire, which became the basis of this report. Other members of the WPA who provided constructive and valuable support, were the WPA Educational Liaisons Network and the staff of the WPA Education Coordination Centre. Mr Eduardo Ausejo Yzaguirre helped with the statistical analysis.

Contributions from all individuals who responded to the questionnaire and provided written comments on specific topics have been valuable in the production of this volume. Their names are provided in the appendices.

The contribution of each of these team members and partners, along with the input of many other unnamed people, has been vital to the success of this project.

The publication of this volume has been assisted by Ms Tushita Bosonet (graphic design) and Mr Christophe Grangier (map).

## Foreword

Psychiatrists play an important role in the delivery of mental health services. However, global information about the quality of training of psychiatrists is largely unavailable. Do countries train adequate numbers of psychiatrists for their mental health needs? How satisfactory is the training in view of the changing roles of a psychiatrist? Does the training take into account enormously different environments in which psychiatrists work across the world? These and other similar questions need urgent answers. *Atlas: Psychiatric Education and Training across the World* is an initial attempt in this direction.

This member of the Atlas family is a joint publication of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Psychiatric Association (WPA) and is a testimony to the active collaboration between these two organizations. The Atlas also clearly responds to the mandates and visions of the two organizations.

The overall strategic direction of the World Health Organization, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, is to reduce the burden associated with mental, neurological and substance use disorders and to promote mental health worldwide. WHO recognizes that close attention to training of appropriate human resources is crucial to achieving these objectives. Mental Health Atlas-2005 has clearly demonstrated the severe shortfall of mental health professionals, including psychiatrists especially in low and middle

income countries. Atlas Psychiatric Training provides further information to assist in planning by countries to reduce this shortfall.

The World Psychiatric Association is an international association of psychiatric societies. Its objectives include to "increase knowledge and skills necessary for work in the field of mental health and in the care for the mentally ill" and "to promote the development of the highest quality standards in psychiatric teaching as well as observance of such standards". The WPA Secretary for Education and the Education Coordination Center strive to fulfil these objectives. Atlas Psychiatric Training provides critical information for national psychiatric societies to take their work forward in this important area.

At the global level, the Atlas provides an overview of the situation and also documents the existing regional variations. At the country level, it provides some useful information along with references to sources within countries that can provide more information.

We hope that this Atlas is successful in drawing the attention of health and medical education departments of countries to the enormous need for developing plans to establish or reform psychiatric training in their countries. WHO, as well as Member Societies of the World Psychiatric Association are ready to assist them in this important task.

### **Benedetto Saraceno**

Director, Department of Mental Health  
and Substance Abuse  
World Health Organization

### **Ahmed Okasha**

President  
World Psychiatric Association



## Preface

We are pleased to present *Atlas: Psychiatric Education and Training Across the World*.

Project Atlas of the World Health Organization has the primary objective of collecting, compiling and disseminating information on mental health resources on a worldwide scale. Psychiatrists are essential and important human resources to provide mental health care as well as to assist development of policy and services for mental health within the country. The present Atlas provides information on psychiatric education and training from across the world. Like other publications in the Atlas series, the information has been collected using a questionnaire sent to key informants within countries. Since the project has been undertaken jointly by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Psychiatric Association (WPA) through its Education Coordination Center, the extensive network of these two organizations were available to support the project. Key informants were largely the office bearers of WPA Components (WPA Member Societies and Members of the WPA Educational Liaison Network), but additional information was collected from WHO Collaborating Centres and Regional Offices.

**Shekhar Saxena**

Coordinator, Mental Health: Evidence and Research  
World Health Organization

The results of Atlas Psychiatric Training reveal a general deficiency and a marked variability in training across the world. Many medium sized countries have either no training facilities or the facilities cater to a very small number of trainees every year. The content of training and the quality also vary considerably. Standards either do not exist or cannot be followed strictly due to a variety of constraints. Inadequate attention is given to making the trainees develop knowledge and skills in activities that they are likely to undertake in actual practice during their professional career. Teaching methods, evaluation, licensing and continuing education all showed considerable scope for improvement within many responding countries.

Though the present Atlas was not able to achieve a high coverage of countries, the findings nevertheless provide a good indication of the areas needing the greatest and the most urgent attention. We hope that the Atlas will facilitate action to make psychiatric education and training more widely available and respond to the critical needs of mental health systems within countries.

**Roger Montenegro**

Secretary for Education  
World Psychiatric Association

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