



Dear All

May is an important month for Infant Mental Health, with the 16<sup>th</sup> WAIMH World Congress just 21 days away. The theme for this year is “***New Challenges for a 3<sup>rd</sup> Millenium Infant Mental Health***”, and will explore some of the new ideas on the old question of the influences of nature and nurture on infants and children. To any of our members who are traveling to Rome to attend the congress, we wish you safe travels and hope you will be able to share some of your experiences with us when you return.

Thanks to those of you who managed to attend last month’s meeting which was held at Stikland, and extra special thanks to Dr Anusha Lachman who presented her fascinating research into the ***Shared Pleasure Paradigm***, and to Juane Voges for organising the evening so well.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of this May month, we have an important presentation lined up titled **Mothers of Children with Disabilities: In mourning or on the march?** Our speaker is Dr Brian Watermeyer, who is a clinical psychologist and disabilities researcher based at UCT’s Disability Studies Division. He has published widely on disability, psychoanalysis and clinical psychology and has taught on postgraduate programs at 3 Cape Universities. Dr Watermeyer identifies as a disabled person and has an extensive portfolio of media articles and appearances as an activist in the South African disability movement. His presentation to our group will provide background to key debates regarding the impact of disability on familial relationships.

This is a topic which evokes strong feelings as it involves theory, politics, human rights issues and strongly held beliefs about what disability is about and what disabled children and their families ‘need’. Dr Watermeyer’s discussion will be rooted in a critical psychoanalytic view of disability inequality, which asks questions about the nature of unconscious evocations stirred by images and notions of bodily difference which mediate social responses to disabled people. He will also discuss implications for social justice activism and clinical practice. We are really looking forward to this important conversation.

Please find on the website some information on upcoming training courses:

- *workshop on parent consultations*
- *introduction to parent infant psychotherapy*
- *post graduate certificate in therapeutic play skills*
- *workshop on developmental understanding and education principles*

We look forward to seeing you all again at 7:30pm on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May at the Out-Patient Unit of the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (46 Sawkins Rd, Rondebosch, entrance in Liesbeek Rd). Visitors are very welcome to attend and are asked to bring R60 (in an envelope marked with your name please).

Warm wishes,

Caroline, Barbara and Jacqui