

AUGUST NEWSLETTER

Welcome back to all our valued members and visitors after our little winter break. We hope you had a good rest and are ready for the second half of 2017’s interesting WCAIMH presentations. We have some very knowledgeable speakers lined up for you.

On the 17th of this month, we will be hearing from Professor Barak Morgan who is a biologist, engineer and medical doctor with clinical experience mostly in psychiatry. His varied background allows him to apply a wide range of interests, ideas and techniques to complex brain, mind and behaviour questions. Most of his research is in the field of early childhood development, focused on the enduring impact of early social experience on brain development and the consequences this has for health, psychosocial and economic outcomes in later life. The title of Barak’s presentation is **Beyond Toxic Stress – Can Neuroscience Add Further Value to ECD in Africa?** The Toxic Stress narrative of early brain development emanating from the USA, has become a central element of ECD discourse globally. Its success in unifying stakeholders, galvanizing resources and informing policy is unprecedented. Nevertheless, there may be reason to question whether the North American Toxic Stress narrative should be uncritically accepted in Africa. We are really looking forward to exploring this issue with Professor Morgan on the 17th.

Next month we will be treated to a presentation by Judy Davies on Baby Watching, where she will help us consider some of the difficult ethical issues involved in this work. And then in October, Dr Karen Kaplan-Solms will be coming to talk to us.

Our next meeting will take place at 7:30pm on Thursday 17th August at the Out-Patient Unit of the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (46 Sawkins Rd, Rondebosch). Please feel free to forward this newsletter on to any friends or colleagues who may be interested. Visitors are very welcome to attend (R50 visitors’ fee payable in cash at the meeting).

Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend and looking forward to seeing many of you in a few weeks’ time.

Warm wishes,

Caroline and the WCAIMH Committee

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