

MAY NEWSLETTER AND NOTICE OF OUR NEXT MEETING

Greetings to all our members and to any new visitors who are now on our mailing list.

We had a wonderfully rich and insightful presentation from Joan Raphael-Leff last month on the complex interplay between a mother’s prenatal expectations and fantasies, her own childhood memories and experiences, her parenting style as well as her new baby’s temperament; and how all of this influences her experience of motherhood. Thank you to all who attended for the interesting discussion that followed this fascinating talk. For those of you who would like to purchase Joan’s book, The Dark Side of The Womb, copies are available from Astrid at a discounted price of R200.

We are very fortunate to have another expert in the field of Infant Mental Health coming to talk to us this month. Professor Mark Tomlinson is a member of the Department of Psychology at Stellenbosch University. His work includes investigating factors that contribute to compromised maternal and child health and understanding infant and child development in the context of poverty, violence and adversity. He is also involved in developing and implementing community intervention programs to improve maternal and child health. In his presentation, *“Mapping the Gaps between Expert, Stakeholder, and Public Understandings of Child Development in South Africa”*, Prof Tomlinson will share findings from recent research into the discrepancies between how members of the public *think* and experts *talk* about issues related to early childhood and early childhood development, and explore the importance of effective communication between all parties involved.

This meeting will take place on THURSDAY 19 MAY at 7:30pm at the Out-patient Unit of the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, 46 Sawkins Rd, Rondebosch. We look forward to seeing you all there and please feel free to invite any friends or colleagues you think may be interested in this presentation. The visitor’s fee is R50, payable in cash at the meeting.

The next date for your diaries is Thursday 15 June, when we will hear from Meg Faure about infant self-regulation – this is sure to be another fascinating talk.

Wishing you a productive week after all the holidays.

Warm wishes,

Caroline and the WCAIMH committee

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