

---

## From the Editors

By Deborah Weatherston, Michigan, USA,  
dweatherston@mi-aimh.org,

Hiram E. Fitzgerald, Michigan, USA,  
fitzger9@msu.edu,

Maree Foley, New Zealand,  
maree.foley@xtra.co.nz

This double-issue issue of Perspectives in Infant Mental Health includes articles that underline WAIMH's mission: To promote education, research, and study of the effects of mental, emotional, and social development during infancy on later normal and psychopathological development through international and interdisciplinary cooperation, publications, affiliate associations, and through regional and biennial congresses devoted to scientific, educational, and clinical work with infants and their caregivers.

Miri Keren's Presidential Address, given at the WAIMH Conference in Edinburgh this past June presents the history of the organization and details the very important WAIMH Declaration of Infant's Rights. Jane Barlow's contribution celebrates the highpoints of the Conference and Astrid Berg's commentary articulates the possibility for cooperation through planning the WAIMH 2016 Conference in Tel Aviv with the local planning committee members from both Israel and the Palestine communities. Joshua Sparrow, offers words of hope in the midst of despair related to the conflicts world-wide that affect the lives of babies, young children, and families. Alexandra Harrison extends her support and reflective approach to caregivers in many places around the world through the use of distance technology. Maree Foley and Anna Huber offer extensive updates from the Affiliate Council. Japanese colleague, Hisako Watanabe, gives a careful

history of the development of the newest WAIMH affiliate in Japan and her colleague, Shintaro Kikuchi, provides an important update about the continuing impact on the lives of young children, as well as progress toward recovery in Fukushima, following the devastating tsunami. (Dr. Kikuchi's article appears in Japanese at the end of this current issue.) Maree Foley has organized a new column that focuses on scientific studies around the world in infant mental health. The issue ends with a review of a book by Miri Keren and a report from the Tampere WAIMH Central Office.

As always, the editors invite submissions and commentary from you. Our plans for the coming year include the use of social media for more immediate postings and the possibility of comments on-line. We look forward to hearing for you and to contributions from around the world.

---

## A Call for Papers for the World in WAIMH

In June of 2013, the editors of the Perspectives in Infant Mental Health announced the birth of an occasional column, The World in WAIMH, intended to generate reflection and dialogue on the roles of context, culture, and community in infant mental health around the world. Our shared hope is that this will offer a space for questioning, challenge, dialogue and interdisciplinary discussion. We are calling for

- commentary,
- field reports,
- case studies,
- concept or theory building papers,
- research articles,
- book reviews,
- literature reviews,
- and (when proper permission can be obtained) adaptations of previously published articles

In our globalized world, every infant and family is affected by forces far beyond their reach, forces that may strengthen, hinder, or undo the work of infant mental health professionals. To be a truly global organization, WAIMH will increasingly need to understand and develop strategies to address these forces. To foster healthy early development around the world, WAIMH will need to extend its reach, and to learn from contexts, cultures and communities that are not or only minimally represented in its current membership. Among the many questions to answer are:

- What processes can contribute to a more inclusive and expansive knowledge base?
- What kinds of partnerships – with members of cultures not yet represented within WAIMH, with other organizations, with other disciplines such as cultural anthropology or community psychology – are needed to truly put the world in WAIMH?

We look forward to your reflections and hope that vigorous dialogue in this reflective space will ensue. Joshua Sparrow, Director of Planning, Strategy and Program Development at the Brazelton Touchpoints Center (Boston Children's Hospital/Harvard Medical School), conceived of this column and has enthusiastically agreed to coordinate it.

What follows is a contribution from Alexandra Harrison who describes her consultative work with care providers in Central America and India.