

WORLD SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY - SEPTEMBER 10, 2011

“Preventing Suicide in Multicultural Societies”

Venue: Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine - Cheung Kung Hai Lecture Theatre 4

TENTATIVE* PROGRAMME

Time	Programme	Hosts / Speakers
09.30 – 09.45		Registration
09.45 – 11.15	Symposium Topic Restriction to access to the means of suicide	“Restriction to access to means as a suicide prevention strategy” Professor Keith Hawton Topic: Charcoal Burning Professor Paul Yip Moderator: Mrs Vanda Scott
11.15 – 11.45		<i>Coffee Break</i>
11.45 – 13.15	Symposium Topic Suicide across the ages	Topic: Suicide in the Elderly Professor Diego de Leo Topic: Suicide and Youth Dr Alan (Lanny) Berman Moderator: Professor Keith Hawton
13.15 – 14.30		<i>Lunch Break</i>
14.30 – 16.00	Symposium Topic Assessing and formulating suicide risk	Topic: The Suicidal Patient - Principles of Assessment Professor Murad Khan Topic: The Suicidal Patient - Principles of Management Dr William Lo Moderator: Dr Tony Davis
16.00 – 16.30		Closing Remarks Dr Alan (Lanny) Berman
16.30 – 17.00		<i>Coffee Break</i>
17.00 – 18.00	Press Conference - a global launch of WSPD	Professor Alan (Lanny) Berman Professor Diego De Leo Professor Paul Yip Professor Keith Hawton
18.00		Press Interviews

ABSTRACT AND BIOGRAPHIES

Topic 1: Restriction to access to means of suicide



“Restriction to Access to Means as a Suicide Prevention Strategy”

Professor Keith Hawton

Director

Centre for Suicide Research

University of Oxford, United Kingdom

Abstract

Restriction of access to means for suicide is a key element in national suicide prevention strategies. This is because access to means can increase the likelihood of a suicidal act and influence whether or not it is likely to be lethal. The principles of restricting access to means will be described, including the concept of case fatality. The following key approaches of this kind will then be illustrated, together with examples:

1. Withdrawal of method;
2. Making methods safer less toxic
3. Reducing amount of method available;
4. Reducing ease of access to method.

Finally, the issue of how substitution by new methods of suicide and how media reporting of such methods can undermine restriction of access to a particular method will be examined.

Biography

Professor of Psychiatry and Director of the Centre for Suicide Research at Oxford University. For 35 years he and his research group have been conducting investigations concerning the epidemiology, causes, treatment, prevention and outcome of suicidal behaviour. Current major interests include restriction of access to means for suicide, effectiveness of treatments and services for self-harm patients, self-harm in adolescents, suicide and the media, risk factors for suicide in specific psychiatric disorders, and suicide and self-harm in prisoners. He has published more than 400 papers and chapters and 15 books, including *The International Handbook of Suicide and Attempted Suicide* (2000), *Prevention and Treatment of Suicidal Behaviour: From Science to Practice* (2005), and *By Their Own Young Hand: Deliberate Self Harm and Suicidal Ideas in Adolescents* (2006). Professor Hawton has received the following awards: Stengel Research Award from the International Association for Suicide Prevention (1995); Dublin Career Research Award from the American Association of Suicidology (2000); Research Award of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (2002).

Topic 1: Restriction to access to means of suicide



Professor Paul Yip

Director and Professor

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Centre for Suicide Research and Prevention
Department of Social Work and Social Administration
The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Abstract

Charcoal burning suicide by carbon monoxide poisoning has become one of the most frequently used methods in Hong Kong and Taiwan. The profiles of this type of suicide deaths, however, are significantly different from other methods – mainly, employed, middle aged, with financial debt and less mental illness. These suicides are not a replacement of the existing but reflect an attraction of a new cohort into the suicide population. We conducted an exploratory controlled trial to examine the efficacy of restricting access to charcoal in preventing suicides from carbon monoxide poisoning by charcoal burning in Hong Kong. All charcoal packs were removed from the open shelves of major retail outlets in the intervention region for 12 months; in the control region, charcoal packs were displayed as usual. The suicide rate from charcoal burning was reduced by a statistically significant margin in the intervention region ($P < 0.05$) but not in the control region. We observed no significant change in the suicide rate using other methods in either location. Difficulties in how to expand the prevention method to be implemented in the whole community will be discussed.

Biography

Professor Yip is the director of the HKJC Centre for Suicide Research and Prevention and a Professor of Social Work and Social Administration at the University of Hong Kong. He is a national representative of the Hong Kong SAR for the International Association of Suicide Prevention (IASP) and a fellow of the International Association of Suicide Research, a consultant for Beijing Suicide Prevention Services, a board member for Suicide Prevention Service (Hong Kong). He has done innovative suicide prevention work in restricting means of charcoal in a community-based exploratory study. He is a pioneer in developing sophisticated surveillance system in monitoring and estimating suicide rate. He has received the Outstanding Research Award, The University of Hong Kong in 2009, a Distinguished Alumni Award, La Trobe University in 2008 for his excellent research and service on population health. He is also a recipient of an Excellent Research Award "Charcoal Burning Suicide" by the Health and Welfare Bureau of Hong Kong SAR Government, 2007 and a Silver Asian Innovation Award, by Asian Wall Street Journal and Singapore Economic Development Board, 2005. Professor Yip's current interests are: in adopting a public health approach in suicide prevention especially, restriction of means, cost-effectiveness of suicide prevention, mass media contagious effect on suicide, East and West comparison in suicide gender ratio, cultural and religious effects on suicide and program evaluation of evidence-based suicide prevention programs.

Topic 2: Suicide across the ages



Professor Diego de Leo

Director

Australian Institute for Suicide Research and Prevention
Griffith University, Australia

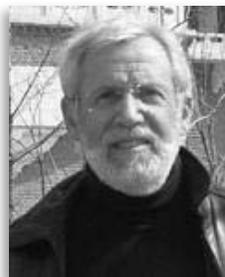
Abstract

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Biography

Professor Diego De Leo is the Director of the Australian Institute for Suicide Research and Prevention and a Professor of Psychiatry at Griffith University. The Institute is also a World Health Organization Collaborating Centre in Suicide Research and Training, as well as the Commonwealth-appointed National Centre of Excellence in Suicide Prevention. He has been a President of both the International Association for Suicide Prevention (“IASP”) and the International Academy for Suicide Research (“IASR”). He is a member of the Australian Suicide Prevention Advisory Council and is Chair of the Advisory Committee on Data Quality and Evaluation. He is the Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Crisis* (Germany), Associate Editor of *BMC Public Health* (UK), and Regional Editor of *Behavioral Medicine* (USA), and sits in the editorial board of nine more journals. Professor De Leo has won several national and international awards. He has published extensively (in excess of 700 publications, including 230 peer-reviewed articles, 145 book chapters and 33 volumes). His long association with the World Health Organization has led to the creation of 7 collaborative studies including the WHO/SUPRE-MISS (SUicide PREvention - Multisite Intervention Study on Suicide) and the WHO/START Study Project (Suicide Trends in At-Risk Territories). He is the ideator of World Day for Suicide Prevention, taking place every September 10th since its establishment in 2003.

Topic 2: Suicide across the ages



Abstract
TBD

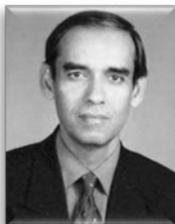
Dr Alan (Lanny) Berman
President

International Association of Suicide Prevention (IASP)
United States of America

Biography

Dr Berman is President (2009-2011) of the International Association of Suicide Prevention (IASP). Previous to this, he held elected positions in IASP as both treasurer and vice president. Since 1995, he has been the Executive Director of the American Association of Suicidology (AAS). He is a Past-President of the AAS (1984-1985), their 1982 Shneidman Award recipient (for Outstanding Contributions in Research in Suicidology), and their 2006 Louis I. Dublin Award winner (for outstanding service and contributions to the field of suicide prevention). Dr Berman holds a B.A. degree from the Johns Hopkins University and a Ph.D. from the Catholic University of America. From 1969 to 1991 he taught at the American University where he attained the rank of tenured full professor. In 1991 Dr Berman changed his appointment to that of Distinguished Adjunct Professor when he was named Director of the newly established National Center for the Study and Prevention of Suicide at the Washington School of Psychiatry, a position he held until accepting his current role with the AAS in January, 1995. A Diplomate in Clinical Psychology (American Board of Professional Psychology) and a Fellow of the American Psychological Association and the International Academy of Suicide Research, Dr Berman maintains a part-time private practice of psychotherapy, psychological and forensic consultation in Washington, D.C. Dr Berman is board certified as a forensic Suicidologist. He is a past-president of the APA's Section VII, Div. 12 (Behavioral Emergencies). He has published over 100 professional articles and book chapters and authored/edited six (6) books in Suicidology. He serves as consulting editor for three peer-reviewed journals: *Suicide and Life Threatening Behavior*, *Crisis*, and *Archives of Suicide Research*.

Topic 3: Assessing and formulating suicide risk



Professor Murad Moosa Khan

Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry

Aga Khan University, Pakistan

Abstract

Suicide is a common cause of death, especially in young people and elderly men. Many people who commit suicide have seen a physician shortly before their death, though this may not be so in many developing countries with poorly developed health systems. Suicidal patients may frequently be very depressed and may be abusing alcohol. Unless questioned, they are not likely to reveal these problems to the physician. The assessment of suicidal thoughts or behaviour and its management are topics relevant to all clinicians, not just mental health professionals. Careful assessment of the risk factors for suicide and treatment of depression and alcohol abuse, with the involvement of the patient's family and friends, could potentially save many lives.

Biography

Dr Murad Moosa Khan, MBBS, MRCPsych, CST, PhD is Professor & Chairman Department of Psychiatry, Aga Khan University. He has been member of IASP since 1995 and is currently the Chair of National Representatives and Board member of IASP since 2007. His research interests include epidemiology of suicide, mental health of women and elderly, psychosomatic medicine and bioethics. He is the Principal Investigator of Karachi Suicide Study (KaSS), a collaborative study with the Institute of Psychiatry, London, studying suicide in Karachi using the psychological autopsy methodology He is on the editorial board of several national and international journals including Crisis, The International Review of Psychiatry and Shanghai Archives of Psychiatry.

Topic 3: Assessing and formulating suicide risk



Dr William Lo

Chief of Service in Psychiatry

Kwai Chung Hospital, Hong Kong