**ITALIAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION**

**Lifetime Achievement Award**

During the 46th National Congress of the Italian Psychiatric Association held in Milan, Italy, on October 7-11, 2012, Dr. Francesca Brambilla was recognized with a “Lifetime Achievement Award” for her scientific contributions on behalf of the World Psychiatric Association’s Section on Psychoneuroendocrinology. In the photo on this news, from left to right are: Dr. Claudio Mencacci, President of the Italian Psychiatric Association, Dr. Giampaolo Perna, Dr. Charles B. Nemeroff, Dr. Francesca Brambilla, Dr. Pedro Ruiz, President of the WPA, Dr. Alan F. Schatzberg, and Dr. Ned Kalin.

46th National Conference of the Italian Psychiatric Association (SIP) “Nourishing the Mind. From Prevention to Rehabilitation Today”

7-11 October 2012, Milan, Italy

The 46th National Conference of the Italian Psychiatric Association (SIP) took place last October in Milan, Italy, and was attended by WPA’s President, Prof. Pedro Ruiz, President-Elect, Prof. Dinesh Bhugra, and Past-President, Prof. Mario Maj.

The conference, structured through international plenary sessions and with more than 100 simultaneous symposia, was attended by almost 1,500 Italian psychiatrists (out of the around 6,000 constituting SIP) debating the most recent aspects of innovation in the field of psychiatry - from evidence provided by research to the organization of Mental Health Services.

During the conference, the Italian Psychiatric Association Council renewed its statutory members, electing Dr. Claudio Mencacci (Milan) and Prof. Emilio Sacchetti (Brescia) as President and President-Elect. Their 3-year mandate offers an important occasion for a scientific and clinical re-launching of Italian psychiatry in the future, as an increasing number of commitments will face the field.

Under the influence of the World Psychiatric Association (WPA), the member society SIP will also particularly value the efforts on the part of the more than 30 special and regional Sections to maintain intense collaborative relations with their twin sections from the WPA.

In shadow of the WPA’s worldwide anti-stigma campaigns, among other initiatives, the international photography exhibition on mental health “Invisible Solitudes – Life at the Edge of Mental Health” took place throughout the Conference. Thirty photographs by six photographers, published on www.SocialDocumentary.net, were chosen to present an intimate look at psychological suffering and its expression in different socio-cultural contexts. At the same time, they aimed to denounce its causes - and the ignorance and silence surrounding it.

Link to the exhibition’s website and photo galleries: http://www.socialdocumentary.net/about.php?id=13

Massimo Clerici
Secretary, WPA Section on Addiction Psychiatry and Section on Family Research and Intervention
President, Italian Society of Addiction Psychiatry (SIP.Dip) and the Italian Society of Family Research and Intervention (SIRIF), Special Sections of the Italian Psychiatric Association (SIP)

**CROATIAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION**

**Activities in 2012**

The Croatian Psychiatric Association (CPA) was founded in 1992, and is a member of the World Psychiatric Association (WPA) since June 1993. The CPA organizes a psychiatric congress every four years (five have been organized so far - Split 1994, Opatija 1998, Osijek 2002, Cavtat 2006, and Šibenik 2010). Since 2004, the CPA has organized annual meetings titled Croatian Psychiatric Days. At this year’s Croatian Psychiatric Days, 220 psychiatrists participated, and 150 of them were of a younger age.

This year the CPA organized a symposium on the 10th of October, World Mental Health Day. The symposium was titled “Depression in the context of the global crisis” and was held in The University psychiatric hospital “Vrapče” in Zagreb. In attendance were 150 psychiatrists, psychiatry residents and other professionals in the field of mental health.

The CPA contributed significantly to the proclamation of the 6th of June as the Day for the rights of persons with mental disorders. On 1 June the Croatian congress issued the decision that the 6th of June be pronounced the day for the rights of persons with mental