



NEWSFLASH – *SUMMER 2013*





Message from the Board

We hope that everyone has enjoyed his/her summer holiday and gained energy to continue their work as threat assessment professionals. It feels already long ago, but as a board we still think back of the Vienna conference as another successful event in our relatively short history. We are particularly glad that there were so many representatives of so many different countries.

The event started on the Monday in the Mayor's House, a beautiful historical building in the centre of Vienna. Dr. Jens Hoffmann and Andrea Wechlin from the AETAP board gave presentations and were part of the expert commission. Jens focussed on spousal homicide risk assessment, and Andrea, being the head of a coordinating office and a woman shelter in Switzerland, spoke about threat management in domestic violence cases. Our well regarded friends and experts from Canada / CATAP, Dr. Kelly Watt and Dr. Stephen Hart also took part of this afternoon session and spoke about domestic violence fatality review teams and domestic violence risk assessment.

On the Tuesday the conference was officially opened and our keynote speaker, Professor Paul Mullen presented on the role of psychotic and schizophrenic disorders when assessing risk in cases. Risk in cases where there is serious mental illness, always raises questions. Professor Mullen succeeded in presenting a good overview of what modern research shows, and explained this with actual casework and his clinical experience. The conference continued and many more speakers followed with very useful contributions and great learning value.

The AETAP board will have her yearly meeting on Saturday 14 September in Stockholm. In this beautiful northern European city our next AETAP conference (7-11 April 2014) will be held. As a board we are already actively preparing this event.

If you are a member of our association, and there are topics you would like to see discussed, or ideas for the Stockholm conference, please feel free to send me or any other members of the board. One comment we have heard from the previous conference is that there is a need for more practical information on threat management programs. How to practically set up such a program, what the costs and benefits are, etc.

Regarding this newsflash, we have decided that it will be published to our members twice a year. This gives us the opportunity to provide you twice every year with high value developments and a very informative document.

International certification, finding sponsors that would be willing to support the work of our association, and spreading the word of our work in even more countries around the world are important topics on our agenda. Although outside of Europe, we are glad to see that the South-African police service has now shown serious interest and will send representatives to Stockholm.



Last but certainly not least the AETAP is delighted to introduce to you 3 new members of our association. Mr. Niall Burns from the United Kingdom, mr. Niclas Franclin from Sweden and mr. Stephen Coupe from the United Kingdom. The board is delighted to have you as members and we are looking forward to work with you in the future.

Bram van der Meer, AETAP President

AETAP was proud to host the official international board meeting of the major threat assessment associations – ATAP, AATAP, AETAP, and CATAP.



New developments

Publications in progress

Attached to this newsletter is information about the **International Handbook of Threat Assessment**, edited by dr. Reid Meloy and dr. Jens Hoffmann.

Journal of Threat Assessment and Management

JTAM is a scholarly journal publishing peer-reviewed papers representing the science and practice of risk for violence and fear-inducing behavior.

It is published by the American Psychological Association. JTAM is now accepting submissions on



topics such as: • Targeted violence • Threats against public figures • Stalking • Intimate partner and family violence • Terrorism • Group violence • Sexual violence • Workplace, school, and campus violence • Assessment instruments and procedures • Management strategies and tactics • Threat assessment teams and units • Operational issues • Professional issues • Legal issues • Best practices

JTAM will be an official publication of the major international threat assessment associations – ATAP, AATAP, AETAP, and CATAP. The Senior Editorial Board members are Drs. Stephen D. Hart, Jens Hoffmann, J. Reid Meloy, and Lisa Warren. The first issue is due in March 2014. Every year four issues of the highest quality journal in threat assessment and management will be published.

Do you have something important to communicate to your peers about threat assessment – things such as recommendations for working with specific groups of people or in specific settings, how your threat assessment team or unit operates, a case study, or research findings? Keep in mind the Journal of Threat Assessment and Management (JTAM).

‘The Journal of Violence and Gender’ is another new relevant journal for our field of threat assessment. It is going to be about violence in general including the type of violence we are seeing in schools, universities and in the work place. Crime statistics, particularly in these types of crimes, indicate that males are more violent than women. However, the *Journal* will look at violence committed by both males and females and how and why males and females are different in this type of behavior. The *Journal* will look at causes, etiology, prevention, assessment, intervention, strategies, etc. It will involve editors from a variety of disciplines: psychiatrists; psychologists; sociologists; law enforcement; neurobiologists; anthropologists etc. Associate board member and investigative psychologist, Lieke Bootsma, will be part of the editorial board. The *Journal* will be published online with open access options and in print by Mary Ann Liebert, Inc., publishers. It will come out for the first time this autumn. The Editor-in-Chief of The *Journal*, *Mary Ellen O’Toole, PhD*, is recognized as the FBI’s leading expert in psychopathy. Her expertise is in criminal investigative analysis, offender behaviour, targeted school violence, workplace violence, and threat assessment.

Published research

Recent editions from *Psychology, Crime & Law* included some interesting articles on risk-assessment -and management of violence:

Typologies, risk and recidivism in partner-violent men with the B-SAFER: a pilot study by the Spanish researcher *Ismael Loinaz* validates the Canadian tool (the Brief Spousal Assault Form for the Evaluation of Risk). The B-SAFER showed to have a good predictive accuracy of 70% (no false negatives, but there are many false positives) among a Spanish group of imprisoned partner-violent men. The best predictive variables are the justification of violence, age at first imprisonment, and non-treatment.

Furthermore, an overrepresentation of recidivists among generally violent subjects and borderlines have been found, reflecting their greater tendency to be impulsive and antisocial. See



this link for the abstract and ordering the full article:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/1068316X.2013.770854>.

The Violence Reduction Program (VRP): a treatment program for violence-prone forensic clients by researchers from the UK and Canada discusses the benefits from this program. The VRP has been implemented in a number of prison and forensic mental health hospitals in the UK. The important integration of risk assessment and treatment is mentioned. It indicates that program participation was linked to the reduction of general and violent reoffending. It also appears to be effective in treating offenders with significant psychopathic traits. Nevertheless they address the high dropout rates of forensic clients with personality disorders.

See this link for the abstract and ordering the full article:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/1068316X.2013.758981>.

Resettle: a significant new step in an emerging pathway that manages risk and addresses need in high-risk personality disordered offenders on their release into community (from the UK) describes an innovative UK service development, in which Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) are made. They also point out the association between personality disorder and high dropout levels from programs of intervention.

See this link for the abstract and ordering the full article:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/1068316X.2013.758976>.

Like the pre-conference expert panel in Vienna has addressed, the organization ***WAVE (Women Against Violence Europe)*** has lots of interesting material accessible at their website:

<http://www.wave-network.org/>. Several publications, including country information is available:

<http://www.wave-network.org/sites/default/files/WAVE%20COUNTRY%20REPORT%202012.pdf>. Also a manual to effectively tackle domestic violence against women and children can be downloaded:

http://www.wave-network.org/sites/wave.local/files/homepage_bg_manual_fromgoodinterventionstogoodcooperation3_0.pdf.

During Paul Mullens valuable lecture in Vienna on risk of violence and psychosis, he mentioned *Dr. Seena Fazal* from Oxford university. He carried out a great amount of research on this topic. Recently, a meta-analysis is done on *risk factors for violence in psychosis*. The review confirms the strong association between criminal history and violence risk in psychosis and it also demonstrates that certain dynamic factors are potentially important for assessment and management of violence risk. These dynamic factors include: hostile behaviour, poor impulse control, lack of insight, general symptom scores, recent alcohol and/or drug misuse, and non-adherence with psychological therapies and medication. This publication is free to download at: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23418482>.



More publications from Fazal on the role of psychosis can be found on the internet at:

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22359622>

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19959703>

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19454640>

Mullens reference to Bennetts publication about Schizophrenia disorders, substance abuse and prior offending in a sequential series of 435 homicides from 2011 is available at:

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1600-0447.2011.01731.x/full>.

Threat Assessment Tools & Techniques

The *Historical Clinical Risk management-20 - Version 3 (HCR)* is now published by Kevin Douglas, Stephen Hart, Chris Webster, & Henrik Belfrage; Mental Health, Law, and Policy Institute, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada. <http://kdouglas.wordpress.com/hcr-20/hcr-20/> It has many innovative improvements from the HCR V2 without sacrificing any of its historical or research value. The scientific base of this version is even stronger now. Different pilot studies were carried out in Sweden, Canada, Germany, Norway, Great-Brittain and the Netherlands.

The Canadian Handbook for Police and Crown Prosecutors on Criminal Harassment (2012) is now available on the Department of Justice Canada's Website at: <http://canada.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/fv-vf/har/index.html>. It includes guideliness for police and prosecutors, especially with respect to threat assessment –and management.

After the interesting lecture of David James and Frank Farham on “insider threats” Russell Palarea (NCIS) mentioned an already existing tool from the Defense Personnel Security Research Center from the USA. A projectteam named ‘Perserec’ developed this *Insider Risk Evaluation and Audit Tool*: <http://www.dhra.mil/perserec/reports/pp09-03.pdf>

Alliance for International Risk Research (AIRR)

From dr. Jay Singh, Co-Editor-in-Chief Psychiatric/Psychological Service for the Criminal Justice System in the Canton of Zürich, Switzerland we have received information about the Jay Singh and Kevin Douglas' Alliance for International Risk Research.

Given the large forensic risk assessment literature in the fields of psychology, psychiatry, nursing, criminology, juvenile justice, and others, it can be difficult to stay abreast of the latest research developments. And with busy work schedules, reading through numerous e-mail alerts each week to find the newest publications relating to violence, sex offender, and general offending risk assessment can be an inconvenient task.



The newly founded Alliance for International Risk Research (AIRR) offers just such a complimentary service for clinicians, policymakers, and researchers interested in the field of risk assessment. In addition to listing risk-relevant articles appearing in over 80 journals in the English language, the AIRR will also benefit authors of non-English publications. If you publish a piece not in English, simply send an electronic copy or link to our international coordinator (catherineshafferAIRR@gmail.com), and the AIRR will highlight and assist in disseminating your piece to readers around the globe.

The aim of the AIRR is to promote the implementation of the latest evidence-based practices in mental health and criminal justice systems, to provide a manageable resource for interested legal professionals and policymakers, and to assist researchers in staying up-to-date on the latest trends in the risk assessment literature. Please do assist us in this endeavor by alerting your colleagues of this new initiative – your first AIRR bulletin will arrive on September 1st, 2013.

To sign up for this complimentary service, simply provide your e-mail contact information through the following link: http://cbcs.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_8u04oh8fYIbj7bT

International Associations, Professional Networks & Education

CATAP *annual conference 28-31 of October, Banff, Alberta (Canada)*

This event in beautiful Banff is just around the corner and we wish our Canadian friends all the best when they now enter the final stages of organizing the next threat assessment conference. More information about the interesting program, registration and hotel reservations can be found on the CATAP website. During this event the international board meeting will take place. An important meeting where representatives of the international associations discuss international collaboration and future developments.

AATAP *annual conference 13-15 of November, Melbourne, Victoria (Australia)*

The Australasian Association of Threat Assessment Professionals has a very interesting program ready. More information is on: <http://www.aatap.org/annual-conference>.

AETAP *annual conference: 7-11, April 2014, Stockholm (Sweden)*

ATAP had her annual conference just a few weeks ago. We have heard very positive responses from people who attended. The European association was represented by dr. Jens Hoffmann, who was a speaker as well.