

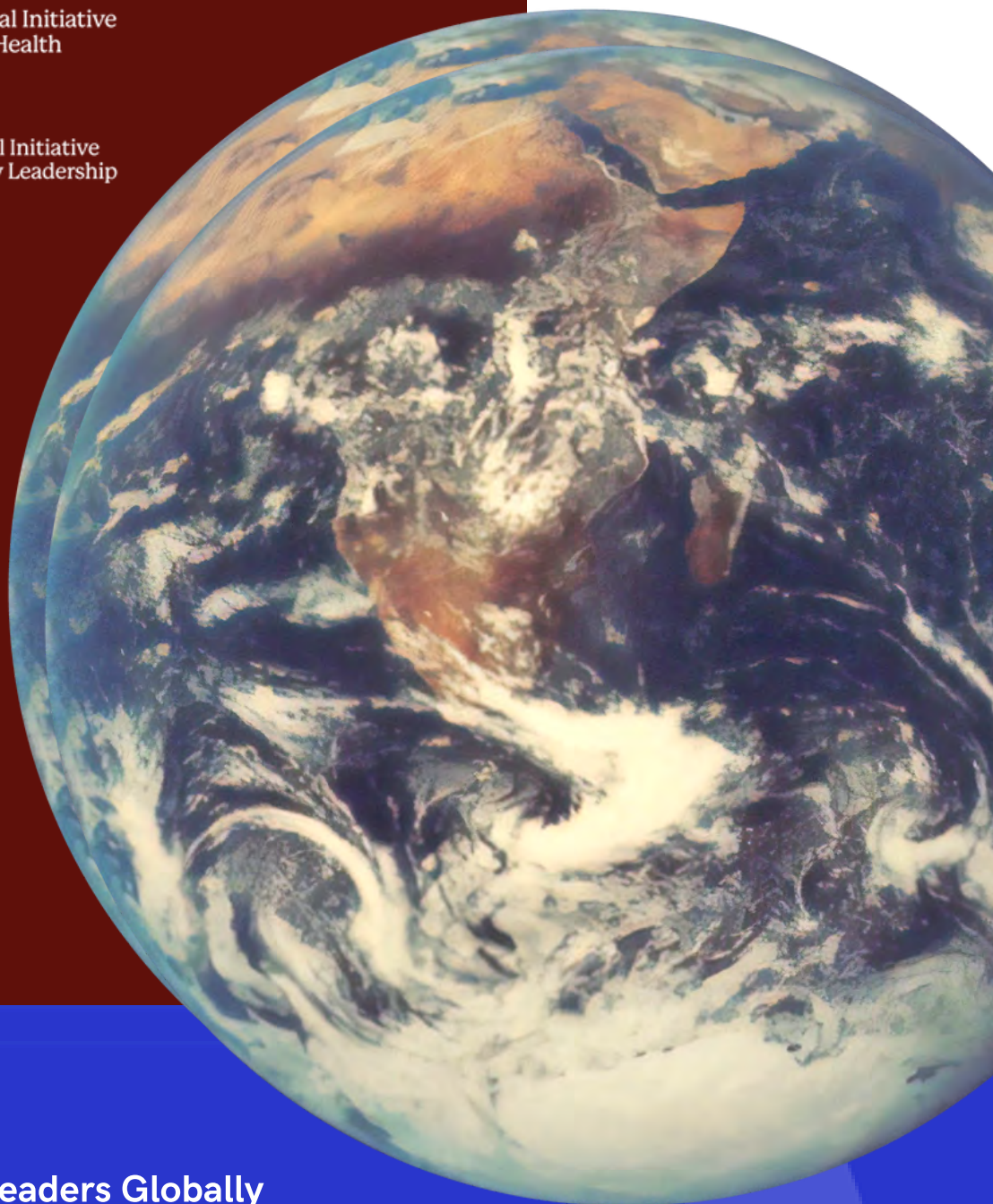
2021 Annual Report



International Initiative
for Mental Health
Leadership



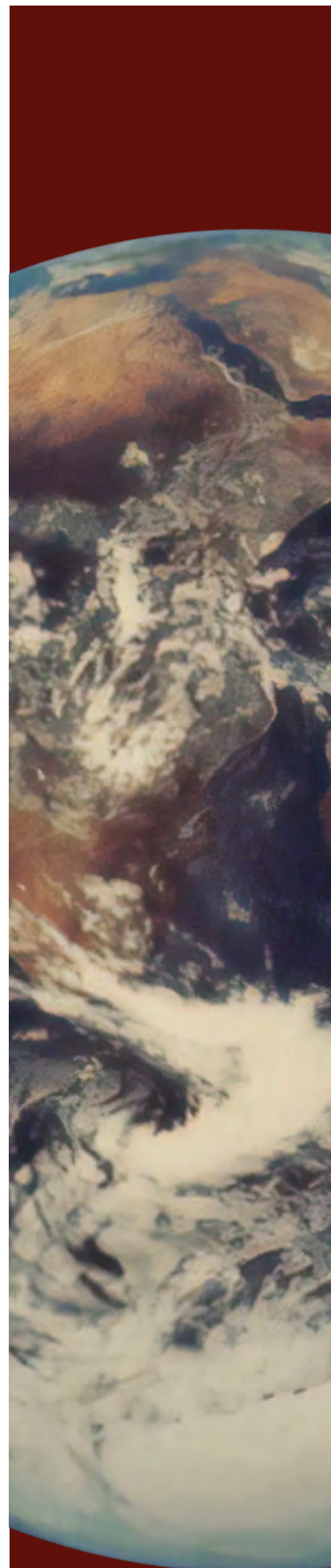
International Initiative
for Disability Leadership



Connecting Leaders Globally

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Foreword

RECOGNIZING 20 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP



At the end of 2021 Fran Silvestri retired from the role of President and Chief Executive of IIMHL and IIDL. From the development of the concept of IIMHL and IIDL to its current place in global mental health, Fran has led the organization. His service goes back 20 years, but his impact as a leader, convenor, mentor and innovator goes back even further.

Fran has made a significant and sustained contribution to the improvement of services for those with mental health problems, substance use and disability. His capacity to collaborate, create trusting, open relationships based on equity of esteem have been at the centre of IIMHL and IIDL's success. He is a leader who combines vision with an ability to provide mentorship and development to those who work for and with him.

He has developed and maintained positive relationships with senior leaders and service consumers, among others. He is a man who possesses a truly world view of mental health, and how to create the circumstances for sharing experiences, learning and good practice.

Fran has rightly received many tributes from around the world, from IIMHL and IIDL members, colleagues and many others who have worked with him. That is testament to the esteem in which he is held.

In 2022 Fran will work with IIMHL and IIDL as a Special Advisor, balancing that with the chance to enjoy retirement.

Thank you Fran - for your leadership, commitment and friendship.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Appleton', with a stylized, flowing script.

Steve Appleton
President & Chief Executive - IIMHL/IIDL



Welcome

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD



I am delighted to report a successful past year of success for our organization, despite the ongoing challenges of the pandemic. It was also a year marked by change - in leadership and the future.

I also wish to express my thanks to Fran Silvestri for his work and commitment. Fran has had a positive impact, both professionally and as a friend, on so many people. We wish him a happy retirement.

In 2021 we undertook an international recruitment exercise to find our new President and Chief Executive. Following a thorough selection process, the Board and I were delighted that Steve Appleton accepted the position. Steve worked closely with Fran, the Board and our staff during a transition period in the last three months of 2021 to ensure a smooth handover.

We also welcomed Sean Russell to the role of European Regional Lead; Clenton Farquharson, Chair of Think Local Act Personal; Dr Arthur Evans, CEO of the American Psychological Association; and Ruby Moore, CEO of Georgia Advocacy Office - they all bring significant experience and knowledge to our organization. At the end of 2021 we said goodbye to Denny Morrison, who has served our Board with distinction over many years.

Over the past year we have responded to the review of our strategic priorities and began to implement a range of initiatives. In particular, I want to highlight the creation of our Women's Leadership Group, our work on diversity and inclusion, the development of a new leadership framework, and the Emerging Leaders programs. We are building new collaborations and partnerships with other organizations - welcome developments in 2021 that will form a central part of our work in 2022 and beyond.

I want to offer particular thanks to our board member Sarah Hughes; strategic partner from the City Mental Health Alliance, Poppy Jaman; England Liaison, Peter Molyneux; North America Regional Lead, Kathy Langlois; IIDL International Lead, Eddie Bartnik; and IIDL support, Aisling Blackmore for their leadership of these areas of work.

Following the independent review we placed an increased emphasis on our communications in 2021. Work has been taking place to refresh our website with a new look and more easily navigable pages. We are also concentrating on future branding and how we use digital opportunities to communicate and engage with our members more effectively. This will include plans to further modernize our web and social media presence with new ways to let you know about our work and how you can get involved. I want to thank our communications lead Úna Carney for her leadership of this work, which will continue through 2022 and 2023.

I am excited and optimistic about the future and look forward to our Leadership Exchange in October 2022, the continued sharing of expertise, good practice and knowledge between our members. With our new leadership and clear plans for development, our organization is heading in new directions that will maintain our unique place in international mental health, substance use and disability leadership.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Glover', written over a light blue geometric background.

Bob Glover
Chair - IIMHL/IIDL

IIMHL

Sponsoring Countries Leadership Group

During 2021 we continued to work closely with strategic partners including continuing our collaboration with Mental Health Europe and expect to carry out joint projects with them during 2022.

Our colleagues at EUCOMS delivered a series of excellent webinars in 2021 - we were delighted to contribute to these and will be planning more joint work with EUCOMS in 2022.

We led an online learning session with United for Global Mental Health on the importance of population-based approaches to mental health and will be exploring how we can work further with UGMH in 2022.

We also partnered with the South African Federation for Mental Health to deliver a webinar on equity in relation to mental health services in low and middle income countries. We established new connections with leaders in Kenya during 2021 and will be seeking to further strengthen these in 2022.

Our work on mental health leadership with the World Health Organization (WHO) continued and we began a process to develop a program focused on Eastern European countries with WHO-Europe. We anticipate this will come to fruition in 2022.

The Emerging Leaders program was an area of great success in 2021. Working closely with the Scottish Commission for Learning Disability, IIDL delivered a training programme for young and emerging leaders with lived experience and this is already having a direct impact. We plan further work on this in 2022.

IIMHL and IIDL will remain focused on partnership, building and maintaining alliances, working with other global organizations that can assist with improving services, leadership and innovation.



Robyn Shearer
IIMHL SCLG Chair
Deputy Chief Executive Sector Support & Infrastructure
Ministry of Health, Aotearoa/New Zealand

IIMHL

Activities & Strategic Partnerships

Highlights

- The signing of a Strategic Partner Agreement with the [US College for Behavioral Health Leadership \(CBHL\)](#) to advance the strategic development of both organizations. We are pleased that CBHL's CEO is IIMHL's US Liaison, connecting US leaders with IIMHL and vice versa
- Work with the National Association for Rural Mental Health (NARMH) to develop an international panel during their annual conference. We were fortunate to have presentations from Australia, New Zealand and the Netherlands. [View the recording here](#) or [click on the screen image below](#). *There are two sessions recorded - the first is a focus on the experiences of people with lived experience; the second session involves the international panel, starting at approximately 1:22.*
- Participating in Equally Well, which aims to improve the quality of life of people living with mental illness by providing equal access to quality health care. By championing physical health as a priority, Equally Well aims to reduce the life expectancy gap that exists between people living with a mental illness and the general population. IIMHL is pleased to have supported the development of the International Collaborative Learning Network (ICLN) on Physical Health and Mental Illness at the 2019 Washington DC Leadership Exchange and continues to participate in international meetings of this group. For more, visit the [Equally Well website](#).



National Association for
Rural Mental Health



Group meeting at the 2019 Washington DC Leadership Exchange



Watch this recording from the NARMH. There are two sessions recorded - the first is a focus on the experiences of people with lived experience; the second session involves the international panel, starting at approximately 1:22.

IIDL

Sponsoring Countries Leadership Group

Whilst COVID-19 continued to impact lives worldwide, IIDL member countries were resolute to communicate and share learnings, maintain engagements and events digitally - the commitment of our inclusive and collective leadership to overcome the challenges of 2021 was inspiring.

The SCLG set out to deliver on key areas of work and links with the IIMHL program continued to strengthen. There were COVID learnings through the lens of diversity and inclusion, and strategies to overcome COVID-19 as an inequalities multiplier.

Key strategic issues of focus included amplifying the work of IIDL in the context of the overall organization, the review of the organization's name, and strengthening IIDL support arrangements.

My sincere thanks to outgoing Chair Eddie Bartnik, whose leadership of IIDL since 2015, is deserving of the highest praise. We also welcomed new IIDL members to the IIMHL Board (Clenton Farquharson, England and Ruby Moore, USA).

There is no better testimony to the work of IIDL during the pandemic than from the words and experience of one of our members.

"Of significant value to me during the pandemic was the link IIDL made to colleagues in Australia. I held a weekly call with National Disability Services' David Moody - given the somewhat seasonal nature of the pandemic, we were able to assess what was likely to come next. Heading into the autumn, while numbers were low here at the time, we worked to get COVID response teams back up and running in time for surges in October and November - this definitely saved lives."

Gerard Tully - Health Services Executive and Sponsoring Countries Leadership Group member for Ireland

Looking ahead

- Work on the joint Strategic Action Plan for IIDL and IIMHL - name, website, support arrangements, accessibility of digital strategies
- Embed emerging leaders, lived experience and broader diversity
- Maintain member countries and finding best country partners for Sweden, the Netherlands and Northern Ireland for joint IIDL and IIMHL membership
- Strengthen engagement and growth of country networks via Regional Hubs in 2022



Brian Coffey
IIDL SCLG Chair
Director, Office of Disability Issues
New Zealand

IIDL

Activities & Strategic Partnerships

Highlights

- The 2021 IIMHL/IIDL Australia and New Zealand Regional Exchange grew the membership footprint.
- Improving key accessibility practices for meetings and events to remove barriers to participation. Trial events were run to fully test accessibility of the final Regional Exchange format.
- Capturing key topics on video and sharing to the broader member network, in particular the ['strategies to overcome COVID-19 as an inequality multiplier'](#), and ['leadership that supports diversity and inclusion'](#).
- Regional Exchange built on the work of the Australian IIDL National Reference Group, which provided the platform for a number of important value add support arrangements. Key partners included the Australian National Mental Health Commission; the New South Wales Department of Communities and Justice; and Baptcare.
- The Regional Exchange facilitated strategic partnerships and a network approach. Many of the organizations represented in the National IIDL Reference Group hosted Matches and provided support for the event with funding contributions.
- Countries' information requests related to education curricula and access to tertiary education. Key resources were shared to enable rapid knowledge transfer.
- Country networks and national/regional events, such as the Scotland Leadership event, featuring people with learning disability; the Nordic Disability Council's webinar on COVID-19 approaches; the US Department of Labor international consultation on employment approaches during the pandemic; a series of webinars hosted by Think Local Act Personal (TLAP) England national network featuring the Australian National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) key elements of collective leadership, operations and sustainability.

Challenges

There are challenges to be considered going forward, specifically in relation to the early stage of development of some IIDL member countries, and the need for a dedicated strategy to build within country networks, partnerships and membership.

Attention is also required to sustain membership engagement, demonstrating value for money in a more blended digital environment and finding the right balance of face to face contact.

Matches, where possible, should be ongoing collaboratives so that there is more structured activity between International Exchanges.

Looking ahead

- Maximise opportunities presented with the Regional Hubs in 2022 for membership engagement and development, growing country and regional partnerships, and practical strategies to support Emerging Leaders and diversity/inclusion strategies.
- Feedback and data will be used to continually learn about what's valuable to members and increase opportunities for members on International Leadership Exchanges.



Key topic discussion videos were shared to the member network, including [strategies to overcome COVID-19 as an inequality multiplier](#) - watch and listen to Eddie Bartnik, IIDL's International Lead.

Continuing Impact of COVID-19

The pandemic has affected not only how we work as an organization internally, but also how we interact with members, partners and various governance bodies. It has also led to our Leadership Exchange in New Zealand moving from 2021 to October 2022, using a virtual format with regional Hubs to enable in-person meetings in Europe and North America.

We have adapted to the challenges presented by COVID-19 - our shift towards virtual convening has become embedded in the way we work. It has had the positive benefit of enabling some of our collaboratives to meet more often, but we know that we need to strike the right balance between virtual and in-person meeting - when restrictions allow.

Building on our series of COVID-19 briefings during 2020 we continued to provide members with information and resources about responses to the pandemic from a number of countries, and to share best practice about how different systems have been innovating in the context of the pandemic, including the shift to digital.

COVID-19 has continued to have a significant impact on communities around the world. This has demonstrated once again the contribution of the social determinants of mental health that have been known to many in the field but only now are being more widely acknowledged and responded to.

The pandemic has also disproportionately affected people with disability and IIDL continues to frame its work around responses to those challenges through collaboration between countries.

As part of our strategic action plan, we will continue focusing on population and public mental health, as well as exploring how prevention and promotion can make a real difference.

The long term effects of COVID-19, whether physical or mental health and substance use related, economic and/or psychological are yet to be fully understood.

IIMHL and IIDL will be working to ensure that the learning taking place now is widely shared and leaders have the chance to partner and innovate as they respond to emerging impacts.



Leadership Exchange

COVID-19 impacted the approach and planning for the Leadership Exchange. Options were considered to offer the one-week event primarily online, which began with the inaugural 2021 Regional Exchange. Lessons from that has informed the planning for 2022.

June 2021 Australia and New Zealand Regional Exchange

- Grew the membership footprint in the region. The evaluation showed that the intended purpose and outcomes were achieved: connecting existing members and including new people; sharing insights and innovations; and building momentum for Christchurch 2022.
- Benefits included 'cross-pollination of ideas to solve challenges and inspire new thinking'; 'what to do and what not do (wisdom from experience)'; and 'thinking with experienced and like-minded leaders'.
- 87.5% of respondents rated the relevance of the content to their work as 'Excellent' or 'Very Good'.

2022 Christchurch Leadership Exchange

- The theme is 'Valuing Inclusion, Resilience and Growth', to reflect the country's response to critical events experienced in Christchurch, New Zealand which raised the nationwide challenge of valuing diversity and expressing kindness to all people.
 - Inclusion encompasses all people; resilience provides the hope to recover and restore; and growth brings newness and life. In Māori: 'Kaingākau te Whakawhāiti Tāngata, te Ngākau Manawaroa, te Puāwaitanga o te Tangata' enhances the sentiments expressed, meaning 'cherish the inclusion of all people, the resilient heart and blossoming of the whole person'.
- Matches, which previously would have been two-day meetings in up to 45 locations across New Zealand and Australia, will now be offered online during the first three weeks of October.
- Network Meeting, will now be held in-person in three regional Hubs on October 26 and 27:
 - Australasia/Pacific Islands will be held in Christchurch, NZ
 - North America will be held in Washington, DC
 - The location in Europe is TBD
- If you haven't already registered for the 2022 Leadership Exchange, sign-up at iimhl.com.

We will consider the need for online delivery of the Hubs, should travel conditions dictate.

Virtual viewing

Recordings of Hub keynote presentations will be available for viewing at a dedicated link, for those who do not plan to travel.

2024 Netherlands Leadership Exchange

Date and location to be confirmed.

We are planning for a one-week Leadership Exchange, with in-person Matches in Europe, and the Network Meeting in the Netherlands.



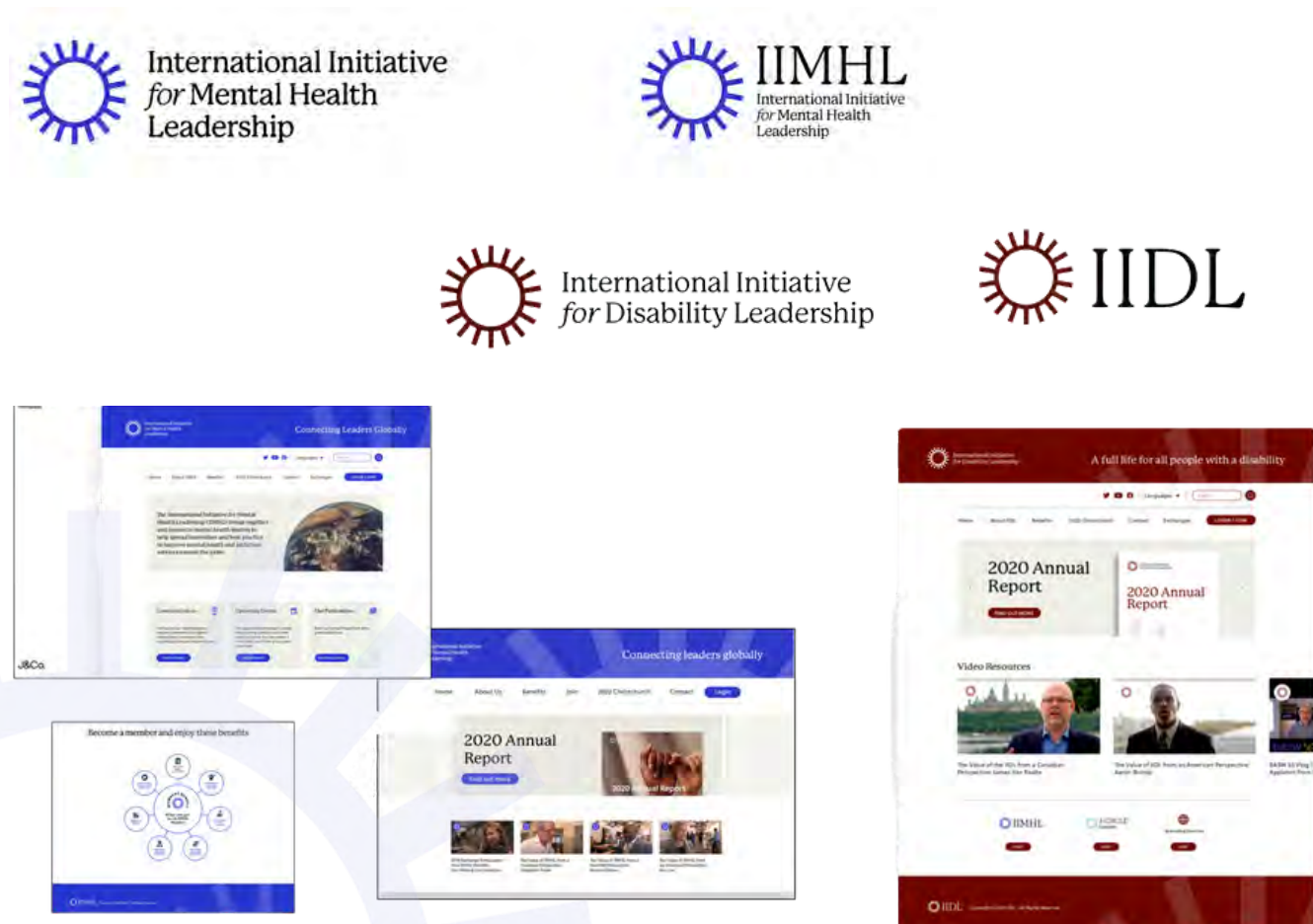
Communications, Engagement and Branding

A thorough review of communication channels, engagement and branding was started in 2020, resulting in noticeable changes this past year, with a fresh new corporate identity for both IIMHL and IIDL. The website has been refreshed in line with the new brand, with less text, more easily navigable and user-friendly with less click-throughs.

It has been agreed that a new, single name for the organization should be explored and developed throughout 2022, with further improvements in key areas to ensure corporate consistency across all communication channels, particularly digital.

The new logos (below) represents the organizations at the centre, extending outwards to connect and extend reach to other sector leaders. The mark also serves as a graphical sun, which is bold and hopeful.

The new brands and screen grabs from the websites highlight what we are working towards in terms of elevating our status and corporate positioning.



World Health Organization Program

This program was led by Dévora Kestel, Director of Mental Health and Substance Abuse at the World Health Organization (WHO) to better support low and middle income countries (LMIC) as they work to implement mental health reforms under the WHO Special Initiative for Mental Health (2019-2023): Universal Health Coverage for Mental Health. Her 2019 proposal was to see how the capacity within IIMHL could be leveraged to support countries committed to advance mental health at national level: Bangladesh, Jordan, Paraguay, Philippines, Ukraine, Zimbabwe and Nepal.

WHO-IIMHL Mental Health Leadership Program

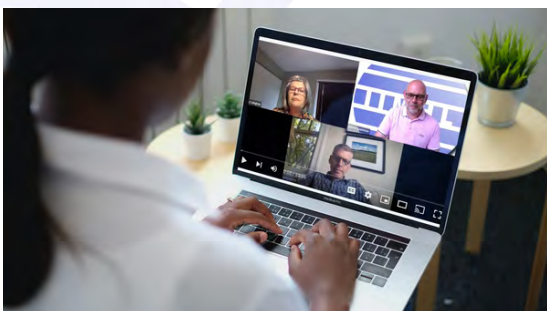
In 2020, the WHO and IIMHL began working together to create a leadership development program to support the advancement of the WHO Special Initiative strategic actions by providing mentorship between IIMHL leaders and the Special Initiative country leaders so they can advance the transformation of mental health services in their countries.

Mentorship relationships are well underway and Matches are supported by quarterly group meetings organized to discuss topics of interest to the Special Initiative - three such sessions have been held. Gary Belkin recorded a video interview, 'Reimagining Mental Health Post-COVID'. The interview prompted discussion amongst participants, particularly around the role of task shifting in mental health reform. The original concept for the article was prompted by the I-CIRCLE Collaborative (cities and regions).

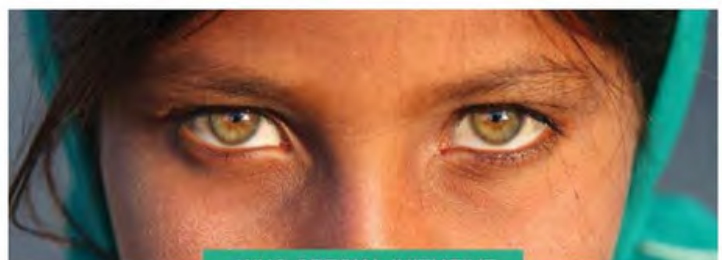
[The video can be viewed here or by clicking the laptop image below.](#)

[The relevant article and appendix can be viewed here.](#)

Plans are underway for the next group sessions, and all Matches continue to receive tailored support to ensure their work together is a success.



Watch 'Reimagining Mental Health Post-COVID'.



WHO SPECIAL INITIATIVE
FOR MENTAL HEALTH



Council for Clinical Leadership

HIGHLIGHTS, CHALLENGES AND KEY MESSAGES

Highlights

- Meetings were facilitated to allow national multidisciplinary clinical leaders to be informed about and explore leading-edge issues including:

- International trends in suicide during the pandemic
- Evaluating quality mental health apps



- Getting It Right First Time (GIRFT) - the UK approach to mental health rehabilitation



- COVID-19 impact on those with pre-existing mental health problems and how COVID-19 has created mental health complications



- Social Learning and Recovery - A Netherlands Perspective

Challenges

It is expected that COVID-19 will continue to influence the discussions of clinical leaders as new evidence continues to emerge.

Looking ahead

The Council will continue to engage in leading-edge discussions and is expected to focus on digitally delivered care, care quality and major issues affecting clinical care, such as the pandemic and climate change.



*courtesy of the American Psychiatric Association

Council for Public Health Leadership

HIGHLIGHTS, CHALLENGES AND KEY MESSAGES

Highlights

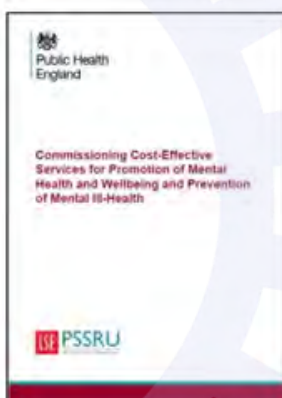
- Maintaining connections between members and increasing membership.
- Building on the global attention to public health and mental health impacts to give renewed focus for the Council for Public Health Leadership (CPHL) and its aims.
- A series of webinars to share national and sub-national public health approaches to the pandemic mental health response and recovery. Discussion topics focused on leadership competencies and development on issues including: Updates on national/regional priorities; Mental Health Policy Developments in the Netherlands (via Trimbos Institute); and Public Health England's work on a Prevention Concordat.

Challenges

Maintaining momentum when many members were working hard on the pandemic response.

Looking ahead

- Strengthening population mental health and resilience is a key part of emergency response, preparedness and a comprehensive mental health system.
- Existing evidence and strategies to improve population mental health are relevant and applicable to national direction on Covid-19 recovery and renewal.
- The October 2022 Match on Population Mental Health Promotion is being hosted by New Zealand leaders and will focus on Building Capacity for Mental Health and Wellbeing within Communities.



Emerging Leaders

HIGHLIGHTS, CHALLENGES AND KEY MESSAGES

Highlights

- In 2021, the IIDL/IIMHL Emerging Leaders work continued to build and develop in a virtual world.
- Defining the values that IIDL and IIMHL are bringing to the Emerging Leaders work: mutual respect, intergenerational collaboration, relational growth, and integration.
- 2021 marked the first time that we brought Emerging Leaders from both the IIMHL and IIDL streams together to discuss shared visions, needs, and challenges.
- The Australia and New Zealand Emerging Leaders meeting in June 2021, as part of the Regional Exchange, provided emerging and established leaders the opportunity to share insights on their leadership journeys, bringing together people with disabilities, people with lived experience of mental health conditions or distress, government officials, family members, academics, and service providers. Discussions and workshops were used to develop the Draft Principles to Support and Develop Emerging Leaders. These define key actions that Emerging Leaders, Established Leaders, organizations and IIDL/IIMHL can take to support, develop and grow emerging leaders in disability and mental health.
- 2021 brought a growth of member led initiatives in member countries - the video below is especially powerful as Emerging Leaders are the base on which the Scotland national network for IIDL is being developed.

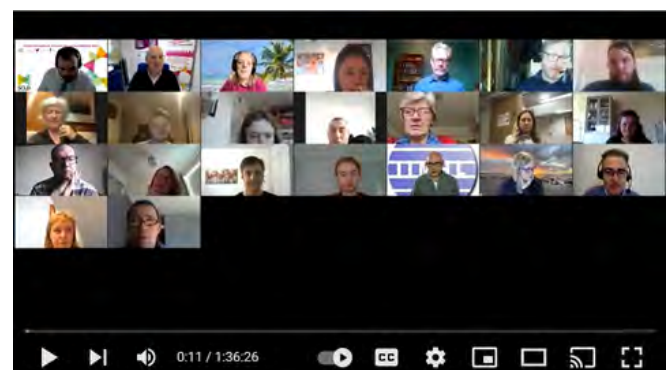
Challenges

The switch to virtual and the multiple competing demands on people's time and energy as a result of COVID-19 has created some challenges, particularly with attendance at virtual meetings dropping to approximately 60% of RSVPs.

Looking ahead

- IIMHL and IIDL remain committed to supporting, including, and developing Emerging Leaders, and our work is gathering momentum.
- Validating the work from the Australia and New Zealand Regional meeting will result in additional virtual workshops for Canada, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, and European Union countries
- The Emerging Leaders Match in Christchurch will offer a structured development opportunity within the disability and mental health sectors, with a focus on intergenerational knowledge transfer.

[More here on Emerging Leaders](#)



Emerging Leaders are the base on which the Scotland national network for IIDL is being developed.

I-CIRCLE

Highlights

- In keeping with IIMHL's strategic objective of engaging Low and Middle Income Countries (LMIC), I-CIRCLE had a foundation setting discussion about how best to be more inclusive, with important principles developed. A thought-provoking session was held on Integrative Community Therapy, based on work in Brazil. More work is expected as IIMHL expands its focus to work with LMIC in the coming years.
- Discussions were also held on the City of Calgary (Canada) Mental Health Strategic Plan and new developments in the city of London, England with Thrive LDN.

Challenges

It has been a relentless two years of adapting to the challenges of the global pandemic. Frontline service providers have been at the forefront of the response and many sacrifices have been made to protect vital public services to enable them to cope and endure – consequently, other societal issues have deteriorated.

Mental health distress is a growing concern and finding an approach to deal with this remains a challenging priority. How best can we use existing networks to share good practice, with prevention and promotion as the key drivers?

Many leaders have been overwhelmed with little or no time to think about what good practice looks like. However, the meetings of I-CIRCLE have created the space to think and explore the challenges facing cities and regions. The hiatus of not being able to meet in person has made us all appreciate its real value and opportunity – where shared learning and experience can happen organically and thrive.

We are looking forward to the ability to meet in person, where possible, as we learn to live with COVID-19 in 2022.

Looking ahead

- Planning is well underway for the I-CIRCLE Match in October – the focus will be on disaster mental health and social recovery learning from the experience in Christchurch, New Zealand.
- Working closely with cities and regions, we will demonstrate good practice, specifically with Thrive Edinburgh and Thrive Amsterdam.
- We will develop and distribute a guide for cities and regions to help create happier, healthier places to live and work through a structured public mental health approach.
- Continued knowledge and experience sharing will help create more preventative approaches which build self-determination and resilience in communities.



Rural Behavioral Health Collaborative

HIGHLIGHTS, CHALLENGES AND KEY MESSAGES

Highlights

An enhanced focus on on-the-ground efforts to improve the mental health and well-being of rural residents. Throughout the year, presentations focused on rural wellbeing and resilience efforts:

Canada



New Zealand



South Australia



Texas



Challenges

Community development and well-being are rapidly becoming major foci for behavioral healthcare. If the field is to change the power dynamics that sustain systemic racism, the social and physical determinants of health that lead to trauma responses and behavioral health conditions, and the isolation and poverty of historically excluded groups, then it will be necessary to engage, listen to, and support community members themselves as they confront and address these fundamental issues.

Looking ahead

- Foundational learnings include:
 - Always listen to the community
 - Redefine inclusivity to include previously non-engaged and marginalized groups
 - Get things done through relationships and interactions



Healing History community conversation in Bastrop, Texas, as part of the Hogg Foundation's Well-being in Rural Communities (WRC) initiative.

Wharerātā Group

International Indigenous Mental Health Leaders

HIGHLIGHTS, CHALLENGES AND KEY MESSAGES

Highlights

Indigenous leaders across IIMHL member countries have focussed on the pandemic throughout 2021 to ensure their communities had resources and supplies given the disproportionate impact on their communities. We are proud of the way Indigenous providers have responded to the change within each country.

Challenges

The pandemic has posed a challenge to the group in the ability to meet regularly while also dealing with the issues in their home communities. They are planning to work together on a research paper on COVID-19 and barriers related to mental health and addictions. As evidence is showing, COVID-19 has had a severe impact on communities already dealing with the impacts of the social determinants of health, such as lack of social equity and food security.

Looking ahead

- Indigenous leaders are looking forward to the opportunity to host their Match in 2022.
- Working together.
- Sharing COVID-19 strategies that have worked in eliminating and slowing down the pandemic.
- Keep calm, support each other, and be kind to each other.



Co Chair Carole Koha, Te Rarawa Aotearoa New Zealand and the Tangata motuhake having their 1st Pfizer vaccine

Whāraurau

Children, Youth and Families Collaborative

Whāraurau is a national centre, funded predominantly by the Ministry of Health in New Zealand to deliver workforce development initiatives for the Infant, Child and Adolescent Mental Health and/or Alcohol and Other Drugs (ICAMH/AOD) sector.

Highlights

Benefiting from strong links with the IIMHL community, we have supported and coordinated the infant, child and adolescent/youth activity for 15 years. We manage the inter-Leadership Exchange zoom meetings where various countries lead the topic - examples presented during the last year include:

- Youth Leadership
- Eating Issues/Eating Disorder
- Maternal methamphetamine use
- COVID impacts on child and youth wellbeing

Championing and supporting leaders and leadership development greatly assists the ICAMH/AOD workforce and service delivery. Examples of our activity include:

- IIMHL zoom meetings
- Regional engagement conferences and hui
- Advisory groups
- Cultural improvement
- Youth engagement and leadership

We have a wide range of resources at Whāraurau and will continue to add to these to assist the ICAMH/AOD workforce in their mahi.

Examples include:

- [Working with Taiohi | Youth](#)
- [Supporting Rainbow Youth](#)
- [View Lunchtime Learning presentations](#)
- [Trauma Informed Care](#)
- [COVID-19 Resources for the workforce](#)

Looking ahead

- Developing the child and adolescent mental health workforce nationally.
- Providing training and resources of a high quality to mental health professionals.
- Advocating for mental health needs of children, young people and their families/whānau.
- Promoting research in child and adolescent health.

Please visit wharaurau.org.nz for more information.

Philanthropy Collaborative

This Collaborative is co-led by IIMHL and [Mindful Philanthropy](#), our key partner in this work.

Highlights

- Philanthropic organizations in the US, Canada, England, Australia and New Zealand who work in the mental health space have come together to discuss common issues to assist their knowledge of innovations. Topics of discussion have included:
 - Coordination of behavioral health and primary care, led by the New York Community Trust
 - Racial Equity, led by the Steve Fund, the Hogg Foundation, and the Scattergood Foundation
 - Children's mental health and the impact of the pandemic, led by Vredevelde Strategies

We have been pleased to welcome the Niall Fay Foundation and the Christchurch Foundation in light of the upcoming Leadership Exchange in 2022. A small planning group was formed with excellent discussion on challenges ahead.

Challenges

COVID-19 has presented significant mental health challenges for many and philanthropic organizations are increasingly focused on mental health issues as a result.

Looking ahead

Planning is underway for the Christchurch Leadership Exchange Philanthropy match. The focus will be on the innovations in the Philanthropy space.



Women's Leadership Group

HIGHLIGHTS, CHALLENGES AND KEY MESSAGES

Highlights

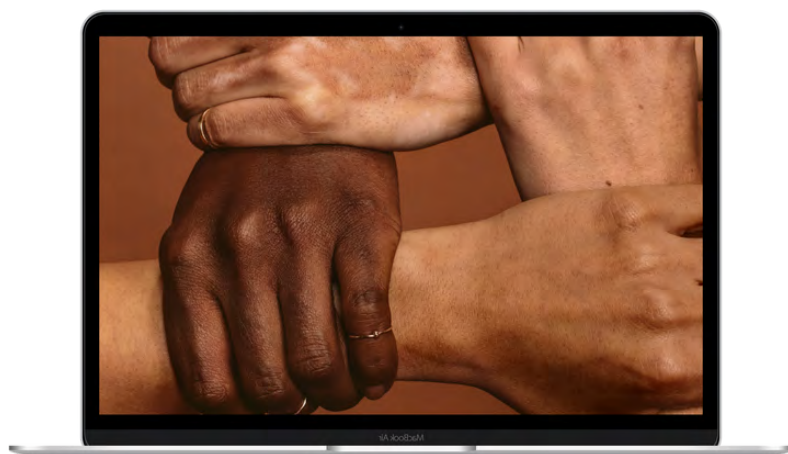
Women leaders in the mental health and disability fields came together for the first time in 2021. They have held several meetings and the discussion has focused on women's leadership style, which is open, collaborative, supportive and inclusive, contributing to diversity in decision-making and adding value to organizations.

Challenges

- Increase women's visibility as strong leaders
- Improve women's representation at decision-making tables
- Put in place the required supports and actions
- Work to improve the well-being of women, girls and their communities

Looking ahead

- The group is working on a Statement about Women's Leadership, which will be launched in early 2022.
- This will include a Good Practice Summary and toolkit for taking action.



Looking Ahead

The past year has been one where our organization has continued to adapt to the changes brought about by COVID-19. As this report has already highlighted, that adaptation has been embraced by staff, members and partners alike. We have all found new ways of working and relied on virtual convening.

As we look forward to 2022, our organization is well placed to continue to develop, grow and achieve its mission. Our strategic action plan provides a clear direction and during the coming year we expect to deliver on a range of areas of work, such as:

- Sustaining and developing existing collaboratives
- Producing a framework with a set of leadership principles
- Improving diversity and inclusion at all levels
- Utilizing digital resources to further engage with with members
- Developing partnerships with other organizations

We will also be working on communications – making sure that members and partners continue to receive regular updates on our work and on issues relating to mental health, substance use and disability around the world. As part of this work in 2022, we will refresh and improve our website.



Leadership and Organizational Change

In 2021 the organization prepared for new leadership, and following the appointment of Steve Appleton to the role of President and Chief Executive, a period of planned transition took place.

Clenton Farquharson, Chair, Think Local Act Personal, England; and Ruby Moore, CEO, Georgia Advocacy Office (USA), joined the Board in June 2021.

Sean Russell was appointed as European Regional Lead in October 2021 and began working with IIMHL and IIDL in November.

Dr Arthur Evans, CEO of the American Psychological Association, and previously Commissioner of mental health services in Philadelphia, joined the Board in December 2021.

Denny Morrison retired from the Board at the end of 2021. Denny has been with IIMHL from the start and has been a key part of the development and success of the organization. We thank Denny for his service to IIMHL and IIDL over the past 20 years, and acknowledge his contribution to our work.

Northern Ireland joined IIMHL, with formal announcement of this exciting development made at the start of 2022. Health Minister Robin Swann said: "I very much welcome Northern Ireland joining the IIMHL.

"Membership will help encourage the development of best practice within mental health services through collaborative and innovative arrangements among leaders operating in the field of mental health service delivery."

IIMHL President and CEO, Steve Appleton said: "IIMHL is delighted about our new collaboration with the Department of Health in Northern Ireland. The partnership will enable IIMHL to provide Northern Ireland leaders with access to knowledge sharing and expertise from other membership colleagues around the world. It will open a range of opportunities including leadership development, rapid transfer of learning and innovation and assist in building wider partnerships across the globe."



Meet the Board



Bob Glover (Chair) 2020
Centreville VA,
USA



Dr Aaron Groves (Vice Chair)
Chief Psychiatrist
Department of Health,
Tasmania, Australia



Dr Barbara Disley
Chief Executive,
Emerge Aotearoa
New Zealand



Holly Echo-Hawk
Senior Behavioral
Health Consultant
Vancouver, Washington, USA



Dr Arthur Evans
CEO,
American Psychological
Association



Clenton Farquharson
Chair,
Think Local Act Personal,
England



Geoff Huggins
Director,
Scottish Government
Edinburgh, Scotland



Sarah Hughes
Chief Executive,
Centre for Mental Health,
England



Ruby Moore
CEO,
Georgia Advocacy Office
GA, USA



Dr Dennis Morrison
Consultant,
Indiana, USA
(retired Dec 2021)



Martin Rogan
Chief Executive
Mental Health
Ireland,
Republic of Ireland



Anne Skordis
Executive Director NDIS Services,
Mercy Community,
Queensland, Australia



Dr Patrick Smith
President & CEO,
Centre of Excellence - PTSD
Ontario, Canada

Acknowledgements

IIMHL/IIDL is a global collaborative. We want to acknowledge and thank our Sponsoring Countries: Australia, England, Northern Ireland, Canada, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Republic of Ireland, Scotland, USA, and Sweden.

We want to thank the chairs of our Sponsoring Country Leadership groups, and of our collaboratives and groups for their work and their leadership.

We acknowledge our colleagues at Mental Health Europe, EUCOMS, World Health Organization, City Mental Health Alliance and the Global Mental Health Peer Network. It is our pleasure to work with these great partners.

We also want to recognise the work of our team. Particular thanks to Kathy Langlois, our North America Regional Lead; Erin Geaney, operations support; Frank Collins, website support; and to Eddie Bartnik, Lorna Sullivan, Aisling Blackmore and Dr Michael Kendrick for their work in leading IIDL.

Thanks also to our liaisons around the world who play such a key role in connecting us to members and leaders in each of our sponsoring areas.

The work of IIMHL and IIDL relies on many people, including you, our members, and partners. Thank you for your continued support.

