

History of The Marcé Society

Have you ever wanted to know a little bit more about how The Marcé Society began and came to where it stands now? Or, have you wanted to know why we are named The Marcé Society? Read on for a little background on this important society for the way this society has been shaped to influence the field of women's mental health surrounding the time of pregnancy.

Before the 1980s, although quite a few people, in different disciplines and professions, were working on postnatal disorders, they had no way to share their knowledge and ideas. Channi Kumar, James Hamilton, and Ian Brockington, exchanging views at meetings, came up with the idea of founding an international society; open to all professionals, aimed at improving the understanding, prevention and treatment of mental disorders related to child-bearing. They wanted members of the society, from all over the world, to meet at least biennially to exchange information and ideas about their practice and research and to initiate collaborative research.

The idea of the Society arose out of correspondence Ian Brockington had with Jim Hamilton, starting about 1977 when he wrote to consult him about a mother with a bonding disorder. There was a small meeting at Queen Charlotte's organised by Merton Sandler, where many things related to mother & baby units etc were discussed. In June 1980, there was an international conference with about 150 delegates. After the conference, at a dinner for 6 individuals -Jim and Ian, Channi Kumar, Ralph Paffenbarger, Bob Kendell and George Winokur, it was decided to found the Society there and then. The second conference, at the Maudsley, in 1982, was where the first committee was elected. Channi Kumar was fascinated by the very early work of a French physician, Louis Victor Marcé, who was one of the first to describe specifically puerperal mental disorders. It was for this reason that he suggested naming this new association after Marcé. Louis Victor Marcé (1828-1864) was born in Paris. In 1858, he wrote "Traité de la Folie des femmes enceintes, des nouvelles accouchées et des nourrices" (Treatise on psychoses of pregnant women, and newly delivered and nursing mothers)" and some other works on mental illness.

The Marcé Society (MS) was officially launched during the first academic meeting on Puerperal Mental Disorders held in Manchester in July 1980. The first MS President was Ian Brockington, Channi Kumar was Vice-president, and Frank Margison was Secretary/Bulletin Editor. The first "real" Biennial General Meeting (BGM), however, was held in London in 1982, organised by Channi Kumar at the Institute of Psychiatry.

Channi Kumar was elected President at the BGM held in San Francisco (California) in 1984. The next president was John Cox, elected at the 1986 Nottingham BGM. The BGMs were then held in Keele in 1988 and in York in 1990. Margaret Oates took over the presidency at the 1989 annual meeting in Amsterdam, succeeded by Gene Paykel, who took over at the 1992 Edinburgh BGM and served until 1994. Brice Pitt was elected at the 1994 BGM in Cambridge, followed by Mike O'Hara in London (1996) and Louis

Appleby in Iowa (1998). During Appleby's term, MS executive meetings began to be conducted by e-mail. The constitution was also amended to meet the Society's developing needs. These changes included the granting of official status to national groups. The first two were the Australasian and Francophone Societies - and the direct election of the President and other officers by the Marcé Society members. During the 2000 BGM in Manchester, Philip Boyce was elected president and Lynne Murray president-elect. Philip Boyce organised the next BGM, held in Sydney in 2002, Lynne Murray held the 2004 meeting in Oxford and the 2006 Biennial International Scientific Meeting and BGM were held at Keele University. Bryanne Barnett held the 2008 Biennial International Scientific Meeting and BGM in Sydney. The most recent BGM was held in Pittsburgh in 2010, with Katherine Wisner presiding now followed by Nine Glangeaud, and Paris for 2012.

The Marcé medal was minted with a grant from Boots Pharmaceutical Co and is given on behalf of the current President and Executive Committee to a person who is thought to have made an outstanding contribution to either the clinical care or research activities in the field of perinatal mental health. The first recipient was James Hamilton, the second Channi Kumar. Vivette Glover gave the first Channi Kumar lecture in 2004 at the Oxford Biennial Meeting. David Rubinow from the National Institutes of Mental Health, USA gave the Channi Kumar Memorial Lecture at the Biennial Conference, held in September 2006 at Keele University, UK and in 2008 Nine Glangeaud-Freudenthal was very honored to give it at the Biennial Conference in Sydney.

Channi Kumar Memorial Conference



A memorial conference in honor of Channi Kumar was held at the Institute of Psychiatry, King's College & King's Health Partners in London on May 19 and 20, 2011. Channi was a beloved member and founder of the International Marcé Society. Two other founding members of the Marcé, John Cox and Ian Brockington, participated in the program. The program was top-notch, and organized by Carmine M. Pariante (Chair), Sue Conroy, Paola Dazzan, Louise Howard, Susan Pawlby and Trudi Seneviratne. The breadth of interests that Channi had were reflected in the program, which included topics such as Biological Correlates of Anxiety and Depression in the Perinatal Period, Treatment of Perinatal Psychiatric Disorders, Parenting Skills: Assessment and Intervention, Biological Correlates of Psychosis in the Perinatal Period, Global Epidemiology of Perinatal Psychiatric Disorders and Keeping the Baby in Mind.

Superb plenary lectures were given by Margaret Oates and Dale Hay. The speakers, many of whom are Marcé members, are listed below. Included are our current President Nine Glangeaud, Treasurer Vivette Glover, and Past Presidents Louis Appleby, Ian Brockington, John Cox, Lynne Murray, Margaret Oates, Mike O'Hara and Kathie Wisner. Thanks to the organizers for an excellent program!

Kathryn Abel	Louis Appleby	Ian Brockington
Susan Conroy	John Cox	Paola Dazzan
Crispin Day	Cindy-Lee Dennis	Barbara Figueiredo
Nine Glangeaud	Vivette Glover	Alain Gregoire
Ian Jones	Sarah Halligan	Dale Hay
Alison Hipwell	Louise Howard	Remi Kapo
Gwyneth Lewis	Lynne Murray	Margaret Oates
Michael O'Hara	Carmine M. Pariante	Susan Pawlby
Atif Rahman	Trudi Seneviratne	Deborah Sharp
Margaret Spinelli	Angelika Wieck	Katherine Wisner
Keiko Yoshida		

Note: Picture of Channi Kumar taken at an annual meeting of the French speaking group of the Marcé Society (October 1999, Bordeaux, France)