

Letter of interest for the position

Why I would like to join the board of International Marcé Society?

I was involved in the EU transcultural study of postpartum depression initiated by Channi Kumar in 1998, who brought together passionate perinatal mental health professionals from all over the world, most of whom now are active members of the Marcé. At the same time I was involved in the foundation of the German Speaking Marce Society (actually around 80 members) in which I am involved ever since (chairman since 2012) and regional representative for the International Marcé Society.

I served as a consultant for the women's mental health program of the city of Vienna when a universal screening and prevention program was implemented in Vienna, which was not successful in preventing PND, but led to many activities in the field: a PND network is still active and several brochures and a clinical guide for professionals derived from it. I hope to be part of the active and enthusiastic group of the International Marcé Board in the future.

Facts which might be of interest:

I am an adult and child psychiatrist and psychotherapist and graduated from the medical university in Vienna. I spent one year as a postdoc at the Presbyterian Hospital, Columbia University, NYC with Myrna M. Weissman, where I started my research career in the field of perinatal psychiatry, specifically affective disorders in the aftermath of reproductive events. This has brought me back to the states twice to work at Drexel University, Philadelphia with Prof. Pamela Geller on mental health after miscarriage. My research interests are perinatal psychiatry, psychopharmacology in pregnancy and pediatric psychosomatics. Lately my research shifted to the field of infanticide and its prevention. I was appointed associate professor in 2013, when I returned from a sabbatical in Australia, working at ORYGEN, University of Melbourne in the field of prevention in youth mental health.

I am head of the pediatric psychosomatic clinic at the children's hospital within the General Hospital of Vienna and Associate professor at the medical university of Vienna. I am married and have one wonderful daughter 13 years old.

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