Implementation of Media Recommendations for Responsible Reporting of Suicide

45th American Association of Suicidology Annual Conference, Hilton Baltimore, Wednesday, April 18, 2012, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Workshop #7

Implementation of Media Recommendations for Responsible Reporting of Suicide

Faculty: Thomas Niederkrotenthaler, Ph.D.; Jane Pirkis, Ph.D.; Dan Reidenberg, Ph.D.; and Kenneth Norton, MSW

The issue of media reporting of suicide has attracted considerable public health attention because of its potential to trigger 'copycat' acts. In response to this, many countries have developed guidelines to encourage responsible reporting. Although well-intended, the implementation of these guidelines could be difficult.

This workshop will present the evidence base for promoting responsible reporting of suicide. Experts in the field will offer insights to participants to work with media to promote responsible reporting. The recently updated recommendations for reporting on suicide worldwide will also be discussed. In addition, the workshop will give an overview of the unique challenges new communication technology presents for suicide prevention and postvention efforts. The remainder of the workshop will be interactive and will be devoted to sharing experiences, drawing out lessons and outlining future directions. There will be a particular emphasis on providing assistance to participants who are keen to develop or modify guidelines for their own local contexts.

Objectives:

By the end of the workshop, participants will be able to:

1. Understand the experience of different countries in developing and disseminating guidelines on media reporting on suicide.
2. Discuss innovative approaches and consider what works and what does not work in this area.
3. Explore ways in which activities in this area can be strengthened.

Thomas Niederkrotenthaler, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Medical University of Vienna. Contributions: Experiences with media reporting of suicide in Austria; revising the WHO/IASP guidelines for media reporting of suicide.

Jane Pirkis, Ph.D., Contributions: Tensions in reporting of suicide in Australia: Balancing the risk of copycat against public interest; revising the WHO/IASP guidelines for media reporting of suicide.

Dan Reidenberg, Ph.D., Executive Director, Suicide Awareness Voices of Education. Contributions: New media recommendations for reporting on suicide.

Ken Norton, MSW, LICSW, Executive Director, NAMI-NH. Contributions: Strategies for engaging traditional news media and new media/ technology in promoting safe messaging.

Conference Brochure
http://tinyurl.com/7fuhqqj
American Association of Suicidology (AAS)
www.suicidology.org
International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP)
www.iasp.info

IASP International Association for Suicide Prevention

American Association for Suicidology