



INSTITUT DE FRANCE
Académie des sciences

PRESS RELEASE

of the Philippe & Maria Halphen Foundation

MEETING FOR MINDS

Press

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A FORUM ON MENTAL HEALTH TO SET A NEW AGENDA FOR RESEARCH

FREMANTLE – February 2014 – New priorities in mental health research and translation are to be identified by a collaboration of scientists, clinicians and the community at a unique Meeting for Minds Mental Health Forum, to be held on 14 and 15 May in Perth, Western Australia.

Clinicians, scientists and those with lived experience of mental illness from around the world will gather at the inaugural 'Meeting for Minds' Mental Health Forum to provide multiple perspectives in mental health and neuroscience through an innovative program of discussion and debate.

At the conclusion of the forum, eight key projects will be identified to underpin a new mental health research agenda providing real benefits to those affected by mental illness.

Maria Halphen, President of the Philippe and Maria Halphen Foundation, based in Paris, France, conceived “Meeting for Minds”. A close, Perth-based friend of Maria lost most of her twenties to schizophrenia and is Maria’s inspiration.

Every family in Australia is at risk of mental illness and the cost to the economy and wellbeing is, as everybody knows, enormous.

The forum has been developed by the Halphen Foundation’s organizing committee, which includes Keith Wilson, former Minister for Health and chairman of the Mental Health Council of Australia, National Mental Health Commissioner and Executive Director of the University of Sydney’s Brain and Mind Research Institute Professor Ian Hickie, and facilitator Dr Norman Swan.

The Forum outcomes are expected to be summarised in an academic publication for international discussion and review.

Professor Ian Hickie says: “Now is the time to forge a new set of partnerships, linking the emerging insights from brain and clinical sciences with the experiences of those who live with mental ill-health. At international level, we are committed to making a real difference. To do that we need now to set an ambitious agenda for collective action. This forum provides us with a great opportunity to set that agenda into action.”

For more information on the Forum and sponsorship opportunities, please visit www.meetingforminds.com.au.

For any other information, please contact
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About the Philippe & Maria Halphen Foundation

The Philippe & Maria Halphen Foundation was founded in 2013 under the auspices of the French *Académie des Sciences*.

Its missions are to:

- Gather under one roof all mental health stakeholders: researchers, clinicians and those with lived experience, to allow them to share their knowledge.
- Promote links between research sphere and patients life to develop applications and prevention.
- Foster an innovative approach of research including:
 - The development of an international consortium partners;
 - The implementation of a strategy for multidisciplinary research ranging from molecular genetics to cognition behaviour, to study the development of cellular organization and brain structures;
 - The encouragement of the application of the research findings;
 - The support of prevention of psychiatric disorders.
- Enable young researchers from different continents to expand their horizons and explore new directions for the treatment and prevention of mental illness, through an interdisciplinary and international collaboration.

About the Académie des sciences

Since its creation in 1666, the *Académie des Sciences* is dedicated to the development of science and advises governmental authorities in this field. Independent and sustainable, under the protection of the President of the Republic, it is one of the five academies serving at the Institut de France.

In the early 2000s, the Academy has adopted new statutes allowing it to expand and rejuvenate its workforce to meet the growing scientific knowledge and expanding areas of research . Thanks to its 260 members, 131 foreign associates and 96 correspondents, elected from among the French and foreign scientists the most prominent, the Académie des sciences is multidisciplinary and wide open internationally.

Its members carry out their work within thematic committees reflection in close interaction with instances of statutory governance.

The Academy has defined five core missions: encouraging scientific life, promoting science education, imparting knowledge, fostering international collaborations and providing a role expertise and advice

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