



Fortieth anniversary of the International Marcé Society for Perinatal Mental Health: innovations in research, policy, and clinical care

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Published online: 24 August 2021

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Prompted by correspondence between Ian Brockington and Channi Kumar concerning a mother with a bonding disorder, the Marcé Society first met in 1980 to share information related to the emotional well-being of mothers (Glangeaud-Freudenthal 2003). Biennial meetings have been held since to ensure regular information exchange, occurring even amidst the global Covid-19 pandemic. The 40th anniversary of the Society, celebrated at the virtual 2020 meeting, naturally prompts reflection on accomplishments in research, policy, and clinical care of perinatal families. The publications included in this topical collection summarize key conference presentations, providing an archive of lessons learned and setting plans for future directions.

Expertly harnessing a comprehensive research database of depression treatment studies (Cuijpers et al. 2008), Pim Cuijpers and Eirini Karyotaki leverage the power of meta-analysis to assess the efficacy of perinatal depression treatments. A world without depression is the vision of Ricardo Muñoz, who teams with Huynh-Nhu Le, Alinne Berrera, and Blanca Pineda, to review the last forty years of perinatal-prevention research and outlines promising new directions. Addressing policy, also a conference theme, Margaret Spinelli describes her recent efforts to restore postpartum psychosis as a distinct DSM diagnosis. Related commentary from Ann Rhodes, a legal expert, describes the importance of a distinct diagnosis for psychiatrically impaired mothers within the U.S. legal system. Issues and innovations in clinical care, the last conference theme, are also explored. As the first African-American president of the Society and amidst the recent Black Lives Matter movement, I was personally keen to call attention to the issue of health disparities among women of color, particularly those in the U.S. At the 2020 meeting, Elizabeth Howell's insightful keynote address highlighted discriminatory healthcare practices that

undermine care of these women. In this topical collection, she and her coauthor, Kimberly Glazer, provide a thought-provoking review of this research. In a bold departure from traditional depression treatment and prevention efforts, Katie Rose Sanfilippo, Rosie Perkins, and Vivette Glover explore the potential for music to enhance the lives of perinatal families. Sheehan Fisher, who established the Father's special interest group, together with founding members Jesus Cobo, Jane Hanley, Barbara Figueiredo, Richard Fletcher, Craig Garfield, Paul Ramchandani, and Daniel Singley, provide an overview of research, policy, and clinical care of fathers, an often-neglected group. Finally, the collection includes the abstracts of the meeting's award-winning posters from early career investigators: Melesse Binyam, Sonet Boisits, Amalia Londono Tobon, Maggie O'Reilly Treter, and Hiore Yamamoto.

In closing, it is simply not possible to capture, in one topical issue collection, the wealth of research presented at the 2020 biennial meeting of the International Marcé Society for Perinatal Mental Health. Our embarrassment of riches is indeed a credit to the vision of the Society's founders, who identified the need to exchange information. The sampling of lessons learned and directions for the future summarized here serve as a marker of our progress and a call to action in our research, policy, and clinical care of perinatal families.

References

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