



## Professor DIEGO DE LEO

Professor De Leo's research expertise includes definitional issues in suicidology, culture and suicide, international trends and national suicide prevention programs.

He is Past President of the International Association for Suicide Prevention and the International Academy for Suicide Research. He serves as a board member of the Australian Suicide Prevention Advisory Council (ASPAC) and is Chair of the Advisory Committee to the Queensland Government Suicide Prevention Strategy. Prof. De Leo has successfully established and managed many high-level international collaborations, which have resulted in the creation of seven collaborative studies including the WHO/EURO Multicentre Study on Suicidal behaviour, the WHO/SUPRE-MISS (SUicide PREvention – Multisite Intervention Study on Suicide) and the WHO/START Study Project (Suicide Trends in At-Risk Territories).

He is founder/co-founder of the Italian Society for PsychoOncology, the Italian Association for Suicide Prevention and the International Academy for Suicide Research. He is the ideator and main promoter of organizing the World Day for Suicide Prevention, taking place every September 10<sup>th</sup> since its establishment in 2003.

He is currently the Editor in Chief of *Crisis: The Journal of Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention*, and editorial board member of *Suicide & Life-Threatening Behavior*, *Archives of Suicide Research*, *Suicidology-on-Line* and *Advancing Suicide Prevention*. He is Associate Editor of *BMC Public Health*, and Regional Editor of *Behavioral Medicine*. In addition, he is a member of the editorial boards of several other journals including *Journal of Affective Disorders*, *Aging Clinical and Experimental* and the *Open Geriatric Journal*, plus several Italian medical journals.

He is the winner of several national and international awards. He won the IASP Stengel Award when he was just 40-years-old, and Life Research Award (Suicide Prevention - Commonwealth of Australia) in 2007. He is a Gold Medal, Italians in the World. His most recent award was the AAS Louis I. Dublin award (a lifetime achievement award for outstanding services/contributions to the field of suicide prevention as evidenced by leadership, devotion and creativity) in 2011.

He has published extensively with over 700 publications, including 230 peer-reviewed articles, 145 book chapters and 33 volumes. His H-graph is today 24, but has been consistently above 20 in the past five years.

Suicidal Behaviours in DSM-V: Promises, hopes and uncertainties.

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Needless to say, classification systems are crucially important not only for nosographies but also for data quality, research and rationales for developing research programs, their philosophy and evolution. By 2015 the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Classification of Diseases should be made public. The group of scholars in charge of the revision of the chapter related to injuries and self-injuries has proposed substantial revisions to the operating edition (ICD-10<sup>th</sup>), with the hypothesis for the qualifier 'intention' (essential for attributing a cause of death to suicide) to be placed in second or third position after 'method' and 'mechanism' (when identifiable). This possibility has raised many concerns near the suicidological community, which rightly fears that the proposed

hierarchy of qualifiers might bring to massive under-reporting of suicide data.

On the other hand, in the US the next edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-V, expected to be released early 2013) has been preceded by a number of criticisms also from scholars who were instrumental to the delivery of the current edition of the Manual. In an unprecedented move, the American Psychiatric Association has decided to get open comments on its classification proposals by publishing on the web all developmental stages for each diagnostic sub-groups. Some 'conditions', related to suicidal ideation and behaviour, are close to getting new diagnostic dimensions; these are: 'non-suicidal self-injury', 'suicide ideation and behavior', and –more distantly, but of interest to suicide survivors – 'bereavement related disorder' (it seems that the 'prolonged grief disorder' project has now been dropped).

This presentation will consider rationales for proposed changes to the DSM system, and will examine pros and possible cons of the new nomenclatures, and their expected impacts in the suicidological domain.