Our profession, psychiatry, faces significant challenges, globally and locally. Change is demanded of us and the WPA is a unique, important and powerful force for advancement in the world of psychiatry - and, indeed, the world. Our WPA must be ready to embrace these changes. Change demands effective leadership. Change demands energy, experience, reputation and professional networks at the highest level. And change demands consultation, cooperation and collaboration.

As members of WPA we have unique opportunities to bring about changes, changes that are needed by our profession, by our patients and by their families. But to do this, WPA must have leadership with a vision - and a set of tightly focused Organisational Strategic and Action Plans to achieve our objectives.

My promise
As President of the WPA I promise to lead the WPA in an international drive to promote the central place of psychiatry in healthcare worldwide. I will do this by working with my colleagues to:

• ensure the WPA continues its pro-active support of and contribution to clinical excellence, education, research and publication in psychiatry
• ensure that the WPA takes an international leadership role in supporting community mental health care, responding to people affected by adversity and promoting the human face of psychiatry
• forge and consolidate strong links between psychiatrists, community leaders, patients and families – based on negotiation and mutual respect – to advance mental health in the changing world
• ensure the WPA facilitates the sharing of ideas, resources and experiences
• ensure the WPA re-commits to the highest ethical standards	n	demonstrates respect for different cultures
• uses state-of-the art communication and information technology to facilitate equality of access and the widest possible participation;
• takes a leadership position in promoting an appropriate gender balance in its work and the inclusion of people from all parts of the world.

Visit my website at www.helenherrman.com
Please don’t hesitate to contact me either in person, by phone or by email. I would be delighted to hear from you.

STRONG | ETHICAL | INCLUSIVE