

President's Report

Second

International

Association for

Music & Medicine

Conference

Bangkok, Thailand

Jane Edwards⁺ President of IAMM (Republic of Ireland)

Early in July we celebrated the much anticipated IAMM conference in Bangkok Thailand hosted by Chulalongkorn University. Eleven of our Founding Members were in attendance from seven countries of the world and nearly one hundred delegates joined us, travelling to Bangkok from throughout the globe. Every moment, from listening to the keynote speakers, engaging with the highly thoughtful and well researched papers and posters, to the social events was most enjoyable. It was a wonderful time of flourishing for IAMM as we met and planned our future steps.

There are many thanks due for the success of the conference; especially to Dr. Bussakorn Binson and her team at Chulalongkorn University, as well as to so many of the founding members who put such a huge personal effort, time and

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cost into attending to be with us. The keynote speakers, and the paper and poster presenters were magnificent.

Our first keynote on the opening evening by Professor Emeritus Poonpit Amatayakul from Thailand gave us a delightful overview of developments in treatment through sound of children with hearing impairment. Photos of giant ceremonial drums were a highlight, and the idea of using recordings of the low frequency sounds made by these drums were novel in their time, paving the way for research and practice interventions that have continued to show how music and medicine can be used together to develop treatment approaches.

Dave Tongs and Dave Willis prepared a keynote about their work with children in cancer treatment which was delivered by Dave Tongs. The presentation was a highlight of the conference bringing into view the way in which compassionate clinicians can use music sensitively to support children and families in life threatening situations. The commitment of the presenters to this work, and their personal sacrifice of time and effort is so worthy and commendable.

Dr. Helen Shoemark presented a keynote on her internationally acclaimed work with babies receiving medical care in a hospital. Her research shows the level of engagement possible by parents, even those who say 'I can't sing', and the inspiring outcomes when music therapy is used to support parents to read and understand their baby's communication cues.



Figure 1. Conference venue at Chulalongkorn University in Central Bangkok.

Papers by Founding Members of IAMM were presented by Dr. Clare O'Callaghan, Dr. Sumathy Sundar, Dr. Joanne Loewy, Dr. Cheryl Dileo, Dr. Suzanne Hanser, Dr. Patravoot Vatanasapt, Dr. Fred Schwartz, and myself among others. Three prizes were awarded for posters and papers. The SAGE paper prize winner was IAMM Founding Member Dr. Bussakorn Binson of Chulalongkorn University. The sponsored poster prize winners were Dr. Patsy Tan and Christal Chiang from Singapore General Hospital. The prize is sponsored by the Music & Health Research Group at the University of Limerick www.irishworldacademy.ie/postgraduate-programmes/ma-music-therapy/music-health-research-group/. The peer poster prize was awarded to Trish Dearn and Dr. Helen Shoemark who collaborated on a poster presentation of study of music therapy work in NICU.



Figures 2 and 3. Left image: SAGE Best Paper Award. From left to right, IAMM President Jane Edwards, Bussakorn Binson (recipient), Joanne Loewy, Ralph Spintge, and Patravoot Vatanasapt. Right Image: SAGE Best Poster Award. From left to right, Jane Edwards, Thomas Stegemann with shared recipients Patsy Tan and Christal Chiang.

To all of our members who attended the conference, thank you! We loved meeting up with you again, and having the chance to share and learn together. Please let us know if there is anything more we can do to help you enjoy your membership of IAMM.

Sincerely,
Professor Jane Edwards
October 2012
iamminfo@gmail.com



Figure 4. Chulalongkorn University's President Professor Pirom Kamolratanakul, MD. delivering the opening address.



Figure 5. Study tour at the Thai Red Cross Swangkaniwas Rehabilitation Center.



Figure 6. Most of the participants with the founding members of IAMM in front row.