The Pietermaritzburg Suicidology Project (PSP) was established in 1983 in the context of a general hospital clinical psychology service. In developing a clinical psychology service at Northdale general Hospital, Pietermaritzburg, we found ourselves inundated with referrals from physicians concerning cases of suicidal behaviour, particularly in adolescents. In most cases these involved overdoses of medication or ingestion of poisonous substances. In view of the high incidence of the problem and complex psychosocial dynamics involved, we developed a treatment strategy that we in turn subjected to research evaluation. Our research has also developed to exploration of other facets of suicidal behaviour, including psychodynamics, family dynamics, gender, HIV/AIDS, culture, and prevention strategies.

The PSP is an ongoing, largely unfunded research project incorporating clinical service, research and clinical training for psychology interns. In addition to the attached listing of our work, our activities include contributions to public service organizations and training of volunteer counsellors.

This work has also led to the development of an Honours-level (4th year) module in suicidology that has been offered on the Pmb campus of UKZN since 2001.

Founders:

Anthony L Pillay, PhD
Associate Professor
Principal Clinical Psychologist
Fort Napier Hospital
P O Box 370
Pietermaritzburg 3200
South Africa

Douglas R Wassenaar, PhD
Associate Professor
School of Psychology
University of KwaZulu-Natal
Private Bag X01
Scottsville 3209
South Africa

Email: anthony.pillay@kznhealth.gov.za
Ph: +27 33 3454221
Fax: +27 33 3455730

Email: wassenaar@ukzn.ac.za
Ph: +27 33 2605373
Fax: +27 33 2605809

International Associates:

Dr Silvia S Canetto, Department of Psychology, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado. Email: scanetto@lamar.ColorState.EDU

Dr Mark Leach, Department of Psychology, Director of Training Department of Educational & Counseling Psychology College of Education & Human Development University of Louisville Louisville, KY m.leach@louisville.edu
PIETERMARITZBURG SUICIDIOLOGY PROJECT

Outputs as at May 2012

Journal Articles


**Published Conference Proceedings**


Conference Presentations


WASSENAAR, D.R. (2005). Ethical issues in suicide prevention research. Paper presented at symposium (Convenor: Dr K Hofman) on Ethical issues in Suicide Prevention Research. XXIII World Congress of the International Association of Suicide Prevention, Durban, September.


Postgraduate Theses and Dissertations


