



**2ND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
ON TRAUMA AND MENTAL HEALTH**  
18-20 September 2022 ● Jerusalem Israel

# **SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TRAUMA AND MENTAL HEALTH**

**18-20 SEPTEMBER 2022**

***THE CONFERENCE OUTCOMES***

***HOSTED BY***



***In partnership with***





## BACKGROUND

The 2nd International Conference on Trauma and Mental Health, held at the Notre Dame Center in Jerusalem from 18-20 September 2022, was hosted by AUSiMED, with the support of co-hosts Phoenix Australia, Hadassah Australia and Hadassah Medical Organization.

The conference was designed to explore the key issues faced by psychologist, psychiatrist, GPs, social workers, counsellors and others working with living with PTSD including people in ongoing conflict zones, refugees and displaced people and people affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The conference reflected the ongoing commitment of the Conference hosts to collaboratively and inclusively promote scientific discourse and share new knowledge in order to continually improve delivery and effectiveness of trauma-related mental health treatment, locally in Israel and Palestine, regionally and globally.

## THE CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

The conference committees developed a truly international event with:

- **Five** high-profile international keynote speakers
- Participants from **15** countries including Australia, UK, USA, Europe and the middle east.
- **100 oral presentations and 30 poster presentations**
- **236** researchers and healthcare professionals in attendance



## THE CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

**Professor Richard Bryant**, Scientia Professor of Psychology at the University of New South Wales, spoke on **World Health Organisation mental health programs for refugees and displaced persons**.

**Sir Professor Sir Simon Wessely**, professor of psychological medicine at the Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London AND Director of the King's Centre for Military Health Research, spoke on **adversity and mental health in the UK mental health service**.

**Professor Barbara Rothbaum**, a clinical psychologist and a professor in the Psychiatry department at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, USA. She is a pioneer in the treatment of anxiety-related disorders with a speciality in posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Prof Rothbaum spoke on her work in the **treatment of PTSD**.

**Professor Tine Jensen**, Professor of Psychology at the University of Oslo and Research Professor at the Norwegian Centre for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies, spoke on the **treatment of trauma affected children and adolescents**.

**Dr Rick Doblin**, the founder and executive director of the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS), spoke on **MDMA-assisted therapies and the healing of trauma**.



Prof Richard Bryant  
(Australia)



Rick Doblin  
(USA)



Prof Tine Jensen  
(Norway)



Prof Barbara Rothbaum  
(USA)



Prof Sir Simon Wessely  
(UK)





## THE CONFERENCE OUTCOMES

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The conference gave over 230 mental health practitioners and researchers access to **world-leading experts** who gave step-by-step guidance in the most effective treatments available for trauma-related disorders and also outlined their thoughts about the next generation of treatment developments.

The conference facilitated the formation of **new and deepened collaborations** between mental health practitioners and researchers both regionally and globally. Notably, two important opportunities to introduce new PTSD treatments to Australia were identified:

- 1) Prof Shai Efrati's work on hyperbaric oxygen therapy and its use for treatment resistant PTSD and long-Covid; and
- 2) Professor Yair Bar Haim's recent innovations in the **treatment of PTSD which has successfully targeted PTSD specific symptoms**. This is the first time treatment of specific PTSD symptoms has been achieved with precision.

The conference brought a **high-level delegation of mental health experts from Turkey** to Israel, opening up new links between Israel and Turkey and between AUSiMED and the Turkish community of Australia.

The Turkish delegation's attendance at the conference opened discussions with Phoenix Australia that will see the introduction of new learnings from Turkey about trauma services for refugees into a new Victorian government-funded state-wide trauma initiative.



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## PHOTO GALLERY



Author and Guest Speaker



Antony Cohen, USiMED Chair



Conference co-chair and  
keynote speaker



Dr Shafiq Masalha and Dr  
Esti Galili-Weisstub



Conference dinner



Profs David Forbes and Yair Ben Haim-  
conference Co-Chairs



Dr Brendan Hayman and  
Dr Grant Blashki



Prof Omer Bonne,  
conference co-chair



Profs Forbes, Kilic (Turkey),  
Jensen (Norway)  
and Dr Teshuva



## ABOUT AUSIMED

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AUSiMED exists to foster and strengthen biomedical research collaboration between world-leading clinicians and scientists in Israel and Australia. Our primary goal is to improve patient outcomes by accelerating the pace of biomedical discovery and the translation of medical breakthroughs into novel therapeutics and diagnostics.

AUSiMED uses philanthropic funding to leverage collective interests from industry and government to create new capacity for interdisciplinary, collaborative approaches in medical research that will increase the research capacity of both nations and promote long-lasting international scientific relationships.

AUSiMED also seeks to invest in knowledge exchange between Australian and Israeli health and medical research professionals by funding fellowships, international exchange programs and conferences in priority research areas.

**For further information** about AUSiMED please contact: Dr Karen Teshuva  
[karen@ausimed.org](mailto:karen@ausimed.org)

## CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS AND COMMITTEES

### Conference Co-Chairs

**Prof David Forbes**, Director, Phoenix Australia, Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health, Department of Psychiatry, The University of Melbourne, Australia

**Prof Yair Bar Haim**, Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience, School of Psychological Sciences and Sagol School of Neuroscience, Tel Aviv University, Israel

**Prof Omer Bonne**, Head, Dept of Psychiatry, Hadassah Medical Center, Israel

**Prof Richard Bryant AC**, Professor of Psychology, University of New South Wales, Australia

Conference Organising Committee	Conference Scientific Committee
Dr Karen Teshuva	Prof David Forbes
Prof Omer Bonne	Prof Yair Bar Haim
Ron Finkel AM	Prof Omer Bonne
Prof Akram Abdel Rahman	Prof Richard Bryant AC
Prof David Forbes	Assoc Prof Grant Blashki
Dr Brendan Hayman	Prof Meaghan O'Donnell
Ass Prof Grant Blashki	Dr Esti Galili-Weistubb
	Prof Jayashri Kulkarni AM



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**AUSIMED THANKS THE GENEROUS SUPPORTERS  
OF THIS CONFERENCE**

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**Anna and John  
Belfer Trust**

**Henroth Group**



**Anonymous x 2**

