

## History of the Marcé Society

*Original information gathered by Nine Glangeaud, assisted by Jane Honikman, Carol Henshaw, Margaret Oates, Gene Paykel, Ian Brockington and Marianne Kumar and partially published in*

*- the Marcé Newsletter (Issue 11, February 2001)*

*- Psychological Medicine, 2002, 32, 559-561 by Glangeaud-Freudenthal N MC "Channi Kumar's Contribution to Perinatal Psychiatry. A personal tribute from France".*

*- Archives of Women's Mental Health 2003, 6/sup2, 79-82 by Glangeaud-Freudenthal N MC "Channi Kumar and the History of the Marcé Society".*

*Updated in November 2008 by Nine Glangeaud -Freudenthal President-elect of the Marcé Society, founding member and past-president of the Société Marcé Francophone (SMF).*

In 1996, and again several times later, when I felt discouraged about the prospects of establishing a Francophone section of the Marcé Society, Channi Kumar encouraged me by telling me the story of the Society's beginnings. Like many others, I miss Channi's support and sympathy.

Channi explained that before the 1980s, although quite a few people, in different disciplines and professions, were working on postnatal disorders, they had no way to share their knowledge and ideas. Channi Kumar, James Hamilton, and Ian Brockington, exchanging views at meetings, came up with the idea of founding an international society; open to all pro-fessionals, aimed at improving the understanding, prevention and treatment of mental disorders related to child-bearing. They wanted members of the society, from all over the world, to meet at least biennially to exchange information and ideas about their practice and research and to initiate collaborative research.

In the Bulletin of the Society (spring 1993), Gene Paykel wrote:

"The parents of the Marcé Society were Jim Hamilton, Channi Kumar, Ian Brockington, Bob Kendell and George Winokur. An unusually large number for one child and also entirely single-sexed, but the Society has made up for that since then".

Recently, Ian Brockington answered my question on the origins of the MS saying:

"The idea of the Society arose out of correspondence I had with Jim Hamilton, starting about 1977 when I wrote to con-sult him about a mother with a bonding disorder (which was then terra incognita). I think he suggested it. There was a small meeting at Queen Charlotte's organised by Merton Sandler, and I think I discussed the matter with Channi Kumar there. He and I discussed many things related to mother & baby units etc. In June 1980, I took the initiative of arrang-ing an international conference, to which Jim Hamilton and Ralph Paffenbarger were invited. Although we advertised it only 7-8 months ahead, we had about 150 delegates. After the conference, my wife hosted a dinner for 6 individuals -Jim and myself, Channi, Ralph Paffenbarger, Bob Kendell and George Winokur - all Anglo-Saxon men, I am afraid. It was decided to found the Society there and then. It was left to Channi and me to do the work. During the next year we worked it all out, including the constitution and Channi arranged the second conference, at the Maudsley, in 1982, at which the first committee was elected. The original constitution stipulated a Founding Committee consisting of the 6 founders (not "founding members" - there were many of those) and past presidents."

Ian Brockington also wrote in his obituary of James Hamilton:

"On the evening of Friday 20th we held a dinner at my house.. .attended by three Americans {James Hamilton, Ralph Paffenbarger and George Winokur) and three Britons (Robert Kendell, Channi Kumar and my self).James...urged us to create the new society. This was the birth of the association from which Channi Kumar suggested the name of Marcé Society." (Archives of Women's Mental Health, 1998, 1: 2)

Recently, Margaret Oates wrote to me, also answering my question on the origins of the MS:

"The Marcé Society was "conceived" in Frank Margison's house in Manchester in early 1980.

Physically present at the meet-ing were Frank, Ian Brockington, Channi Kumar, John Cox and myself. I think Bill Deakin may also have been there. Paffenbarger, James Hamilton and George

Winokur were contacted on the telephone. This group, together with Bob Kendell were the original "founding fathers" or "steering committee".

This Manchester meeting must have been a very stimulating and productive meeting.

Channi Kumar also told me that he was fascinated by the very early work of a French physician, Louis Victor Marcé, who was one of the first to describe specifically puerperal mental disorders. It was for this reason that he suggested naming this new association after Marcé. Recently Marianne Kumar told me a nice story:

"At this time, Channi talked so much about this French physician that I looked for LV Marcé's book in all the used book-shops in Paris until I found it and could give it to him for Christmas".

Louis Victor Marcé (1828-1864) was born in Paris. In 1858, he wrote "Traité de la Folie des femmes enceintes, des nouvelles accouchées et des nourrices (Treatise on psychoses of pregnant women, and newly delivered and nursing mothers)" and some other works on mental illness. The treatise is said to have been translated at Keele University but no trace of this translation has been found (Carol Henshaw, 2006). In the Spring 1994 Marcé Bulletin, John Cox published some extracts and comments from it, together with LV Marcé's curriculum vitae.

The Marcé Society (MS) was officially launched during the first academic meeting on Puerperal Mental Disorders held in Manchester in July 1980. The first MS President was Ian Brockington, Channi Kumar was Vice-president, and Frank Margison was Secretary/Bulletin Editor. The first "real" Biennial General Meeting (BGM), however, was held in London in 1982, organised by Channi Kumar at the Institute of Psychiatry.

Channi Kumar was elected President at the BGM held in San Francisco (California) in 1984. The next president was John Cox, elected at the 1986 Nottingham BGM. The BGMs were then held in Keele in 1988 and in York in 1990. Margaret Oates took over the presidency at the 1989 annual meeting in Amsterdam, succeeded by Gene Paykel, who took over at the 1992 Edinburgh BGM and served until 1994. During his presidency the constitution was rewritten, including provisions for two-year presidential terms. Brice Pitt was elected at the 1994 BGM in Cambridge, followed by Mike O'Hara in London (1996) and Louis Appleby in Iowa (1998). During Appleby's term, MS executive meetings began to be conducted by e-mail. The constitution was also amended to meet the Society's developing needs. These changes included the granting of official status to national groups. The first two were the Australasian and Francophone Societies - and the direct election of the President and other officers by the Marcé Society members. During the 2000 BGM in Manchester, Philip Boyce was elected president and Lynne Murray president-elect. Philip Boyce organised the next BGM, held in Sydney in 2002, Lynne Murray held the 2004 meeting in Oxford and the 2006 Biennial International Scientific Meeting and BGM were held at Keele University. Bryanne Barnett held the 2008 Biennial International Scientific Meeting and BGM in Sydney. Next one will be in Pittsburgh in 2010.....

## **Presidents**

Ian Brockington	1982-1984
Channi Kumar	1984-1986
John Cox	1986-1989
Margaret Oates	1989-1992
Gene Paykel	1992-1994
Brice Pitt	1994-1996
Michael O'Hara	1996-1998
Louis Appleby	1998-2000
Philip Boyce	2000-2002
Lynne Murray	2002-2004
Carol Henshaw	2004-2006

Bryanne Barnett 2006-(2008)  
Kathie Wisner 2008-present  
Nine Glangeaud 2008 President-Elect

### **Secretaries**

Frank Margison 1982-1988  
Beth Alder 1988-1991  
Trevor Friedman 1991-1996  
Suzanne Steinberg 1996-2000  
Jane Fisher 2000-2008  
Jane Handley 2008-present

### **Bulletin Editors**

Frank Margison 1982 - 1988  
Bill Deakin 1988 - 1992  
Louis Appleby 1992 - 1996  
Beth Alder 1996 - 1 998

### **Information Editors**

Carol Henshaw 1998 - 2002  
Nine Glangeaud &  
Kristina Hofberg 2002-2006  
Nine Glangeaud 2006 -2008  
Marie-Paule Austin 2006-present

### **Treasurers**

?? 1982 - 1984  
Ian Brockington 1984 -1986  
?? 1986 - 1992?  
Diana Riley 1992? - 1996  
Vivette Glover 1996 - 2004  
Paula Brownsett 2004 – 2008  
Vivette Glover 2008 - present

### **Marcé Medal**

Margaret Oates wrote to me

"The Marcé medal was minted with a grant from Boots Pharmaceutical Co and is given on behalf of the current President and Executive Committee to a person who is thought to have made an outstanding contribution to either the clinical care or research activities in the field of perinatal mental health. The first recipient was James Hamilton, the second Channi Kumar."

James Hamilton 1990 (given by Channi Kumar)  
Channi Kumar 1992 (given by Margaret Gates in 1994)  
Robert Kendall 1994 (given by Gene Paykel)  
John Cox 1996 (given by Brice Pitt)  
George Winokur 1998 (given by Michael O'Hara)  
Lynne Murray 2000 (given by Louis Appleby)  
Michael O'Hara 2002 (given by Philip Boyce)  
Vivette Glover 2004 (given by Lynne Murray)  
Margaret Oates 2006 (given by Carol Henshaw)

Philip Boyce                      2008 (given by Bryanne Barnett)

### **Channi Kumar Lecture**

Vivette Glover gave the first Channi Kumar lecture in 2004 at the Oxford Biennial Meeting. David Rubinow from the National Institutes of Mental Health, USA gave the Channi Kumar Memorial Lecture at the Biennial Conference, held in September 2006 at Keele University, UK and in 2008 Nine Glangeaud-Freudenthal was very honored to give it at the Biennial Conference in Sydney.

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