

INTERNATIONAL AND AUSTRALIAN SPEAKERS



Amy Yin Man Chow, Ph. D., M. Soc. Sc., R.S.W, F.T. (Hong Kong SAR)

Dr. Amy Y. M. Chow is an Associate Professor with the Department of Social Work and Social Administration, the University of Hong Kong. She is a board member of the prestigious International Workgroup on Death, Dying and Bereavement, a registered social worker with the Hong Kong Social Workers Registration Board. She also serves the Body of Knowledge Committee and Grief Counseling Standards Task Force of Association of Death Education and Counseling. She is the first Fellow in Thanatology awarded by the Association of Death Education and Counseling in Asia. Her achievement in bereavement research is well recognized locally and internationally. She received the *Association for Death Education and Counseling 2005 Cross-Cultural Award*, *Cadenza Fellow in 2008*, *Distinguished Alumni Award 2013 of Department of Social Work, CUHK*, *2013 Rainbow of Life Outstanding Individual Award*, *2014 Outstanding Social Worker Award* and *2014 Outstanding Teaching Award of the University of Hong Kong*. She is a popular international speaker in bereavement and hospice conferences around the world.



John L. McIntosh, Ph.D.

John L. McIntosh is Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Professor of Psychology at Indiana University South Bend. He has served as Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs for 6.5 years and 1 year as Interim Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, preceded by 4 years as Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences and Chair of the Department of Psychology for 5 years.

He is the author, co-author, or co-editor of 8 published books on suicide and has contributed chapters to several books and articles to many professional journals. He has made over 125 professional presentations and many keynote addresses at professional conferences. He also serves on the editorial boards of *Suicide & Life-Threatening Behavior* and *Crisis: The Journal of Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention*.

He is a Past-President of the American Association of Suicidology (AAS; served as President in 1993-94) as well as a past member of the AAS Board of Directors and has served as Secretary of the AAS Board of Directors.

McIntosh was the 1990 recipient of the American Association of Suicidology's Edwin Shneidman Award (awarded to a person below the age of 40 for scholarly contributions in research to the field of suicidology) and the 1999 recipient of AAS's Roger Tierney Award for Service. McIntosh was Program Chair of the 1990 23rd annual AAS meeting in New Orleans. McIntosh was also the 2011 recipient of the Charles T. Rubey LOSS Award (recognizing extraordinary impact on the lives of survivors of suicide) given by the Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide Program of the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

McIntosh was the 1994 recipient of the *IUSB Distinguished Teaching Award* and the 1995 recipient of the *Indiana University President's Award for Distinguished Teaching*. He also received an *IUSB Teaching*

Excellence Recognition Award in 1998. In 2000, McIntosh was selected as the 16th *IUSB Eldon F. Lundquist Faculty Fellow* as well as the 2nd recipient of the *IUSB Distinguished Research Award*.

McIntosh's work has been reported in newspapers (119 in 33 states) and magazines across the country, including the *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, *USA Today*, *Boston Globe*, *Chicago Tribune*, and *Newsweek*. He also appeared on the Donahue (1986) and Oprah (1989) television programs to discuss elderly suicide.



Michelle L. Rusk (Linn-Gust), Ph.D.

Michelle L. Rusk has inspired people worldwide for over twenty years to lead meaningful and authentic lives. She is a past president of the American Association of Suicidology and the author of ten books (three of them fiction novels), most recently, *Flowers by Day: Stars by Night: Finding Happiness after Loss and Change*. She presents motivational workshops, teaching people how to make the most of life transitions and personal growth.



Emeritus Professor Judy Atkinson, Ph.D. (SCU)

Emeritus Professor Judy Atkinson identifies as a Jiman / Bundjalung (Aboriginal Australian) woman who also has Anglo-Celtic, and German heritage. Her primary academic and research focus is in the area of violence and relational trauma, and healing for Indigenous, and indeed all peoples. She developed the We Al-li program which was used as a foundation stone for the Masters in Indigenous Studies (wellbeing); the undergraduate degree Trauma and Healing, and the Diploma of Community Recovery. In 2011 she was awarded the Fritz Redlich award for Mental Health and Human Rights from the Harvard University Global Mental Health Trauma and Recovery program. Judy retired at the end of 2010, so can focus on writing and working with communities in Australia, Timor Leste, and Papua New Guinea educational healing work, what she calls educating.



Associate Professor Judith Murray, BA(HonsI), BEdSt, PhD, BNurs.

Associate Professor Judith Murray is Professor in Counselling and Counselling Psychology at The University of Queensland Australia. Judith has been the Director of the Master of Counselling Program from 2003-2010 and since 2015. She also assisted in the establishment of the Master of Applied Psychology (Counselling) at UQ. Previous to this position she was responsible for the establishment of a Loss and Grief Unit in the Centre for Primary Health Care in the School of Population Health. Judith is also a registered nurse having worked part time from 2010-2016 in Haematology and Oncology at The Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane, Queensland.

Judith is a qualified secondary school teacher, psychologist, and nurse. She is the author of numerous papers, and resource packages and books. She has served on a number of national consultations for bereavement, postvention and children's grief and is on the Board of a national aid organization. Judith has worked consistently to further the use of loss as an integrative concept within the health, welfare and education sectors which is articulated in the book "Understanding Loss: A Guide for Caring for Those Facing Adversity" (Routledge).



Kim Ruocco, MCSW

Kim Ruocco is presently the Chief External Relations Officer for Suicide prevention and postvention for the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS). Ms. Ruocco is an international public speaker who has a unique combination of personal and professional experience, education and training that provides a comprehensive understanding of suicide prevention and postvention.

Ms. Ruocco has been instrumental in raising awareness using the voices of military suicide survivors. She developed suicide survivor panels that testified in multiple venues including the DOD/VA suicide prevention task force, National Action Alliance and DOD/VA conferences. She assisted in the development of the Department of Defense Suicide prevention Office (DSPO) Postvention Toolkit, and was a reviewer for the current national strategy for postvention. Ms. Ruocco assisted in the development of the USMC's "Never Leave a Marine Behind" program and is a participant in the training video. She was the Family Liaison Contact for the USMC/AAS psychological autopsy research project that provided key prevention information for the USMC. Ms. Ruocco regularly briefs the DSPO and Navy on the family perspective of risk factors and gaps in service. She has also testified before the Senate and Congressional Committees on Veterans affairs and is considered a SME for suicide pre and postvention.

Ms. Ruocco has developed comprehensive, peer-based programs that offer comfort and care to all those who are grieving the loss of a service member to suicide. She created a team of peer-professionals who provide care and comfort to nearly 5000 survivors of military suicide. The most impactful of these services is the TAPS Annual Survivors of Suicide Loss Conference, which offers hope and healing to 1000's of survivors, and provides a camp and military mentoring for the children of the fallen. Her programming has been ground breaking in the field of postvention and has been incorporated into many civilian postvention programs. Ms. Ruocco is currently the co-lead on the National Action Alliance Military and Family Task force and a member of the National Expert Advisory Panel for Research. She was awarded "Survivor of the Year" by the American Association of Suicidology.

Ms. Ruocco holds a BA in Human Services and Psychology from the University of Massachusetts and a Masters degree in Clinical Social Work from Boston University. She is also the surviving widow of Marine Corp Major John Ruocco, who died by suicide in 2005.



Chief Inspector Gary Raymond APM, OAM (Ret'd.), Dip.VET

Detective Chief Inspector Gary Raymond APM, OAM performed duty as an Ambulance Officer with the NSW Ambulance Service for 5 years. He then completed 34 years as a sworn police officer with the NSW Police Force. Gary was stationed at Redfern Police Station General Duties. He then completed 10 years fulltime with the NSW Police Rescue Squad performing over 1500 rescue missions. These included vehicle crash extrication, vertical rescue (heights & depths), search & rescue, industrial rescue, domestic rescue, missions on the police helicopter, animal rescue, armed offender situations, improvised explosive device situations, riots, search for offenders & murder weapons, body recovery and swift water rescues. Gary attended the Granville Train Disaster and Thredbo Landslide Disaster.

Gary performed 200 suicide crisis negotiations mainly people threatening to jump from heights. He became a designated detective working on criminal investigations for 10 years. Gary was on the team to solve the Anita Cobby Murder. Gary was a police peer support officer and specialised in emergency management and crime scene management. Gary attended the scene of the assassination of John Newman, Member of NSW State Parliament.

Since his retirement, Gary is Chaplain to the Police Post Trauma Support Groups NSW, Welfare Officer for the Retired Police Association, the Parramatta/Hills Branch and member of Postvention Australia. Gary presents workshops on Suicide Prevention, Suicide Crisis Negotiation and Suicide Postvention, Grief Awareness, Critical Incident Stress Management and Post-Traumatic Stress Management. Gary has been awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM), Australian Police Medal (APM), National Medal, Australian Police Service Medal, Commissioner's Olympic Citation, Commissioner's Certificate of Merit for Security Assessment of the 2003 Ruby World Cup, and the Granville Train Disaster Medal.

Gary has a Diploma in Vocational Education & Training (Dip.VET).



Emeritus Professor Ian W Webster AO

Ian Webster AO is a physician and Emeritus Professor of Public Health and Community Medicine of the University of New South Wales and Patron of the Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia. He has held senior appointments in the Faculty of Medicine, University of New South Wales and had appointments at Monash, Sheffield and Sydney Universities.

He was Chair of the Australian Suicide Prevention Advisory Council from 1998 to 2015 and is Chair of the Advisory Committee of the Centre for Primary Health Care and Equity, University of New South Wales, and immediate past President of the Governing Council of the Ted Noffs Foundation. He was Foundation Chair of the Foundation for Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation (AERF) now known as the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE) and appointed by the Prime Minister as Commissioner on the National Mental Health Commission from 2012 to 2014). He chaired the NSW Ministerial Advisory Group on Alcohol and Drugs from 1999 to 2013 and was a member of an expert advisory committee to the NSW Law Reform Commission from 2011 to 2013. He has chaired a number of Commonwealth and State Government inquiries and reviews in disability, health, mental health and alcohol and other drug problems.

He practises as a consultant physician in the Shoalhaven Area of NSW and has practised as a physician in Whyalla, South Australia, and in public hospitals in the UK and Australia. For thirty five years he has worked as a physician in free clinics for homeless people at the Matthew Talbot Hostel, Woolloomooloo, Sydney and the Exodus Foundation, Ashfield, Sydney.

At the time of the Hawke Government, in 1985, he chaired the national consultation prior to the establishment of the National Campaign Against Drugs later to become the National Drug Strategy. He was interim Director of the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre in 1986-87. In 1992 he chaired the review of the National Campaign Against Drugs for the Commonwealth Government.

His research and publications have been in medicine, community health, alcohol and other drug problems, mental health, homelessness and social issues.

In June 1995 he was appointed as an Officer in the Order of Australia and in 2009 received the Prime Minister's Award for outstanding work in the field of drugs and alcohol.



Diana Sands, PhD

Diana Sands, PhD, Director, Bereaved by Suicide Centre for Intense Grief, is a postvention and prevention clinician, researcher and educator. Diana provides counseling following sudden, violent and traumatic death, and in particular individual, couple and family counseling and group programs, for those who have lost a loved one through suicide. Her counseling and group programs draw on a range of theoretical perspectives including narrative and family systems theory and incorporate expressive artwork. She is a Clinical Member of the Psychotherapy and Counseling Federation of Australia, and the past Deputy Chair of Postvention Australia, and the Honorary Advisor to the Wings of Hope Charity. Diana has served on the NSW Executive Committee, National Association Loss and Grief, and as the NSW representative with Suicide Prevention Australia. Diana is a Member of the International Work Group Death, Dying and Bereavement, and a recipient of the Vice Chancellor Post Graduate Research Grant, Australian Government Research Scholarship. Diana has presented seminars and workshops in Australia and Internationally drawing on her clinical experience and research. She has published a number of peer reviewed academic articles and book chapters and is the author of a book and DVD resource, "*Red Chocolate Elephants: For Children Bereaved by Suicide*".



Beate Steller

Beate Steller brings 30 years of experience in a variety of sectors to her role as a Training Consultant and a Spiritual Care Team Leader in Aged Care. Beate has been an adult educator and counsellor for the last 20 years which included working at Lifeline's (Sydney/Sutherland) Telephone Counselling as Trainer and Telephone Counsellor. Beate was a facilitator of Sutherland's Postvention Suicide Support group and Mention My Name Suicide Bereavement Group and presents suicide prevention and postvention support training. Beate's experience in the Health Services' Industry includes specialising in HIV AIDS, palliative care and aged care. In the last 10 years Beate has specialised in loss and grief education/counselling and transition counselling. Beate has been a Board Member of NALAG (National Association of Loss and Grief) since 2009. She has both a graduate and post graduate qualifications in Adult Education, Social Work and Nursing.



Dr Paul Quinnett

Dr. Paul Quinnett is currently the President and CEO of the QPR Institute, an educational organization dedicated to preventing suicide. Author of eight books and an award-winning journalist, he is also Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science at the University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle, Washington.

In addition to directing a large, public sector mental health program for adults and elders for 30 years, and serving as director of an American Psychological Association-approved internship in clinical psychology, he maintained a limited private practice in psychotherapy, law enforcement, and corporate consulting.

Together with a multidisciplinary team of clinicians and researchers, he founded the QPR Institute in 1999 to help prevent suicide through "excellence in education."

Similar to the brief intervention model of CPR, the QPR Gatekeeper Training for Suicide Prevention program has been taught to more than two million citizens and professionals by more than 15,000 certified instructors worldwide and in more than 13 languages.

In the early 1960's Dr. Quinnett served in the US Army Security Agency in Asia (now NSA). Much of his work in suicide prevention is based on his military training in surveillance, signal detection, intelligence gathering, threat assessment and analysis of human behavior.