

## IASA AIMS & OBJECTIVES

**The International Association for the Study of Attachment (IASA) aims to foster the development of theory and research that will increase the adaptation, health and happiness of individuals, families and groups of people who have been or are exposed to adversity, across the life span and in all cultures.**

Our goal is to seek and promote theoretically meaningful and testable integrations of treatment methods to generate a dynamic and comprehensive model of treatment that is rooted in human evolution, systemic, developmental, and transactional. To address this purpose, the association finds a useful basis in the Dynamic-Maturational Model (DMM). This model addresses the complexity of human experience from infancy to adulthood. The DMM seeks to create a testable framework of constructs and hypotheses that has the potential to maximize communication among biological, psychological and social researchers as well as professionals in mental health treatment, social work and justice.

Specific activities of IASA:

### **To foster basic research on development and adaptation**

- Continuing integration of new theory and empirical results into existing theory (correcting error, increasing precision, expanding into new areas);
- Promoting research on both basic and applied aspects of mental health treatment (research consultation).

### **To foster research on interventions and treatment**

- Research on existing treatments and techniques, informed by DMM (focus on interpersonal processes in treatment including therapist contributions);
- Production of new and testable theory on integrated treatments.

### **To influence treatment and social policy**

- Advocacy and dialogue with policy-makers;
- Provide evidence of innovation in clinical treatment;
- Develop models of best practice, including primary and secondary prevention to promote safety and mental health.

### **To facilitate communication about DMM thinking and methods**

- Products: Talks; publications; members-only newsletter; website; reviews of published research, theory, and applications; DMM News;
- Activities: Biennial conferences ; international networking and collaboration; forums.