



Interactive Media Institute-Europe  
Rue de la Loi 28/7, B-1040  
Brussels, Belgium  
Fax: 011 32 2 286 8508  
www.interactivemediainstitute.com

## NATO ADVANCED RESEARCH WORKSHOP

### “Wounds of War: Lowering Suicide Risk in Returning Troops”

To be held at

**Hotel Amerika-Holzer, Klopeiner See, Südkärnten, Austria**

**14 – 17 October 2007**





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## GENERAL INFORMATION PACKAGE

This package contains information to assist you with the planning of your visit. For your convenience the package has been organized as follows:

1. INTRODUCTION
2. USEFUL INFORMATION
3. MEETING SITE
4. ACCOMMODATION
5. MEALS AND REFRESHMENTS
6. TRAVELLING TO KLOPEINER SEE
7. GENERAL INFORMATION
8. SOCIAL ACTIVITIES
9. GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT AUSTRIA
10. GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT KLOPEINER SEE

Attachments:      Conference Registration Form  
                          Map of Klopeiner See  
                          Map of Austria

### **IMPORTANT**

**Please note that the deadline of hotel bookings for all participants is:**

***September 30, 2007***





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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The three-day Advanced Research Workshop (ARW) entitled “*Wounds of War: Lowering Suicide Risk in Returning Troops*” will be held 14-17 October 2007 at the Hotel Amerika-Holzer, Klopeiner See, Südkärnten, Austria. This meeting will allow experts from across Europe and North America to meet and discuss the impact of war-related stress, particularly when it increases risk of suicide, on participants in current and past conflicts.

This Advanced Research Workshop is being convened to discuss the topic of increased suicide risk in our service men and women. Research has shown that those who have served in both combat missions and peacekeeping operations are at an increased risk for suicide. Research suggests that this may result from their “wounds of war”. Some wounds may be more “invisible”; such as depression, posttraumatic stress disorder, and chronic pain, while others are more visibly apparent; such as physical disabilities. Whatever the wound, however, it seems they may all lead to an increased risk of suicide.

During this workshop, we plan to discuss how to more effectively deal with this issue. Specifically, some of the questions we want to address are:

- How do we detect those who are vulnerable to increased suicide risk, possibly due to a combination of genetics and past environmental insults?
- How do we most appropriately assess for increased risk?
- Once detected, how do we help to decrease that risk?
- Are there pre-deployment training methods we can employ to help “inoculate” individuals against increased risk?
- Are there in-theater and post-deployment methods most appropriate for dealing with this risk?

Our hope is that through this workshop, we can come to understand what programs are already in place for detection, assessment, prevention, and treatment. We can then learn from these existing plans and begin to formulate a more common set of best practices and guidelines which can be implemented throughout organizations in all our countries; having as our common goal to always seek to serve our service members more effectively.





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## 2. USEFUL INFORMATION

### Co-Chairs:

#### **Professor Dr. Brenda K. Wiederhold Ph.D., MBA, BCIA**

Rue de la Loi, 28/7                      Tel: +32 2 286 8505  
B-1040 Brussels                      Fax: +32 2 286 8508  
Belgium                                      E-mail: [cyberconference@vrphobia.com](mailto:cyberconference@vrphobia.com)

#### **Professor Dr. Dragica Kozarić Kovačić, M.D., Ph.D.**

University Hospital Dubrava                      Tel: +385 1 290 26 18  
Department of Psychiatry                      Fax: +385 1 290 37 00  
Referral Centre for Stress-related Disorders                      E-mail: [dkozaraic\\_kovacic@yahoo.com](mailto:dkozaraic_kovacic@yahoo.com)  
of the Ministry of Health  
Regional Centre for Psychotrauma Zagreb  
Avenija Gojka Šuška 6, 10 000 Zagreb, Croatia.

#### **Professor Dr. Kresimir Cosic, Ph.D.**

University of Zagreb                                      E-mail: [kcasic@sabor.sabor.hr](mailto:kcasic@sabor.sabor.hr)  
Faculty of Electrical Engineering & Computing  
Head of the Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly  
Croatian Parliament

### Conference Coordinator :

#### **Ruth A. Kogen, MFA**

6160 Cornerstone Court East                      Tel: (858) 642-0267  
San Diego, CA 92121                      Fax: (858) 642-0267  
United States                                      E-mail: [cyberconference@vrphobia.com](mailto:cyberconference@vrphobia.com)

## 3. MEETING SITE

The Advanced Research Workshop (ARW) entitled "*Wounds of War: Lowering Suicide Risk in Returning Troops*" will be held 14-17 October 2007 at:

Hotel Amerika-Holzer am See  
Am See IX  
9122 St. Kanzian  
Südkärnten, Austria  
Tel.: +43 4239/2212  
Email: [hotel@amerika-holzer.at](mailto:hotel@amerika-holzer.at)  
<http://www.amerika-holzer.at>





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**Registration** will take place on **Sunday 14 October 2007** in the Conference area from 17:00 to 20:00.

All participants are kindly reminded to bring a passport or ID card with them in order to obtain a security badge to gain access to the workshop events. A badge will be issued to each participant registered. You are kindly requested to take care of your badge. Badges will not be reissued during the week.

**You are requested to wear your Meeting badge at all times in the Conference Area and at all workshop events.**

#### **4. ACCOMMODATION**

**Attendees are responsible for their own travel and hotel arrangements.** Each individual must make their own room reservations by calling +43 4239 2212 before the designated cut-off date. They must identify themselves as members of the group. All reservations must be guaranteed and accompanied by a first night room deposit or guaranteed by a major credit card.

Please contact the hotel directly to reserve your stay:

##### **Hotel Amerika-Holzer am See**

Am See IX  
9122 St. Kanzian  
Südkärnten, Austria  
Tel.: +43 4239/2212  
Email: [hotel@amerika-holzer.at](mailto:hotel@amerika-holzer.at)  
<http://www.amerika-holzer.at>

The Hotel America Holzer is located in a quiet area, directly by the promenade at the lake and has the longest private beach in Carinthia. The Seelach and St. Kanzian city centers can both be reached within a few minutes' walk.

##### **Reservation deadline – 30 September 2007**

##### **Rates:**

Single night (includes breakfast, lunch and non-alcoholic drinks): €159  
Entire conference (4 nights/3 days, breakfast, lunch and non-alcoholic drinks): € 574

All room rates quoted above are inclusive of applicable state and local taxes.

CHECK IN TIME: 3:00PM

CHECK OUT TIME: 12:00PM





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**NOTE** To provide the best possible security for all of our guests and associates, a valid state or government issued picture identification is required for check in. ONLY valid forms of identification will be accepted. Valid forms of ID include:

- State issued drivers license with picture
- State issued personal identification with picture
- Passport
- Military identification with picture
- Government issued law enforcement credentials with picture
- Airport security credentials with picture

## 5. MEALS AND REFRESHMENTS

### **Refreshments**

Coffee and tea will be served during the morning and afternoon coffee breaks free of charge.

### **Meals**

Half board (breakfast and lunch) will be included for all workshop participants staying at the Hotel Amerika-Holzer. Please arrange adaptations for special dietary restrictions directly with the hotel.

## 6. TRAVELLING TO KLOPEINER SEE

### **By Air:**

Klagenfurt (KLU) is the nearest international airport and has many direct flights to and from major capitals. Some may have to pass through Vienna (VIE) to access Klagenfurt. The ride from the KLU airport to the Hotel Amerika-Holzer at Klopeiner See is approximately 30-40 minutes.

The hotel can be reached from the airport by complimentary private shuttle. This shuttle must be reserved **in advance** directly with the Hotel Amerika-Holzer. If you do not arrange this transportation in advance, you will need to find your own transportation at your own expense.

### **By rail:**

The nearest railway station to Klopeiner See is also located in Klagenfurt. This station can easily be reached via any larger Austrian city. There are hourly connections from Vienna and Graz. There is a bus that runs from Klagenfurt to St. Kanzian, but participants are responsible for their own transportation from the rail station to Hotel Amerika-Holzer.







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### **By car:**

Coming from the North: motorway A8 (München-Munich-Salzburg), change for A10 (Tauernautobahn) until Villach, then change for A2 (Südbahn). Follow direction Wien-Vienna until exit "Grafenstein". Signs will lead you on the main road in direction Klopeiner See (Lake Klopein).

Coming from the East: Follow motorway A2 (Südbahn) in direction Wien-Vienna until exit "Völkermarkt Ost". Signs will lead you on the main road in direction Klopeiner See (Lake Klopein).

Coming from the South: Follow motorway A2 (Südbahn) in direction Wien-Vienna until exit "Grafenstein". Signs will lead you on the main road in direction Klopeiner See (Lake Klopein).

Please take note that drunk driving laws may vary from your home country. You will be fined if the level of alcohol in the bloodstream is between 0.05 percent and 0.08 percent. Over this level and you will incur a fine and/or suspension of driver's license.

Visitors may drive using their national license, provided it is in a language that uses the Roman alphabet. Holders of other licenses generally must also show an International Driving Permit in English (available through motoring organizations such as AA, AAA, RAC, etc.). The authorities require that you carry your driver's license with you at all times.

Hotel Amerika-Holzer provides complimentary parking for all guests.

## **7. GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **Passports and Visas**

A valid passport is required by all except nationals of EU countries, who may enter with a valid national ID card. Participants from Belarus, Russia, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and from some other, non-European countries are kindly requested to contact their Austrian Embassy/Consulate to obtain a visa if necessary.

### **LANGUAGE**

The language spoken in Austria is German. Most Austrians speak English, and some also speak French or Italian.

### **TIME**

Central European Time, one hour ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), is used in October in Austria.





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## INSURANCE

You are strongly recommended to arrange your own personal insurance, as the organizers do not accept responsibility for any personal damage.

## Currency

The currency in Austria is the EURO (€). Rates in Summer 2007 are:

One EURO	=	\$1.36 US
One EURO	=	\$1.44 CAD
One EURO	=	£0.68 UK

Daily rate exchange rate information can be found on the following website: <http://www.x-rates.com>

## Banks, Credit Cards, Exchange

Most Austrian banks will change traveler's checks as well as cash. Banking hours in general are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 08.00 - 12:30 and 13:30 - 15.00, and Thursday 08.00 - 12:30 and 13:30 - 17:30. Automated cash dispensers are located outside most banks, and cash can be withdrawn there 24 hours a day. Hotels, many restaurants and shops accept most major credit cards (Visa, Master Card, Amex and Diners Club) but it is always wise to ask first or look for the card logo near the door. Money can be changed at the airport, at banks, exchange bureaus and larger hotels. Please ask about charges before changing money – these may vary considerably.

## Tipping

Service is usually included in the prices in bars and restaurants, but tips are welcome. It is customary to round up the total when paying, typically about 5%. Leave the tip in cash or by telling the waiter the total amount you wish to pay -- that is, the bill plus the tip -- and proffering the tip with the payment (do not leave it on the table).

Railroad porters and hotel porters or bellhops customarily get about €.70-€1.00 per bag. Doormen get about €1.45 for hailing a cab and assisting. Taxi drivers usually receive an extra 10 percent over the meter fare.

## Electricity

Austrian networks supply 220 V at a frequency of 50Hz. Plugs are continental-style two-pin. A plug adaptor should be taken along if incompatible electric/electronic gadgets are to be used.

## Shopping

Shopping hours are typically Monday to Friday 09:00 - 18:00 and Saturday 09:00 - 17:00. Except for some tobacconists and small supermarkets at petrol stations, shops are closed on Sundays. Visitors from non-EU countries should ask for VAT refunds when purchasing goods.







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### **Refund on Value Added Tax (“Tax-Free Shopping”)**

A 10% or 20% value-added tax is included in the list price of items for sale in Austria. Tourists of Non-EC-Countries must pay this V.A.T. at the time of purchase but may obtain a refund of the tax on unused merchandise of at least EUR 75,01. Ask the salesperson to fill out a Global Refund cheque for you (name and foreign address must be completed) and to give you the Global Refund envelope with a list of all cash refund offices. The original invoice must be stapled to the Global Refund cheque. At the airport in Vienna, you will find Global Refund payment offices as well. The average refund after deduction of a handling fee by Global Refund amounts to about 13% of the purchase price.

### **Weather**

The weather in Southern Austria in October is generally mild (11-17°C; 52-62°F) with occasional rain. Take along a sweater for evenings.

## **8. SOCIAL ACTIVITIES**

### **Welcome Reception (for all Symposium attendees)**

A Nationally sponsored Welcome Reception will be held at Hotel Amerika-Holzer on Sunday 14 October at 17:00. All Symposium attendees and their companions are cordially invited.

### **Group Dinner**

A 4-course dinner will be held during the course of the conference. All attendees are invited to attend this optional event. More information will be forthcoming.

### **Gala Dinner**

An optional Gala Dinner will be held on Thursday 17 October at 19.30 at the hotel restaurant.





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## 9. **GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT AUSTRIA**

Austria is full of rich cultural offerings and traditions, many of them left over from the time when Vienna was the seat of a powerful empire. These days, the capital's imperial buildings may seem a bit grand and oversized, but there is nothing diminished about the country's romantic streak or its passion for rituals, whether in the coffeehouse, the church or the grand ballroom. Austria seems to blend a kind of Italian romanticism with a Germanic love for order. And that orderly romanticism can be quite captivating, particularly when experienced by way of a Sacher torte, a hike through the mountains of Tirol or a stroll along Vienna's Ringstrasse.

## 10. **GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT KLOPEINER SEE**

Klopeiner See (or Lake Klopein) is located in Carinthia Austria. Look forward to Austria's warmest lakes, golf courses, spas, and that inimitable Carinthian charm. No matter whether you're interested in sports and other outdoor activities, scenery, sightseeing or culinary treats, you will find it all here.

Swimming and sunbathing at Lakes Klopein or Turn, walking or hiking on the dozens of varied footpaths, climbing in the Koschuta or skiing on the Petzen are not to be missed. The region of Southern Carinthia gives visitors plenty of choice for having fun while getting some exercise.

If you want a change, you can look around one of the interesting art galleries in Voelkermarkt or Bleiburg. Natural wonders, such as the spectacular Wildenstein Waterfalls, Troegen Gorge or Obir Caves with their stalactites and stalagmites are the highlights of many visits to Southern Carinthia for young and old alike.

Some useful websites on Austria and Carinthia/Klopeiner See:

<http://www.austria.info/>

<http://europa.eu/>

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/au.html>

<http://www.klopeinsee.at/>





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### ARW REGISTRATION FORM

**for "Wounds of War: Lowering Suicide Risk in Returning Troops"**  
 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> October 2007, Hotel Amerika-Holzer, Klopeiner See, Südkärnten, Austria

Please fill out the table below by typing or printing legibly, and return this form by **e-mail or fax** to:

Ruth Kogen, MFA  
 Interactive Media Institute-Europe  
 Rue de la Loi, 28/7  
 B-1040 Brussels  
 Belgium  
 Fax: 011 32 2 286 8508  
[cyberconference@vrphobia.com](mailto:cyberconference@vrphobia.com)

	( ) Mr.	( ) Mrs.	( ) Ms.	Please mark with 'x'
<b>Last Name</b>				
<b>First Name</b>				
<b>Middle Initial</b>				
<b>Field</b>	( ) Academics/Research ( ) Military Other/Details:	( ) Medicine ( ) Industry	( ) Government ( ) International Organization	
<b>Title</b>	( ) Prof. Other/Details:	( ) M.D.	( ) Ph.D.	
<b>Affiliation</b>				
<b>Postal Address</b>				
<b>City</b>				
<b>State</b>				
<b>Zip</b>				
<b>Country</b>				
<b>Phone</b>				
<b>Fax</b>				
<b>E-mail</b>				
<b>Workdays present</b>	( ) October 15   ( ) October 16   ( ) October 17 <b>(*Note*)</b> All participants MUST stay for the duration of the meeting.			

***We are looking forward to seeing you October 2007 in Austria!***





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### MAP OF KLOPEINER-SEE



 *This workshop is supported by:* The NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme



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