

## **Global Summit Conference: EMDR Early Intervention and Crisis Response**

Current Practices, Research Findings, Global Needs and Future Directions

This conference held in Boston, USA 20-22 April 2018, was jointly organized by GIST-T and EMDR Advanced Training and Distance Learning. It was a unique event for several reasons. It brought many pioneers in EMDR Early Intervention (EI) together with approximately 400 EMDR practitioners who were keen to learn the current state-of-the-art concerning EI practice, its scientific validation, conditions of its application, and desirable future developments. Several outside experts, non-therapists, were also invited to articulate the urgent need, modalities and opportunities for EI to be applied at scale in order to contribute to the reduction of the heavy global burden of trauma. Altogether 32 presentations were given, and 12 distinct EI-based protocols described. Five Special Interest Groups (dealing with EI research, EI as a speciality; taking EI to scale; building EI community response capacity; and partnering with first-responders) added further opportunities for greater in-depth discussion.

Conference attendees agreed four key messages relating to EI:

- There is no reason to wait with EI's immediate and widespread application. EI is ready for scaling up, in the Global North and in LMICS.
- The need for AIP-informed delivery of trauma care by paraprofessionals and allied health professionals is imperative, and now is a good time to systematically operationalize this.
- An immediate opportunity exists for the EMDR community to formulate, produce and field-test an innovative AIP-informed, EI-based trauma curriculum for the training of non-therapists and non-psychologists.
- Building rapid local response capacity through regional and community EMDR trauma care teams is an important way to provide EI services to first responders.

For more information, see: [www.emdrearlyintervention.com](http://www.emdrearlyintervention.com)