



September 28th , 2025

Dr. Kevin Smith
President & CEO
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Cc:

Ministry of Health, The Honourable Sylvia Jones, 777 Bay Street, 5th Floor, Toronto, ON M7A 2J3; sylvia.jones@ontario.ca

Ms. Grace Ivo, UHN Grace.Ivo@uhn.ca (please forward to Mr. Dean Connor, Chair of UHN Board of Trustees)

Dr. Lisa Robinson, Dean, Temerty Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto;
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Dr. Lisa Richardson, Associate Dean, Inclusion and Diversity, Temerty Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto medicine.vicedean.strat@utoronto.ca

Dr. Melanie Woodin, President, University of Toronto president@utoronto.ca

Subject: Reinstate the Asian Initiative in Mental Health (AIM) Without Delay

Dear Dr. Smith,

I am writing as the President of the World Association of Cultural Psychiatry. It's Board of Directors as well as the General Assembly discussed this issue on Saturday 27th 2025 during our meeting in Tokyo, Japan and we unanimously denounced the closure of AIM!

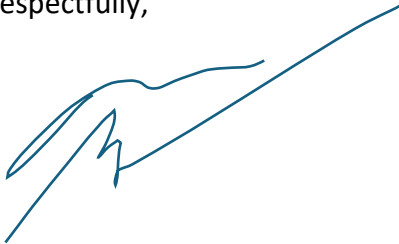
Your decision to close AIM has caused deep damage: The shutdown of AIM has created serious gaps in care, training, and community connection. The impact is immediate and far-reaching:

- **Care Disrupted:** Patients lose continuity once episodes end.
- **Access Restricted:** ~75% of new patients excluded; OMH criteria further narrow entry.
- **Psychosis Support Lost:** Cultural adaptation at risk after transfer to CAMH.
- **Groups Dismantled:** Cultural focus erased; Portuguese services nearly gone.
- **Training Eliminated:** Closure ends a vital site for cultural psychiatry education.
- **Community Links Severed:** Team-based care and agency partnerships dismantled.

Bottom Line: AIM's closure is not just a service cut—it dismantles culturally grounded care, limits access for vulnerable patients, and weakens the training of future clinicians. This urgent situation demands immediate action to restore services, protect cultural programs, and rebuild partnerships before more patients are left behind.

I recognize that I am not in a position to make demands, and I use this word only to convey the depth of anguish your decision has caused. While I understand your choice may have been guided by internal considerations, true leadership requires the courage to revisit and reverse decisions when their broader consequences become clear. I urge you to reconsider in light of the voices and concerns raised by organizations like mine: undo this decision!

Respectfully,



Prof. dr. Mario H. Braakman, psychiatrist/ethnologist

President World Association of Cultural Psychiatry

<https://waculturalpsy.org>

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