

President's Message

Dear friends and colleagues,

The IFP is growing! I am delighted to report that over the last months, the number of IFP membership societies as well as individual members has increased substantially:

The *Australia and New Zealand Association of Psychotherapy (ANZAP)* has been an IFP member for many years if not decades. Since that time, our Council member and ANZAP past president Professor Russell Meares has always remained connected to the activities of the IFP. As some of you may remember, he gave a memorable keynote lecture at the last IFP World Congress in Kuala Lumpur in 2006. A couple of years ago, for reasons unrelated to the IFP, ANZAP discontinued their IFP membership. During the World Congress 2006 in Kuala Lumpur, I spoke to Russell Meares who introduced me to the current ANZAP President, Dr. Cath McGrath. As a result of these talks, and more e-mail communication, the ANZAP has now decided to renew their IFP membership: Welcome back!

The *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Psychiatrie, Psychotherapie und Nervenheilkunde (DGPPN)* is Germany's strongest society for psychiatry and psychotherapy. Their annual meeting, which is regularly held in November in Berlin, is the largest German-speaking conference on mental health, attracting several thousand delegates every year. Professor Wolfgang Gaebel is the current DGPPN President. We are proud to have the DGPPN among our large membership societies!

The *European Federation of Centers of Positive Psychotherapy (EFCPP)* has 110 individual members; however, they are also an international umbrella organization. The EFCPP was formally established in 1997. The EFCPP has evolved from the International Center of Positive Psychotherapy (ICPP), which is the international umbrella organization of Positive Psychotherapy. EFCPP President Professor Peseschkian is an internationally recognized psychotherapy expert whom many of you have probably met some time in the past.

A very warm welcome as well to the *Suchtbehandlung Frankfurt*, Zurich, Switzerland, the *South African Society of Psychiatrists (SASOP)*, and the *Integrative Psychotherapy Program* of the Magid Institute, established by the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel. I am looking forward to a fruitful collaboration!

The *Secretarial Office in Zürich* is running smoothly under the watchful guidance of Cornelia Erpenbeck. She is responsible for all administrative matters concerning the IFP and may be contacted at her office should there be any queries. To further optimize the visibility of the IFP, I would like to encourage all our members to introduce a link to the IFP website (<http://www.ifp.name>) on your respective homepages. We would be happy to do so vice versa: please feel free to approach Cornelia Erpenbeck in case you need a hand!

Presidential Election: According to the bylaws, a new President will have to be elected in 2010. By this time, I will have served as President for two full 4-year terms, and will thus not be allowed to stand for election for a third term. Ideally, my successor should be elected in 2008 already, so that the President-elect can serve on the Board for two years prior to assuming office, to grant enough time to learn the ins and outs of the organization and the various duties involved. If you have any suggestions as to who should be approached to stand for election, or if you feel you yourself might consider running for president, please contact me directly (u.schnyder@ifp.name) as soon as possible!

Congresses: The 5th Conference of the Asia Pacific Association of Psychotherapists (APAP) was held by the Indonesian Psychiatric Association, Section on Psychotherapy, under the guidance of Professor D. Bachtiar Lubis and Dr. Sylvia Elvira Detri in Jakarta, Indonesia, April 5–7, 2008. The congress theme was 'Listening to the heart of the East'.

The planning of the *20th IFP World Congress of Psychotherapy* in Lucerne, Switzerland, June 16–19, 2010, is now well under way. The congress will be organized by the Swiss Society for Psychiatry and Psychotherapy SGPP (<http://www.psychiatrie.ch>). The venue will be the 'KKL Luzern', the Culture and Convention Centre Lucerne (<http://www.kkl-luzern.ch>): This magnificent building was designed by the French architect Jean Nouvel. Built between 1995 and 2000, the KKL ranks today as one of the most spectacular modern buildings in Switzerland. The KKL Luzern is centrally located in the town of Lucerne, directly on Lake Lucerne and right next to the railway station. The old town centre is only a few hundred yards from the KKL Luzern, as is Lucerne's distinctive landmark, the Chapel Bridge. The scientific program committee will

be chaired by myself. A professional Conference Organizer has been contracted, and a Congress website will be established soon, informing you on the progress of our planning.

IFP-Sponsored Master Classes, Workshops and Seminars: The aim of these events is threefold, namely to help disseminate novel, evidence-based psychotherapeutic approaches, to raise the international profile and recognition of the IFP, and to recruit individual IFP members, thus generating income for the IFP. A workshop on Brief Eclectic Psychotherapy for PTSD with Professor Berthold Gersons (Amsterdam) was successfully held April 17–18, 2008, in Vienna, and a seminar on psycho-oncology will be organized by Board member Professor Mechthild Neises in Hannover, Germany, September 19–20, 2008. Next year, a seminar on CBT for Eating Disorders with Professor Chris Fairburn (Oxford) will be held in Zurich March 27–28, 2009. Also in 2009, a workshop on Positive Psychotherapy is planned with Professor Nossrat Peseschkian in Zurich. For further information, please visit our website at <http://www.ifp.name>.

Collaboration with Other International Societies: I was invited to serve on the International Advisory Committee for the 5th WCP World Congress of Psychotherapy, October 12–15, 2008, which is organized by the World Council for Psychotherapy in Beijing. I was also invited to deliver a keynote address at this conference, which will provide me with an opportunity to further liaise with our Chinese partners, and to strengthen our collaboration. Furthermore, Society for Psychotherapy Research (SPR) founding president and IFP Council member Professor David Orlinski, Chicago, invited me, WCP President Professor Alfred Pritz and SPR incoming President Professor Bernhard Strauss to jointly organize a panel on international perspectives on possible, probable, and desirable paths of development for the psychotherapeutic professions at the 39th International Meeting of the SPR which was held in Barcelona, Spain, June 18–21, 2008. The panel was preceded by two very well attended symposia on the psychotherapeutic professions as contexts of therapy practice and research: (1) current situation of the professions in varied countries, and (2) future prospects of the professions in varied countries. Representatives of 16 nations from four continents reported on the situation in their respective countries, and similarities as well as differences were discussed in a lively and friendly atmosphere.

Finally, as always, all our members, meaning individual members of the IFP as well as individual members of associations who have membership status with the IFP, are offered the IFP's official journal, *Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics*, at a substantially reduced subscription rate. For details, please contact S. Karger directly at:

S. Karger AG
Journals distribution
PO Box
CH-4009 Basel (Switzerland)
Fax +41 61 306 12 34
E-Mail karger@karger.com

Wishing you all an enjoyable summer!

Best regards
Prof. Ulrich Schnyder, MD
President, IFP
u.schnyder@ifp.name

IFP Board

www.ifp.name

Prof. Ulrich Schnyder, MD
President IFP
Zurich/Switzerland
u.schnyder@ifp.name

Dr. Alfried Längle, MD, PhD
Vice-President IFP
Vienna/Austria
a.laengle@ifp.name

Prof. Mechthild Neises, MD
Secretary General IFP
Hannover/Germany
m.neises@ifp.name

Dr. Michael Rufer, MD
Treasurer IFP
Zurich/Switzerland
m.rufer@ifp.name

Secretariat IFP

Cornelia Erpenbeck
University Hospital Zurich
Department of Psychiatry
Culmannstrasse 8
CH-8091 Zurich/Switzerland

Tel. +41 44 255 52 51
Fax +41 44 255 44 08
secretariat@ifp.name