

## President's Message

Dear friends and colleagues

Prof. D. Bachtiar Lubis, Jakarta, Indonesia, was appointed honorary member of IFP. The IFP Council took this decision based on Prof. Lubis's invaluable contributions over many years in developing, promoting, and supporting the field of psychotherapy, particularly in the south-east Asian region. When the Asian Pacific Association of Psychotherapists (APAP), a chapter of IFP, was founded in Seoul, South Korea, during the IFP World Congress in 1994, D. Bachtiar Lubis volunteered to organize the first APAP conference, which took place in Bali in 1996. The conference was a great success, and marked the beginning of a series of psychotherapy conferences which took place under the auspices of IFP, and were organized by the APAP: Langkawi, Malaysia (2000); Singapore (2003); and Taipei, Taiwan (2005). Just recently, D. Bachtiar Lubis was instrumental in organizing the 5th APAP conference in Jakarta, Indonesia, which he jointly chaired with his collaborator Dr. Sylvia Elvira Detri, and which took place in April 2008 under the congress theme 'Listening to the Heart of the East'. Those of you who have had the privilege to get to know Prof. Lubis will certainly agree that he is an extremely knowledgeable scholar, a well-respected authority, and last, but certainly not least, a person of great integrity. We are proud to have D. Bachtiar Lubis on our list of honorary members!

Incidentally, talking about the APAP: The Philippine Psychiatric Association has agreed to host the 6th APAP conference in Manila, Philippines, in 2010 or 2011 (exact date to be confirmed). Dr. Alma Jimenez and Dr. Maria Imelda Batar, President of the Philippine Psychiatric Association, will both be instrumental in organizing this conference.

The Departement für Psychosoziale Medizin und Psychotherapie (Department for Psychosocial Medicine and Psychotherapy), a department of the Danube University Krems, Austria, has joined the IFP as a new membership society. The Danube University Krems is a rapidly growing university exclusively for further education. The Department for Psychosocial Medicine and Psychotherapy currently has over 500 students and offers a range of curricula, the majority of which provide academic training in different psychotherapeutic approaches. Their overarching theme is the integration of psychotherapy. Welcome to the IFP, we are looking forward to a fruitful collaboration in the future!

We have also appointed 2 new Council members: Dr. Hans Kurt, MD, Solothurn, Switzerland, is currently president of the Swiss Society for Psychiatry and Psychotherapy (SGPP) who have taken on responsibility for the organization of the 20th IFP World Congress of Psychotherapy in Lucerne, Switzerland. Dr. Sylvia Elvira Detri, MD, Jakarta, Indonesia, is president of the Indonesian Psychiatric Association Section on Psychotherapy (IPA). As I mentioned previously, she was a co-organizer of the 5th APAP conference in Jakarta, Indonesia, which took place in April 2008.

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. Naturally, we would be happy to reciprocate. Please feel free to approach Cornelia Erpenbeck if you need a hand.

The planning of the 20th IFP World Congress of Psychotherapy in Lucerne, Switzerland, 16–19 June 2010, is now well under way. We have chosen the congress theme 'Psychotherapy: Science and Culture'. Our congress will be organized by the SGPP (<http://www.psychiatrie.ch>) and co-sponsored by the World Psychiatric Association (WPA). The venue will be the KKL Luzern (Culture and Convention Centre Lucerne; <http://www.kkl-luzern.ch>). This magnificent building was designed by 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 the lake and right next to the railway station. The old town is only a few hundred yards away 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 of new developments.

Regarding 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 Positive Psychotherapy is planned with Prof. Nossrat Peseschkian (Germany) on 16–17 January 2009 in Zürich. A seminar on Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy for Eating Disorders with Prof. Chris Fairburn (UK) will be held in Zürich on 27–28 March 2009. For further information, please visit our website at <http://www.ifp.name>.

Concerning collaboration with other international societies: the 5th WCP World Congress of Psychotherapy, organized by the World Council for Psychotherapy, was held in Beijing on 12–15 October 2008. The congress was organized by Prof. Quian Mingyi and Prof. Jie Zhong of the Department of Psychology, Beijing University. I delivered a keynote address, which provided me with an opportunity to liaise further with our Chinese partners, and to strengthen our collaboration.

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 official journal of the IFP, *Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics*, at a substantially reduced subscription rate. For details, please contact S. Karger directly at:

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Best regards  
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