

President's Message

Dear friends and colleagues

The most important news this time is that the IFP has a new President-elect! *Professor Franz Caspar, PhD*, of Bern, Switzerland, was unanimously elected *President-elect* by the IFP Council in November 2008. Congratulations, Franz, and all my very best wishes for a successful presidential term!

Franz Caspar is currently Professor for Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy at the University of Bern. His previous affiliations include the chair of Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy, University of Freiburg, Germany (1999–2005), and the chair of Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy of the Adult, University of Geneva (2005–2007). He is a Past President of the Society for Psychotherapy Research (SPR). He is also a member of the Steering Committee, and Chairman of the Research Committee of the Society for the Exploration of Psychotherapy Integration (SEPI). He is an internationally renowned psychotherapy researcher, and very well respected in the scientific community. As you all will learn soon, he is also a very likeable person. There is no doubt the IFP will have a very strong next President!

Professor Caspar has already assumed office as a member of the IFP Board. At the General Assembly, which will be held during the 20th IFP World Congress of Psychotherapy in Lucerne, Switzerland, in June 2010, he will be formally elected. At the end of the Lucerne Congress, Franz Caspar will take over as President of the IFP for the following four years.

The planning of the *20th IFP World Congress of Psychotherapy* in Lucerne, Switzerland, June 16–19, 2010 is well under way. The majority of plenary speakers are already confirmed. Under the congress theme *Psychotherapy: Science and Culture*, a number of additional, specially featured sessions, such as pro-con debates and pre-conference workshops, are currently being planned. A professional Conference Organizer ('Organizers': <http://www.organizers.ch>) has been contracted, and a Congress website is operational as of now, informing you on the progress of our planning: please visit the Congress website at www.ifp-fmmp2010.com! The first announcement and call for abstracts will be published in early summer this year.

The Lucerne congress will be organized by the Swiss Society for Psychiatry and Psychotherapy (SGPP; <http://www.psychiatrie.ch>), and co-sponsored by the World Psychiatric Association (WPA). 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 at the 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 Asian Pacific Association of Psychotherapists (APAP) keeps being active as well: The Philippine Psychiatric Association will host the *6th APAP Conference in Manila, Philippines*, in January 2011. Dr. Alma Jimenez and Dr. Maria Imelda Batar, President of the Philippine Psychiatric Association, will be jointly instrumental in organizing this conference.

I am very pleased, indeed, to announce that we now have a second Chinese membership society. The application for membership of the *Committee of Counseling and Psychotherapy, Chinese Association for Mental Health* was approved by the IFP Council in November 2008. A very warm welcome to Professor Lü Qiuyun, MD, president, and Professor Xudong Zhao, MD, president-elect, and to all members of the Committee of Counseling and Psychotherapy, Chinese Association for Mental Health! I am looking forward to a long and 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!

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. An extremely successful workshop on Positive Psychotherapy was held with Professor Nossrat Peseschkian (Germany) in Zurich, January 16–17, 2009. A seminar on CBT for Eating Disorders with Professor Chris Fairburn (UK) was held in Zurich, March 27–28, 2009. More IFP-sponsored master classes, workshops and seminars to follow! For further information, please visit our website at <http://www.ifp.name>.

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:

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