

President's Message

Dear friends and colleagues

The upcoming *20th IFP World Congress of Psychotherapy* in Lucerne, Switzerland, June 16–19, 2010 is certainly the major focus of our current activities. Both the IFP Board and the scientific program committee are getting increasingly excited about what promises to become a truly memorable conference! Just to give you an idea of the program, there will be a total of 6 plenary lectures:

- 'Culture and psychotherapy: clinical, theoretical and philosophical explorations from a worldwide perspective', by Wen-Shing Tseng, Hawaii, President of the World Association of Cultural Psychiatry.
- 'God is my therapist: emotion management practices in American evangelical Christianity', by anthropologist Tanya Luhrmann, Stanford, USA.
- 'Psychotherapy: a perspective from Africa', by Merle Friedman, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 'The neurobiology of psychotherapy', by Lutz Jäncke, Zurich, Switzerland.
- 'Can attachment theory help us understand better what we're doing as psychotherapists?', by Jeremy Holmes, Exeter, UK.
- 'Japanese culture and its influence on children and their family', by Nana Hosogane, Tokyo, Japan.

In addition, the program will feature 2 debates and 2 round tables:

- Debate 1: 'Is drug treatment necessary for preventing recurrence in depression?', chaired by Jules Angst, Zurich, Switzerland, with Giovanni Fava (Italy) and Hans-Jürgen Möller (Germany).
- Debate 2: 'Cultural sensitivity – an eastern and a western perspective?', chaired by Bernhard Strauss, Jena, Germany, with Jacques Barber (USA) and Sudhir Kakar (India).
- Round table 1: 'Psychotherapy: a legitimate profession?', chaired by Norman Sartorius, Geneva, Switzerland, with Gerhard Grobler (South Africa), Philippe Grosbois (France), Fritz Hohagen (Germany), Douglas Kong (Singapore) and Alfred Pritz (Austria).
- Round table 2: 'The development of psychotherapy over time', chaired by Daniel Hell, Zurich, Switzerland, with Edgar Heim (Switzerland), Giovanni Fava (Italy), Suk-Hun Kang (South Korea) and Franz Caspar (Switzerland).

Also, not to be missed, on Wednesday, June 16, there will be a number of carefully selected, half-day and full-day preconference workshops. Preconference workshops aim to provide practical training on clinical topics. They should enable the participants to learn from leading clinicians and practitioners in the field of psychotherapy. The emphasis of each workshop will be on sharing and disseminating empirically supported practices, highlighting specific issues in psychotherapy and skill building. Participants will have to make their choices from the following workshops:

- 'Narrative exposure therapy as treatment for trauma spectrum disorders', by Maggie Schauer and Thomas Elbert (Konstanz).
- 'Cognitive therapy of personality disorders – conceptualizing and planning cognitive therapy treatment for axis II disorders', by Judith Beck (Philadelphia).
- 'Brief eclectic psychotherapy for posttraumatic stress disorder', by Berthold P.R. Gersons and Mirjam Nijdam (Amsterdam).
- 'Evidence-based dynamic therapy', by Jacques P. Barber and Richard F. Summers (Philadelphia).
- 'Positive Psychotherapie – Drei Dimensionen einer praktischen Psychotherapie im Zeitalter der Globalisierung', by Nossrat Peschchian (Wiesbaden).
- 'Motivorientierte Beziehungsgestaltung', by Franz Caspar (Bern).
- 'Well-being therapy', by Giovanni Fava and Chiara Ruini (Bologna).
- 'Wo zeigt sich "Bindung" in der Psychotherapie?', by Bernhard Strauss (Jena).
- 'Group psychotherapy of middle childhood children: using attachment theory with behaviourally disturbed children', by Douglas Kong (Singapore).

Regarding the social program, a top highlight will certainly be the concert on Thursday evening (June 17): The Gershwin Piano Quartet (<http://www.gershwinpianoquartet.com>) sheds new light on the music of George Gershwin. It features 4 pianists on 4 grand pianos, playing, arranging and improvising on some of Gershwin's most popular songs and orchestral works, such as 'Rhapsody in Blue', 'An American in Paris' and 'Summertime'. The originals are rescored for the unfamiliar combination of 4 pianos by the members of the quartet themselves and make for a novel and exciting listening and viewing experience! Join us for a truly memorable music experience!

Please visit the Congress website at www.ifp-fmpp2010.com for more and constantly updated information, and register now!

Our World Congress will be organized by the Foederatio Medicorum Psychiatricorum et Psychotherapeuticorum (<http://www.psychiatrie.ch>), which is an umbrella organization that unites the Swiss Societies for Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, both for adults as well as for children and adolescents. The conference is also cosponsored by the World Psychiatric Association. The venue will be the 'KKL Luzern', the Culture and Convention Center 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. It is centrally located in the town of Lucerne, directly on Lake Lucerne and right next to the railway station. The old town center is only a few hundred yards from the KKL Luzern, as is Lucerne's distinctive landmark, the Chapel Bridge.

Under the guidance of Dr. Sylvia Detri Elvira, a member of the IFP Council, the Indonesian Psychiatric Association Section on Psychotherapy will hold their *3rd National Conference on Psychotherapy in Indonesia* on May 1–2, 2010. The theme of the conference will be 'The healing power of understanding: its strength and its limitation'. Please feel free to contact Dr. Sylvia Detri Elvira (sylvia.d.elvira@gmail.com) for more information!

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.

The *Secretarial Office in Zurich* 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. Recently, an extremely successful workshop on positive psychotherapy with Professor Nossrat Peseschkian (Germany) was held in Zurich on February 12–13, 2010. More IFP-sponsored master classes, workshops and seminars to follow! For further information, please visit our website at <http://www.ifp.name>.

Collaboration with other international societies: There is an ongoing collaboration with the European Psychiatric Association (EPA): Professor Möller, EPA President, and Professor Sartorius, a member of the IFP Council, invited me to be one of the speakers in the Presidential Symposium on ethical issues in psychiatric treatment at the European Congress of Psychiatry in Munich, February 27 to March 2, 2010. The Presidential Symposium has now become a tradition, regularly dealing with ethical issues related to the theme of the congress. I was given the opportunity to talk about 'Ethical problems related to the use of psychotherapy'.

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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