

From the President

I thought it would be useful to share my president's address from the most recent spring conference. Although the conference was well attended (the most attendees outside of a New York conference than any on the board can remember, 800+ attendees), obviously not everyone can attend, and I wanted to give folks a brief overview of some things happening in SPPP.

The Society owes a huge debt of gratitude to **Joe Schaller** and **Matt Whitehead**, the Philadelphia conference co-chairs, **Colin Ennis**, the program chair, and the conference Steering Committee (**Sara Bressi, PhD, LSW, Leilani Salvo Crane, PsyD, MBA, Rachel Kabasakalian McKay, PhD, Jill Ragozzino McElligott, MSS, LCSW, Ari Pizer, PsyD, MMT, Luis Ramirez, LCSW, Courtney Slater, PhD, and Sarah White, PsyD**). The place was abuzz.

I'm happy to see that the Division Forum listserv is so engaged with the issues that concern all of us. I realize that it's vital for the leadership to be as communicative as possible. We continue to seek an editor for InSight, so that certain communications will become more regular. If you would like to discuss the editorship or recommend someone, please contact **Bill MacGillivray** (drmacg@comcast.net). Nonetheless, I'm aware of the importance of letting the membership know what is happening with the Board and Division and to get feedback. Please continue to engage in lively discussion of any concerns on the forum.

I'd like folks to know that we are struggling with how to address the multiple threats to the existence of psychoanalytic work. I want to briefly mention a few things, with the understanding that much more is needed. I also think that addressing many of these issues in public ways has not been a strong suit for us, to say the least, and can seem at odds with the way we typically work.

In conjunction with the Professional Issues Committee (co-chaired by **Bryant Welch** and **Dana Sinopoli**), I drafted a press release regarding the UBH decision. APA requires all divisions to vet press releases and statements through APA legal counsel. I wanted us to undertake this for a couple of reasons. First, to express our support for and give our perspective on this decision. Second, as a test to see what APA would do. We haven't tried this before, and I wanted to see what would happen. The decisions of APA legal and the email expressing concerns about our potentially antagonizing UBH led us to wait until Board discussion at the spring meeting before releasing the (edited) statement. I'm including the statement in a separate post. In discussing this with the members, I simply want you to be aware that we often cannot work within the APA structure in the same manner as those can outside of APA. So, tackling the larger issues facing psychoanalysis and talk therapy, we must consider both an inside and outside process. Statements and activities that could be viewed as at odds with APA policy must be pursued with thoughtfulness when operating within its structure.

We are developing a YouTube channel for both professional educational purposes and for broader communication to the public about psychoanalysis. We feel it is important to present our ideas to the public in ways unfiltered by the kinds of media and other biases that we have seen. We are aware that is hardly sufficient for making the public aware of the value of what we do, but we feel it is a necessary part of such efforts. We also are going to venture into the world of podcasting (see president's address).

Our Council Reps continue to bring issues of concern to us before the APA Council. Please know that we have a very impressive set of battle tested Council Reps, (**Lu Steinberg, Bryant Welch, MaryBeth Cresci, Steven Reisner, and Stephen Soldz**), and we will be adding another rep to our numbers thanks to your votes in the last APA election.

Our Mission and Goals Task Force is attempting to address the best way for the Division to achieve its aims of promoting psychoanalysis for the public good. This will include methods of involving the members in the process. We're hoping that our planning and discussions will lead to a better way of getting input from you and interested parties. I appreciate that sounds vague at present, but we are not looking to be a group that simply talks to itself and proposes some "grand" solutions.

We are highly invested in collaborating with PsiAn. Bryant is our liaison to PsiAn. We commend the valuable work that they are doing. We felt it important to have discussion at the recent board meeting about guidelines, accreditation concerns, as well as our relationship with APA prior to having PsiAn communicate with us at a Board of Directors meeting live.