2013 World Family Therapy Congress in Orlando, Florida.

With a broad theme of “Working with Families: Whole Or Parts,” IFTA’s 21st World Family Therapy Congress is geared up to meet the widespread and multiple interests and needs of family therapists from around the world.

The opening plenary session will feature an interview of family therapy pioneer Salvador Minuchin, MD, by Celia Jaes Falicov, PhD, termed “An Encounter Between Two Old Friends.” Following that highly anticipated opening, the congress will proceed with plenary presentations by Falicov and another truly international family therapy figure, Michael Ungar, PhD, scheduled on the following days as keynote speakers in Orlando, Florida, at Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort near Disney World, February 20–23, 2013. Both Ungar and Falicov span the areas of practice, research, and theory and are active international presenters who bring up-to-date knowledge and understanding to the congress. Other parts of the program are scheduled to continue with a pattern that provides maximum opportunities for family therapists from across the globe to make presentations and to hear speakers from dozens of nations.

Michael Ungar not only is an active marriage and family therapist but also a professor of Social Work and the Lead Investigator for the Resilience Research Centre at Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. He conducts research with colleagues in more than a dozen countries on...
six continents on children, adolescents, and families, thus gaining knowledge of many family types and multiple problems, and also maintains a family therapy practice in association with a prevention program for street youth. His 10 books include The We Generation: Raising Socially Responsibly Kids, Counseling in Challenging Contexts (Skills, Techniques, and Process, and Too Safe for Their Own Good: How Risk and Responsibility Help Teens Thrive. His treatment model emphasizes individual and family strengths when facing adversity.

Working with immigrant families and culturally diverse families? Looking for culturally sensitive and appropriate interventions for immigrant families? Cecilia Falicov is a pioneer in writing and lecturing—and doing so lucidly and perceptively—about family transitions, migration, and cultural perspectives in family therapy practice and training. Her MECA (Multisystemic Ecological Comparative Approach) model integrates cultural and sociopolitical differences and similarities across many cultural groups and is widely used in training and research settings. Her most recent book is Latino Families in Therapy: A Guide to Multicultural Practice. Mental health care needs of at-risk immigrant clients, facilitating empowerment groups for parents from various cultural groups, training medical students to think in terms of the impact of immigration and culture on health and mental health, and participation in a gang prevention project in a major city.

Besides his keynote presentation, The Social Ecology of Resilience: How Families and Communities Help Children Thrive, Michael Ungar will be presenting at the Pre-Congress Research Forum. His Super Saturday presentation, Resilience Building Instead of Problem Treatment: A Social Ecological Approach to Intervention with Children, Adolescents, and their Families, will be held from 1.30 P.M. - 4.30 P.M.

Cecilia Falicov will be giving both a keynote address on Saturday morning titled “Living With Two Hearts: Separations and Reunifications in Transitional Families” and a Super Saturday workshop on “One Size Doesn’t Fit All: Using MECA (Multisystemic Ecological Comparative Approach) To Introduce Culture in Family Therapy.”

Hundreds of participants from scores of countries will gather to learn about old, familiar problems and needs and novel, unfamiliar challenges they have not been faced previously. Therapy, education, training, supervision, and personal growth and development emphases will be offered for the enrichment of clinicians, academicians, and administrators and managers, as well as for students, in mental health fields.

IFTA Announces Election of Treasurer

Sibel Erenel, MSA (Turkey) was elected by the Board of Directors to serve as Treasurer. Treasurers serve for 3 years and are eligible to serve two 3-year terms. Sibel Erenel replaced Barbara Warner (UK) who served for 3 years.

The international Connection is an e-newsletter of the International Family Therapy Association (IFTA) and is published twice yearly. The IFTA office is at IFTA, 1800 3rd Avenue, STE 512, Rock Island, IL 61201-8000 USA. Telephone:+309-786-4491; Fax:+309-786-0205. William J. Hiebert, Editor and General Secretary, wjhiebert@aol.com Website: www.ifta-familytherapy.org

IFTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS JULY 1, 2012 – JUNE 30, 2013

Officers:

President: Fatma Torun Reid, MS, Turkey (2011-2013)
President Elect: Lee Bowen, PhD, USA (2013-2015)
Past President: William Nichols, EdD, USA (2009-11)
Recording Secretary: David W. McGill, PhD, USA (2011-13)
Treasurer: Sibel Erenel, MSA Turkey (2012-15)

General Secretary: William Hiebert, DMin
Congress CFO: Fred Jefferson
mailto:fredljjefferson@yahoo.com,
+651-340-616

Directors at Large:

2012-2015, Term ends June 30, 2015:
Lia Fernandez, MD, (Portugal); Judith Kellner, PhD, (USA) and Roxana Zevallos, Lic. (Peru).
2010-2013, Term ends June 30, 2013:
Sibel Erenel, MSA (Turkey); John Lawless, PhD, MPH, (USA); Martine Nisse, MS, (France); Maire Stedman, MSC, (UK).
2011-2014, TERM ENDS JUNE 30, 2014:
Ken Hardy, PhD, (USA); Anna Low, MSSoSc (Hong Kong). And Joyca Ma, PhD, (Hong Kong).
An Encounter Between Two Old Friends: Falicov Interviews Minuchin

A rare experience is in store for us if we attend the opening ceremony of the 2013 World Family Therapy Congress! That’s where family therapy pioneer Salvador Minuchin, MD, developer of Structural Family Therapy, will be interviewed by Celia Jaes Falicov, PhD, another internationally known therapist, author, and clinician. Minuchin, one of the last of the genuine family therapy pioneers, is retired but still active in his nineties. When is this event taking place? On Wednesday, February 20 at Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort in Buena Vista, Florida, at the International Family Therapy Association’s 21st World Family Therapy Congress.

Minuchin, born in Argentina in 1921, received his medical training there and moved to the United States, where he launched his career as a family therapist. As Professor of Psychiatry and Pediatrics and also Director of Family Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, he was long engaged in rearing family therapists for practice. For more than 40 years he traveled widely in the United States, Europe, and Asia teaching and presenting workshops and published 11 books on families and family therapy.

Falicov, currently Clinical Professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Voluntary Faculty in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of California, San Diego, also is Director of Mental Health Services at the Student Run Free Medical Clinic at the same institution. Widely known for her pioneering work in family transitions, migration and cultural perspectives in family therapy practice and training, she has recently focused in her community work on mental health care needs of at-risk clients, facilitating environment groups for parents in various cultural groups, and on training medical students to think in terms of the impact of immigration and culture on health and mental health.

We will have good reason to expect a rich and interesting experience as these two widely experienced and thoughtful family therapists engage in an unscripted “encounter between old friends.” Don’t miss it!

This will be only the first of the duo’s appearances at the International Family Therapy Association’s 21st World Family Therapy Congress. Dr. Falicov will also participate in the Super Saturday program, presenting a three hour clinical workshop on “One Size Doesn’t Fit All: Using MECA (Multisystemic Ecological Comparative Approach). To Introduce Culture in Family Therapy.” Dr. Minuchin has indicated that he will be around and participate in other parts of the congress after the opening ceremony event.

Pre-Congress Research Forum to Focus On: Dialogue Between Research and Practice

The title “Family Therapy Practice and Research: A Dialogue” only hints at the dialogical nature of the all day Pre-Congress Research Forum planned for the 2013 IFTA World Family Therapy Congress. The program not only is slated to produce communication and interaction between the two aspects of family therapy but also is designed to offer structured opportunity for reaction, questions, and discussion between panel presenters and the audience.

Co-sponsored by three marital and family degree programs, the forum will include keynote speakers from Argentina (Cecile Herscovici, PhD), Canada (Michael Ungar, PhD), and the USA (Peter Frankel, PhD, and William Northey, PhD). Scheduled from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (09:00—17:30 hours) on Wednesday, February 20 in Buena Vista, Florida.

Members of the Research Program Committee from the three co-sponsoring MFT programs—Wayne Denton, MD, PhD (Florida State University), Ronald Chenail, PhD (Nova University), and Jerry
Gale, PhD (University of Georgia)—will each serve as the facilitator for one of the three segments of the program following a panel presentation.

During the morning session, the first panel of Herscovivi and Ungar will give 15 minute presentations on the dialogues between research and practice and Denton will then facilitate the panel and audience discussion. The second panel of Frankel and Northey will give 15 minute perspectives on the theme and Chenail will facilitate the ensuing audience discussion. During lunch, tables will be organized by practice/research themes so that attendees can focus on particular aspects of the dialogue.

The afternoon session will consist of two parts, each with two tracks. Speakers will focus either on research or practice and give a 45-minute presentation followed 30 minutes of discussion. Attendees will select the presentations of their choice. During the first afternoon session, attendees may attend the Practice Emphasis Track Presentation by Herscovici or the Research Emphasis Track Presentation by Ungar. In the second afternoon segment, the choices will be between a Practice Emphasis Track Presentation by Frankel and a Research Emphasis Track presentation by Northey. In the final hour of the afternoon session, Gale will serve as facilitator as the attendees reconvene as a large group to discuss research practice dialogue in family therapy.

Call for Proposals Opens
February 18, 2013

For the first time, a Call for Proposals for a World Family Therapy Congress will be open before the current congress finishes. The website for the 2014 World Congress in Izmir, Turkey, will be up and running during the Orlando Congress. Be sure to get your proposal in early!

Deadline for Proposals
August 30

The deadline for the 2014 is earlier than ever in order to evaluate and respond to presenters earlier than in the past. If you are in an academic context, please send in your proposals before you leave for summer vacation.

Journal of Family Psychotherapy Now Online

Taylor and Francis’ new online platform replaces access to the 1,600 Journals and Reference Works previously hosted on informaworld. The new site can be accessed at www.tandfonline.com. Taylor & Francis Online has been designed with your needs in mind and offers:

- A clean, intuitive user interface
- Enhanced discoverability for our Journals and Reference Works
- Knowledge on the move with our Blackberry, iPhone and Android Applications (coming soon)

2013 JFP Access

Taylor and Francis has recently sent out to IFTA members their access information for the Journal. You should have already received login instructions.

Help

If you have received your login information but are having trouble accessing the journal online, please contact onlineaccesshelp@taylorandfrancis.com. Also, be sure and add onlineaccesshelp@taylorandfrancis.com to your e-mail whitelist or safelist, to ensure it doesn’t go to spam.

If you have any questions about Taylor & Francis Online, please contact our dedicated support team at support@tandfonline.com. They will be delighted to assist.
Online Renewal of Memberships Tips

When renewing online, some members have had their credit card declined because of mistakes in entering the information.

Here are some tips:

- Be sure that the name on credit card that you place on the bottom of the application is exactly the same as the name that is actually on the credit card.
- Be sure that the Billing Address is exactly the same as the address where the bill arrives from the postal service.
- If you are using someone else’s credit card, be sure you have the above information accurate, i.e., their complete name and billing address.
- Click the Submit button ONLY once. If your card is declined, wait 24 hours and try again.
- If you have difficulty with the application not moving correctly and being able to view if correctly, your browser probably needs to be upgraded.

If you wish to renew both your IFTA membership and your Training Division membership online (the fastest and easiest way to do it), simply go to www.ifta-familytherapy.org and click on Application/Renewal and follow the instructions.

Online Renewal of Training Division Membership

Training Division members may renew their Training Division memberships online at the same time as their IFTA membership is renewed.

Training Division

Training Matters
Phoebe Prosky, Secretariat

The Traveling Trainers Program of the Training Division has seen two more faculty members disbursed to assist with the development of training in countries which have requested the help of our volunteer faculty. In September Rick Whiteside traveled to Kosova to deliver a module of the 4 year training program we are conducting there, now in its third year. The objective of the program is to prepare a group of family therapists there to train others in that country and develop the Kosova Family Therapy Association. Rick’s focus in this week was on structural and strategic family therapy. He taught the course using a combination of power point slides, lecture, role play, videos, experiential exercises and discussion. He made a gift to each student of the three disc set of CD’s, “Family Therapy 1-2-3,” a training program that he and Frances Steinberg have developed which includes links to interviews by master family therapists. He reported that there are few positions for mental health professionals in Kosova, and that most struggle to find work, which is not well paid. As a result, many of the students in our training program there hold two and sometimes three jobs while participating in our training, and sometimes are also in the process of gaining their primary professional degrees. Quite a feat!

Another Traveling Trainer faculty member, Cecile Dillon, traveled to The Gambia on the coast of West Africa in November to give a basic orientation in family therapy to a group there who have formed the Family Therapy Association of the Gambia. The leader of the group is Alasana Drammah, with whom we did the preliminary planning for the training. The photos show Cecile Dillon with the trainees and the Video Club where the training took place. The group was interested in general issues such as child-rearing, substance abuse, adolescent acting out, relational issues of people living in the same compound, and limitations of the public health system. Cecile had prepared a great deal of material to take with her and was able to leave with them several books on relationships, STEPs Parenting Program, self guided material for depression, anxiety, and communications, a family oriented program for chemical dependency and a copy of Rick Whiteside’s
training CD’s, “Family Therapy 1-2-3” which he had donated to the training there. Cecile reports that this was an experience rich in cultural exchange, including accommodating the training to three daily periods of prayer in this Muslim country and extended periods of greeting which are the norm as a way of promoting harmonious relationships within the community.

The Training Division Board and the Board of IFTA are establishing a joint task force on training which will be convened at the start of this year’s Congress. The task force is designed to consider and expand IFTA’s training offerings and further articulate the relationship between IFTA and the Training Division.

As always the Training Division appeals to you to go through your training materials on hand and consider donating those you are not using to the Division for distribution at the Division table at the Congress. Many countries are in need of materials, and you can help supply them. If you are not attending the Congress but have materials to donate, please contact the Division Secretariat, Phoebe Prosky, at pprosky1@comcast.net. Thank you.

Training Division Secretariat: pprosky1@comcast.net with any questions or ideas related to our Division.

Cecile Dillon, Ph.D., licensed both as a clinical psychologist and a marriage and family therapist, has been practicing in Huntington Beach, Orange County, California for over thirty years. Her special interests include work with families in transition such as divorce and remarriage as well as serious mental and emotional disorders in children and adults.

Dr. Dillon, a team member in a Clinical Care Management division of IBH, Inc., is also an AAMFT Approved Supervisor, an adjunct faculty member at the National University, and an appointed volunteer member of the Orange County Mental Health Board. Eighteen years ago, Dr Dillon co-founded the Living Success Center (LSC), a non-profit community counseling center in Costa Mesa. Currently, her affiliation with the LSC is in a form of a member of the Advisory Board.

In addition to making presentations at national and international conferences and professional meetings, Dr Dillon maintains professional relationships with colleagues at the Nis Philosophy University, Psychology department, in Serbia where she visits and lectures on different topics related to her areas of expertise. Her last professional international trip in 2012 took her to the Republic of Gambia where she got acquainted with members of the Family Therapy Association of Gambia, a charitable non-profit group whose photos appear in this column.
Family Therapist Deaths in 2012

Betty Carter died in Amherst, Massachusetts after a long illness. A Bowen family therapist and a feminist, she was a founder and director of the Family Institute of Westchester in Mount Vernon, New York and probably best known internationally for her classic books on the family life cycle co-authored with Monica McGoldrick and for the Women’s Project in Family Therapy, a group she co-founded with Peggy Papp, Olga Silverstein, and Marianne Walters and which had a significant impact on attitudes regarding gender in families and in family therapy.

Frank Smith Pittman, III died at home in Atlanta, Georgia, of complications from cancer. A psychiatrist and pioneer in family therapy who shared in the Hofheimer Prize from the American Psychiatric Association for work a project using family therapy rather than hospitalization, became nationally and internationally known for his writings—books (especially Turning Points, Private Lives, Man Enough, and Grow Up!), magazine columns including his delightful movie columns in the Psychotherapy Networker—had retired from active practice in 2011.

Gordon L. Hirshhorn died at home in Old Saybrook, Connecticut. A longtime family therapist, he was a familiar and welcomed figure at International Family Therapy Association congresses, appearing on the program often over the years, including the 2012 meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia. He learned of his illness with cancer later in the Spring.