



World Family Therapy Congress Newsletter

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Fatma Reid
Past President



John Lawless
Program Chair

Headliners for IFTA's 23rd World Family Therapy Congress

Great East-West Sharing In 2015

Five outstanding clinicians will keynote the 2015 World Family Congress in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, March 2015. All of the five are highly experienced family/systemic therapists who are familiar with therapeutic and needs around the world. Meet them if you have not or become reacquainted if you already know them. They are, with their topic of presentation:



Lee Bowen
President



Ruth Casabianca
President Elect

Keynote Presenters



John Banmen



Judith Landau



Wai-Yung Lee



Maurizio Andolfi



Kathlyne Maki-Bannen



MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE
MALAYSIA





International Family
Therapy Association

IFTA's XXIII World Family Therapy Congress Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia March 11-14, 2015

Panelists



Johnben Loy, Ph.D., LMFT the Moderator of the two panels on systemic training in Asia, is a clinical fellow and approved supervisor of the AAMFT. He is the founder and clinical director of Rekindle Centre for Systemic Therapy and Rekindle Academy in Malaysia. He is working on developing evidence-backed and contextually-relevant systemic therapy education for Southeast Asia.



David Hong, M.A., an ex-Malaysian from Sydney, Australia is a practising Family Therapist with over 36 years experience in mental health service in primary, secondary and tertiary. He has been having ongoing advanced training in family therapy with Professor M. Andolfi since 2008. David was a partner investigator to a major research project on bullying.



Joyce L. C. Ma, Ph.D., Professor and Chairperson, Department of Social Work, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. She is the Clinical Fellow and Approved Supervisor of AAMFT. She has published 5 books and over 80 academic papers at venues with significant impact and visibility.



Kok-Mun Ng, Ph.D., is Professor of Counselor Education at Oregon State University. He is licensed to practice counseling in Texas and North Carolina. His research interests include cross-cultural issues, supervision and counselor education, emotional intelligence, internationalization of professional, attachment theory, and couples and family issues. Dr. Ng has published many peer-reviewed journal articles.



2015 Congress Supported by the Malaysia CEB

The 2015 World Family Therapy Congress in Kuala Lumpur is supported by Malaysia Convention and Exhibition Bureau (MyCEB). IFTA is appreciative of the assistance and support the MyCEB has given to the organization of this event.



Mee-Gaik Lim, Ph.D., has been teaching marriage and family therapy classes for over 20 years in United States. She has administered preventive education grants for community agencies and schools. Grant programs focused on building effective parenting skills, discipline skills, working with resistant children/teens, etc. Research focus includes building strong families, marital satisfaction, and clinical supervision.





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John K. Miller, Ph.D., is a Professor of MFT at Nova Southeastern University (USA). He is a former US Fulbright Senior Research Scholar to China (2009-2010) and a former Research Fellow of the Mental Research Institute (MRI). He leads and annual delegation of MFTs to Cambodia each December. His research interests include international issues, therapist competency and brief/single session therapy.



Linna Wang, Ph.D., born and raised in China, is a faculty member and Systemwide Program Director of Couple and Family therapy MA and Psy.D. Programs of Alliant International University. Her researches focus mostly on diversity related issues in MFT education, and identifying and utilizing indigenous healing mechanism.



Timothy Sim, Ph.D., has his main research and practice interest in the past decade has been to develop culturally sensitive family-based treatment in Asian contexts, particularly for the Chinese family that is in a constant flux. He has been involved in child and adolescent health-related behavior research, with a particular focus on the family dynamics of adolescent drug abusers, as well as pathological video game use among children and adolescents. In the wake of the 2008 Sichuan earthquake, he has been working closely with international and Chinese experts across disciplines in developing practice, policy and research projects in disaster interventions.



Susanna Wong Ip, Ph.D., M.P. H., M.A., has been a teacher, therapist and supervisor for over 10 years in Hong Kong, Mainland China and Macau. Susanna is the director of Bethel Counseling Center, professor of Bethel Bible Seminary in Pastoral Counseling. She advocates mental health education and low cost counseling to the underprivileged and she is active in community services. Susanna is also a writer. She has authored four books with Dr. Eddie Chan on the application of Satir model in family therapy, intimacy and treating emotional disorder cases.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The call for proposals has been extended to October 30, 2015. We invite you to join colleagues from around the world. Plan now to present at the 2015 World Family Therapy Congress.

Proposals are sought for the 2015 IFTA World Congress in the following categories:

- Brief Presentations
- Lectures
- Workshops
- Panel Presentations
- Poster Displays

[More proposal Information](#)

[Submit a Proposal](#)

Official Congress Languages

The official language of the meeting is English. All abstract submissions must be in English. However, Presentations (Posters, Briefs, Lectures, Workshops, and Panels) may be presented in English, Mandarin, or Malay.

Student Proposals

Students must send proof of student status (scan of student ID) to info@ifta-congress.org to receive a Promo code in order to register as a student.

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Keynote Speakers



John Banmen Ph.D.

"Happiness for Many or Fear No Reason: Using the Satir Model"

Satir Transformational Systemic Therapy Model (STST) has long been known for combining intrapsychic and interactive components of therapy. Virginia Satir believed that there were spiritual yearnings in all human beings which evolved and were experienced within the family. The session will demonstrate how people can release negativity and experience themselves and their family in positive ways. By making new connections and accepting differences, people can find new avenues of experiencing each other and bring happiness to their lives.



Judith Landau M.D.

"The ARISE Model"

The ARISE Model is a cross-cultural approach for enhancing family connectedness, engagement, prevention, and treatment in the face of trauma and addiction. Using a compassionate Invitational Intervention®, the ARISE Model® is a three-phase process which is a Continuum of Care that leads your loved one into appropriate treatment and recovery. The addicted individual is invited to join the process right from the beginning with no surprises, no secrets, no coercion, and absolute respect and love. ARISE introduces the addicted person and the family to a new life of recovery and healing. The individual does not need to hit bottom before getting help.



Wai-Yung Lee Ph.D.

"Working with Asian Chinese Families"

While Asian Chinese shares a very family-oriented culture, psychotherapeutic approaches in Asia are mostly focused on individuals. In this presentation, Dr. Wai Yung Lee will demonstrate how family therapy can be conducted with families from different Chinese regions, including Shanghai, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. Using video segments of live family interviews, she will explain the therapeutic process with a variety of presenting problems in each region: a young girl with eating disorder in Shanghai, a woman with mental illness in Taiwan, and children with psychosomatic problems in Hong Kong.



Maurizio Andolfi M.D.

"Adolescents' Violent Behavior and Fathers' Absence: How to Intervene"

Adolescence is a critical stage of development with a lot of misunderstanding and prejudice inside families, schools and helping professions as well. In this presentation violent behavior, bullying, self-destructiveness in adolescence will be explored from a systemic-developmental perspective. Father's absence has a long history in many disadvantaged families and multicultural social contexts, but is also a relevant issue in wealthy families with the increasing number of divorces, single parent and step-families. The risk of father's absence and lack of commitment for young kids is very high. Often professionals and institutions don't include fathers in their treatment programs. They focus on the mother-child.



Kathlyne Maki-Bannen M.S.W.

"The Essence of Therapeutic Change"

The Satir Transformational Systemic Therapy Model (STST) is unique in encompassing both the intrapsychic and interactive components of therapy. The process taps the universal yearnings and spiritual essence of individuals within their personal family and social systems and helps them work towards a sense of responsible wholeness. Intrapsychic change, therefore, not only occurs in clients' behaviour, cognition and affect but in their sense of Being. When the spiritual essence is accessed experientially, positive possibilities become easily apparent and transformational change as an energetic shift becomes possible. With transformational change, clients experience more of their true essence and release the negative impacts they have held. The impact of intrapsychic transformational change during systemic family therapy is dramatic. Family members experience each other in more positive ways. They become more willing to make new connections, accept differences, and release reactive feelings, perceptions and expectations that have kept them from being open to each other.