

President's Column

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Greetings family therapists all around the world! There are so many exciting developments going on in IFTA right now that trying to decide on what to talk about here is much like being at an amazing restaurant when you're going through the menu *trying* to make up your mind as to what you're going to order!

We're *gearing up* for the 2019 World Family Therapy Congress in Aberdeen, Scotland March 28-30. In *Celebrating Family Therapy Around the World*, the special focus will be on *interactional methodologies* and their *impact* in family therapy settings. I wonder how Gregory Bateson, Don D. Jackson, Jay Haley, and John Weakland would have reacted, following the publication of their landmark paper in *Family Process* in 1956 entitled, "Toward a Theory of Schizophrenia," to learn that some 63 years on a World Family Therapy Congress would be convened to further understand, explore, and advance interactional methodologies and their impact within family therapy settings. Abstract proposals for this Congress are now streaming in and accommodation for the local hotels in Aberdeen, Scotland is filling up fast!

In March this year, at our previous Congress in Bangkok Thailand, I spoke about key developments occurring in family therapy internationally as well as in IFTA. One of these very special developments is IFTAs promulgation of international accreditation in family therapy. In response to a direct request from a family therapy association in Turkey for IFTA to provide international accreditation, IFTA formed the International Accreditation Commission for Systemic Therapy Education (IACSTE) in 2014. I was privileged to be invited to serve on the original Commission, chaired by leading international figure, Dorothy Becvar. At that time, it was not possible for me to anticipate the full force of this development and what was to come! IACSTE is not only providing international accreditation for family therapists as well as training institutions (or programs) around the world—at Tier 1 and Tier 2 levels—but now also for *supervisors*. This new category of accreditation, the details of which are still being finalised, means that supervisors from all around the world will now be able to apply to IACSTE for the internationally accredited designation *Certified Systemic Supervisor*! How's that for an exciting development?

Talking about other exciting developments, IFTA is hosting its 2nd Intensive Institute in Prague, Czech Republic just next month, October 18-19. The theme of this Institute is “Advancing Family and Systemic Therapy Worldwide: Innovations in Training, Supervision, and Practice.” In addition to the potential for cutting edge inputs and learnings, the hours spent during this Institute will also count towards the total number of required hours, should you consider applying for international accreditation as a supervisor in family therapy. This Institute is limited to 80 people. So, if you would like to attend you should register quickly.

Developments such as the 2nd IFTA Institute in Prague, Czech Republic, the upcoming 2019 World Family Therapy Congress in Aberdeen, Scotland, and IACSTEs—world’s first—provision of international accreditation for family therapists, training institutions/programs, and now supervisors, are just something of what is happening in IFTA right now. Having said this, though, IFTA is really about you, the therapists, the trainers, and the supervisors in family therapy all around the world. As we interact together, we learn, we develop, we contribute, we give back and the field of family therapy grows. We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming 2nd IFTA Institute in Prague, Czech Republic, alternatively the 2019 World Family Therapy Congress in Aberdeen, Scotland!

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