



IFTA World Family Therapy Congress in Argentina: Beautiful Buenos Aires, March 17-20, 2010



2009 World Family Therapy Congress Scientific and Hosting Committees Named

IFTA's Congress Committees for the 18th World Family Therapy Congress were announced recently by William Nichols, IFTA President and Chair of Congress. "The Scientific and Hosting Committees is comprised of many individuals from a variety of countries," said Dr. Nichols, and will be in charge of arranging the speakers and the workshops and other Congress events.

The Scientific Committee Coordinator is Ruth Casabianca (Argentina) and includes Sergio Bernales, Chile; Sylvia Campos, Chile; Toby Sigrun Herman, Iceland; Cecile Rausch Herscovici, Argentina; Hugo Hirsch, Argentina; Estrella Joselevich, Argentina; Madhu Kasarian, South Africa; Diana Kirzsmán, Argentina; John Lawless, USA; Rosa María Macedo, Brazil; Snezana Mijalkovic, New Zealand; Alicia Moreno, Spain; David McGill, USA; Dora Fried Schnitman, Argentina; Michal Shamai, Israel; Takeshi Tamura, Japan; Eduardo Villar, Colombia; and Roxana Zevallos, Perú.

The Hosting Committee Coordinator is Adela Garcia, Argentina, and Barbara Warner, UK, will be the Coordinator of the Subcommittee on Social Networking. The Hosting Committee includes Omar Biscotti; Marcelo Ceberio, Argentina; Cecilia Diehl, Argentina; Maria Rosa Glasserman, Argentina; Marilene Grandesso, Brazil; Pedro Herscovici, Argentina; Sara B. Jutoran, Argentina; Hector Label, Argentina; Irene Loyacono, Argentina; and Jorge Fernandez Moya, Argentina.

The International Family Therapy Association's XVIII World Family Therapy Congress will be returning to South America for a highly anticipated meeting when it convenes in Buenos Aires, Argentina, March 17-20, 2010. "A beautiful setting, comfortable, temperate weather, a nation rich in family therapy tradition as the host country, and a stimulating program—what more can you want?" asked a veteran of many IFTA congresses. "Argentina, with its rich heritage of family therapy and its contribution of many leaders around the globe, is a wonderful place for such a congress."

With an outstanding lineup of plenary presenters—Kenneth V. Hardy (USA), Cecile Rausch Herscovici (Argentina), Marie-Luise Conen (Germany), Jaakko Seikkula (Finland), Sandra Stith (USA), and Sergio Bernales (Chile)—already scheduled, the Scientific Committee, coordinated by Ruth Casabianca (Argentina), is getting ready to review abstracts from around the world to fill openings in workshops and other types of program slots with important and relevant contents. The 2010 list of topics for which abstracts can be submitted for consideration offers more opportunities than ever before to extend sharing among colleagues.

Theme of the congress is "Family Therapy 2010: Sharing in Challenging Times." The focus will be on sharing findings, approaches to problems and ways of coping with them, and helping to heal hurting families, couples, and children in various cultures, and fostering mental health and growth in challenging times. Communicating and networking

among therapists, researchers, teachers, and mental health administrators both during the time in Buenos Aires and after returning to home and community will be a significant part of the congress process. The congress is expected to enhance participant's awareness of how the development of family therapy is rapidly becoming a mutual back-and-forth process in which new ways can and are found from all parts of the world.

Hundreds of participants from scores of countries will gather to learn about learning about old, familiar problems and needs and novel, unfamiliar challenges they have not 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.

The Hosting Committee, coordinated by Adela Garcia (Argentina), is well into the process of planning a variety of activities both at the headquarters of the congress—the Panamericano Buenos Aires Hotel—and in the community and region.

IFTA has a LinkedIn (www.Linkedin.com) group. Search for the "International Family Therapy Association" group and request to become a member. Send messages to other IFTA members and network with people from around the world.

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GENERAL SECRETARY

William Hiebert, DMin
Marriage & Family Counseling Service
1800 3rd Avenue, STE 512, Rock Island, IL
61201-8000 USA
wjhiebert@aol.com
+309-786-4491

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Fred Jefferson
+651-340-6166
fredhjefferson@yahoo.com

INTERNATIONAL CONNECTION EDITOR

Journal of Family Psychotherapy Editor
William J. Hiebert, DMin
wjhiebert@aol.com

Terry Trepper, PhD
terrytrepper@purdue-calument.edu

Office fax for all: +309-786-0205
Website: www.ifta-familytherapy.org

KEY DATES FOR BUENOS AIRES CONGRESS

- September 15th –Deadline for Abstract Submission
- November 20 - Early Registration Ends

IFTA, an organization whose time has come

Judith Landau, Presidential Final Reflections



Dear Colleagues,

As I complete my presidency, I believe that IFTA is in a very exciting place. Global changes and challenges have created a great strain not just on world economics but also on every family in every country. This is a rare opportunity for us to come together as a very strong collaborative group from many countries to share our experiences and learn together how to apply our knowledge to help the families we serve access their resources to endure and grow.

The Portoroz congress was a wonderful example of how this can happen. The presentations were inspiring and the spirit of sharing and collaboration was evident throughout. Our IFTA community is growing steadily, and many of our members are making an effort to contribute to our activities. Members of the Board of Directors are all actively involved in committee work in=2 0a determined effort to have IFTA become the leading international family organization.

Another example of our growth is the work of the IFTA Education and Training Division under the able leadership of Phoebe Prosky. Her team of trainers commit their time on a voluntary basis to promoting family therapy education around the world wherever they are needed. Their next project will be in Kosova as a direct result of the 2009 congress.

IFTA is truly functioning as a democratic, multi-disciplinary organization committed to our mission. A wonderful example of this was the meeting of the Network of Associations. This was the largest and most representative group yet and everyone offered stimulating and meaningful suggestions as to how we can become a more active community. A commitment was made to effective networking during and between congresses and a subcommittee of the Hosting Committee has been appointed for this purpose. The next congress in Buenos Aires with the

theme, Family Therapy 2010: Global Sharing in Challenging Times, will continue moving us towards our goal of improving the life of families around the world and promoting well-being and peace.

It is with great delight that I hand over the reigns to Dr. William Nichols as the next president of IFTA. As most of you know, Bill was one of our outstanding past presidents and brings his extensive experience and commitment along with exciting new ideas to carry IFTA into the future. He will be ably assisted by our new Board of Directors and by our President Elect, Fatma Reid. My congratulations to all elected and I look forward with enthusiasm to serving my term as Past President with all of you.

Judith Landau, M.D., is the 2007-2009 President and lives in Vail, CO, USA.

IFTA BOARD AND OFFICER ELECTION RESULTS

Elected to the Class of 2012 were: Khawla Abu-Baker, Ph.D., Israel; Alicia Moreno, Ph.D., Spain; Lia Fernandes, MD., Portugal; Roxana Zevallos, Lic., Peru. Abu-Baker is returning for her second term. Moreno, Fernandes and Zevallos were elected to their first three-year terms. However, after the election, Alicia Moreno withdrew.

As a result of the Officer Election, Fatma Tourn Reid, M.A., Turkey, was elected President-Elect and Barbara Warner, CQSW, UK, was elected Treasurer. Their election to officers resulted in their two board slots becoming vacant. With Moreno's slot also vacated by her resignation, there were 3 open slots on the board for Member-at-Large.

According to IFTA Bylaws, when Board Member-at-Large positions are vacated for whatever reason, the President can appoint people to complete the unexpired terms of those vacated slots. These appointments are drawn from those who also ran in the previous election because their candidacies were cleared by the Nominating Committee. Thus, replacing Fatma Reid and Barbara Warner in the Member-at-Large positions, who both were from the Class of 2010, will be Charlotte Engelbrecht, M. Cur., South Africa and Maire Steadman, M.S.C., United Kingdom, who will each serve out the 1 year terms of Reid and Warner. Replacing Alicia Moreno will be Lee Bowen, Ph.D., USA, who will serve out Alicia Moreno's three-year term.

Report of the Office of the Secretariat

General Secretary: William Hiebert, DMin



William Hiebert

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 <<http://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.

2009 Buenos Aires World Congress Website Is Operational

The World Congress website is now operational. You can find the Congress website at: <http://www.paragon-conventions.net/IFTA2010/>. The website contains all of the information necessary for registration, abstract submission, and other details for Congress planning.

Journal of Family Psychotherapy Available Online to IFTA Members

Here is a great member benefit! The Journal of Family Psychotherapy is available online to IFTA members. That means you not only will receive a hard-copy issue of the Journal each quarter, but you can also get the Journal online! You should have by now received login information from Taylor and Francis. Since we do not always have accurate email information from all of our members, or we may have an error in the database, you may not have received that information. **If you have not received an email with instructions on how to log in to the Journal's online access, please contact Julie Ehlers at Taylor and Francis. Her email is: julie.ehlers@taylorandfrancis.com. Just give her your name and address, and tell her that you are an IFTA member who would like information on how to log in to the Journal of Family Psychotherapy.**

Secretariat Office Staff:

William J. Hiebert, D. Min., General Secretary
wjhiebert@aol.com
+309-786-4491

Fred Jefferson, Administrative Assistant
Fred@ifta-familytherapy.org or fredlhjefferson@yahoo.com
+651-340-6166

Fax for all: +309-786-0205

IFTA & Social Networking

The use of social networking sites, LinkedIn, Facebook, and Twitter are sweeping the world and IFTA is becoming a part of the worldwide phenomenon. For IFTA members on Facebook (www.facebook.com) there is an IFTA Group. To join do a search on "International Family Therapy Association." Once to the IFTA group page then click on the link to join. The list is moderated so once you make a request then you will need to be approved by the group moderator.

IFTA also has a LinkedIn (www.Linkedin.com) group. Similarly, search for the "International Family Therapy Association" group and request to become a member. As a member of the IFTA groups you can send messages to other IFTA members and network with people from around the world.

If you have any questions about the site or the program contact William Northey (northey@comcast.net) and he will be glad to answer any questions you may have.



TRAINING MATTERS

Phoebe Prosky, Coordinator/Secretariat

The Education and Training Division has opened a new section on its web page. It is to contain sample curricula gathered from many sources for programs to draw on in the process of designing their own training programs. We hope this will be a valuable resource for us all.

Our Traveling Trainers Program has a growing list of trainers available to travel to places in need of training assistance and train pro bono. The Division is making travel grants to bring those trainers to countries with limited resources to help in the development of family therapy training. The only thing required of the host country is room and board, which can be home-stay. The Division's Traveling Trainers are listed on the Education and Training Division webpage together with a brief description of their experience in training internationally and their areas of interest and specialization. For programs that wish to draw on this resource, there are instructions on the webpage about applying for a trainer and a grant. If you know of a developing program that could use our help, please let them know about this offering.

Our materials clearinghouse has just received a wonderful gift of several cartons of books on family therapy, donated by Kitty LaPerriere (USA) from her extensive library. We will be shipping them to Argentina to be available on the Division's resource table. Members of the Division can access these books and other materials for \$1 US apiece at the Congress.

At the Slovenia Congress, the Division presented a plaque in absentia to Audrey Ellenwood. Audrey, who has been our Treasurer and Membership Chair for many years, is giving up her hat as Membership Chair. She will continue as Treasurer. Audrey has worked tirelessly on behalf of the Division in her role as Membership Chair, producing many generations of our directory, promoting membership, and keeping track of all member issues. Thank you, Audrey, for your abundant contributions to the Division! Tom Todd takes her place as our new Chair of Membership. Welcome, Tom.

The Division is planning a workshop on training at the 20th Congress, featuring both presentations and an opportunity for exchange. Please look for this listing in the Congress program.

Thank you to all Education and Training Division Members for your help in supporting the work of the Division.

Phoebe Prosky, Secretariat for the Training Division, can be contacted at 143 Flying Point Road, Freeport, Maine 04032, USA. pprosky@suscom-maine.net

USED TRAINING MATERIALS NEEDED

Please bring any gently used training materials that you want to donate to the division to the Argentina congress. They will be made available to division members at our table at the congress. Recycle and disseminate systemic thinking at the same time!

You may also send materials to me at the above address.

SEE YOURSELVES AND YOUR FRIENDS IN ACTION AND AT PLAY AT IFTA CONFERENCES!

Photographs of IFTA International Congresses are available for viewing. There are two ways to access the photographs on the web.

Either go to the IFTA website at: www.ifta-familytherapy.org and then click on the link "Photo Gallery" on the left side of the page, or go directly to the conference photo site at: ifta.smugmug.com

Enjoy seeing images from the past conferences in Slovenia (2009) Porto (2008), Iceland (2006), Washington, D.C. (2005), Istanbul, Turkey (2004); Bled, Slovenia (2003); and Porto Alegre, Brazil (2001). Copies of many of the images are available through our IFTA photographer, Pamela R. Lessing Friedman.



Olga Silverstein 1913 - 2009

Renowned family therapist and teacher Olga Silverstein, 86, died peacefully at her home in New York City surrounded by her family on February 24, 2009. To honor her life and work, the Ackerman Institute for the Family has established The Olga Silverstein Training award which will be presented annually to a gifted student who has completed the live clinical part of Ackerman's program and is entering the first year externship training.

A late starter in the family therapy field, she soon made up for her delayed entry and blazed an outstanding path over several decades. The daughter of Hungarian immigrants, she came to the United States at age seven, married young, and remained home rearing her three children until she was forty. Over the next seven years, she secured a high school diploma, a bachelor's degree, and then a master of social work degree. In the mid-1970s she was co-founder with Peggy Papp of the Brief Therapy Project at the Ackerman Institute. The strategic interventions they developed from a systemic perspective are powerfully illustrated in Olga's training film, "Who's Depressed?"

During the decade of the 1970s she and Papp joined Betty Carter and Marianne Walters to launch The Women's Project in Family Therapy. They focused on examining the sexist concerns and theories that dominated their clinical practice, and soon began to offer workshops in the United States and abroad on women's relationships in families. The pioneering and classic work, *The Invisible Web: Gender Patterns in Family Relationships*, was written by the four colleagues from this experience.

Olga Silverstein became an international authority on mother-son relationships following publication of her book, *The Courage to Raise Good Men*. Some of the strength and power of her therapeutic work is reflected in her book with Bradford Keeney, *The Therapeutic Voice of Olga Silverstein*. Besides teaching and supervising in New York and serving as a clinical research associate at Texas Tech University, Olga was also an honorary professor of clinical psychiatry in Spain and made presentations at the famed Tavistock Clinic in London. The American Family Therapy Academy honored her with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Summarizing her strengths, contributions, skills, and personal qualities in written words is not possible: She was a presence.

Florence W. Kaslow, Ph.D., ABPP

A recent Baltic Sea Cruise, on which I lectured for University at Sea, (an organization that provides both CME's and CEU's) took us to some of the fascinating cities and countries of this region. The topic was Women's Mental and Physical Health and my medical co-lecturer and I covered a bevy of topics ranging from gender issues in the workplace, through eating disorders, to all kinds of addictions and relational problems, including sexual dysfunctions. Our diverse group of participants comprised of physicians in various specialties, psychologists, and nurse practitioners was a lively and bright group and we had some excellent interactive discussions. The interactions were enriched by the fact that attendees came from Australia, Canada, and the Philippines as well as the United States and we were privileged to hear about how medicine and psychology are practiced in national health care systems where one can wait from two to four months for an appointment, unless it is an emergency, and all doctors – no matter how inexperienced or experienced – are compensated per procedure at the same rate. There is no reimbursement for time spent talking to patients nor for referring them for counseling, so little time is invested in that or in consulting or collaborating with other health care professionals involved with the same patient. Overuse of medication as the treatment of choice for everything from grief to bulimia seems endemic. Many were surprised when I talked about non-pharmacological treatment interventions to reduce stress, anxiety, depression, sleep disorders, etc. Body-mind connections, conversion phenomena and relaxation techniques are clearly not taught universally.

The rest of this brief article will be focused on two areas that we visited which we found quite wonderful and where I had an opportunity to inquire about some family related issues. The first is St. Petersburg, Russia. Here all of the tour guides emphasized the glories of Imperialist Russia during the regimes of the Czars and wanted to downplay the era of Stalin and his successors and the unattractive massive buildings built in what is disparagingly called "Stalin-style architecture". The gorgeous, ornate, romantic castles are shown with pride and I once again found the Hermitage one of the greatest, most formidable art and sculpture palace museums in the world. A visit to the Yu supov Palace for a performance by the St. Petersburg Opera Orchestra and some of the leading opera soloists and ballet dancers was quite breathtaking as was a tour of the castle and a recounting of the story of Rasputin and his dastardly role in Russian history. The delightful aura of the event was enhanced by the serving of champagne and caviar in a ballroom prior to the performance. Despite all of the splendor at these and other palaces, like Petrograd, all tours are carefully regulated as to what one can see and for how long. One often hears as an explanation "because those are the rules". Although the oppressiveness, drabness and rigidity we experienced when in Leningrad/Petrograd/St. Petersburg 35 years ago are much less stringent now, much is still under government regulation and reflects the years of the USSR communist regime and its totalitarian philosophy.

Upon specifically inquiring we learned that being religious is no longer forbidden and some people have slowly been returning to the Russian Orthodox and other churches. Many churches that were closed have been reopened and refurbished, at least for tourism. Divorce rates have risen sharply. Women continue to work and be engaged in all occupations. There is more expression of individuality in fashion and clothing is more colorful. There are branches of many of the best fashion houses from around the world on the main shopping avenues, and St. Petersburg boasts many fine restaurants. The period of enormous growth in the

Russian stock market improved the financial situation of some Russian families, who had become or became entrepreneurs, but the growth has tapered off and families that had become extravagant are retrenching and are more cautious. Tourists are welcome and treated well and capitalism has taken hold. Consumer goods are plentiful if one has the requisite rubles or Euros.

I had arranged to have dinner with two different family psychologist friends from Sweden as well as to talk with tour guides in Stockholm and onboard ship. From them I learned that despite complaints of ultra high income taxes in Sweden and even more so in Denmark, the Swedes and Danes are proud to report that men and women each get 18 month maternity leave when a child is born so at least one parent is home for a total of three years. Both parents are given long summer vacations when their children are off from school and are expected to take care of them. Many families now encourage grown children to settle nearby when they marry and have children and there has been a return to being actively involved in grand-parenting and promoting family ties throughout the life cycle. The institution of marriage does not seem to have been replaced by 'cohabitation'; rather it appears to still be thriving.

The social welfare systems in both countries continue their long history of providing for residents in Sweden and Denmark from "womb to tomb", which is what necessitates the high tax rate. Yet like Australia and Canada, residents also endure long waits for medical care. Denmark is still reeling from a scandal that erupted in 2006 revealing that there were over 5,000 deaths in its hospitals caused by medical errors or inadequate care, putting it on a par with Greece and Pakistan (as reported to me). There is much fear of having to be hospitalized. There is also resentment over the huge drain on the welfare system caused by the rising number of immigrants who compete for jobs and expect to be eligible for benefits upon arrival. Several sources did report immigrants are now required to work two or three years before being eligible – but that there are many exceptions to the rule.

Many families feel uneasy about the changing population demographics in Scandinavia, as they do in the United States. The look of families around the world is changing, as there is much melding and blending occurring – which is threatening to some but celebrated by others. As the beat goes on, nothing stays the same, but it appears the family, in some form, as the basic and essential unit of all societies remains a constant.

Florence W. Kaslow, Ph.D. was IFTA
Founding/First President (1987-1990)

More Buenos Aires Photos



 XVIII World IFTA Congress
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www.paragon-conventions.com/ifta2010