

# The International Connection

The International Family Therapy Association



Volume 22, Number 1, January 2009  
E-Newsletter Edition

## Join us in Slovenia for the 2009 World Congress

March 4-7, 2009 Portoroz, Slovenia



The 2009 World Family Therapy Congress will be held March 4-7, 2009 in beautiful Portoroz, Slovenia. This is IFTA's 17th world congress. The theme of this year's congress is Reconciling Differences: Can Family Therapy Help Heal the World? The Congress program will include IFTA's traditional plenary sessions, workshops, short presentations, and posters, according to Judith Landau, IFTA President.

Pre- Congress workshops start the Congress on Wednesday, March 4 and include:

- The RELATE with Couple CARE Program: Helping Couples Build Relationship Commitment, Shared Realistic Expectations, and Crucial Skills of Intimacy--Kim Halford (Australia)
- Becoming Outcome-Informed with Families and Couples--  
Jacqueline Sparks (USA)
- Reconciling Differences in Marital and Couples Relationships--  
David Schnarch & Ruth Morehouse (USA)
- Listening in Family Therapy--Peter Rober (Belgium)
- How to Soften Illness Suffering: Seven Spiritual Care Practices for Family Healing--  
Lorraine Wright (Canada)

The plenary speakers for this year's congress are: Zdenka Čebašek-Travnik the Ombudsman of the

Republic of Slovenia; Carlos E Sluzki from George Mason University, USA; Madhubala Kasiram from the University of KwaZulu, South Africa; Kim Halford from The University of Queensland, Australia; David Schnarch from the Marriage & Family Health Center, USA; Jacqueline Sparks from the University of Rhode Island, USA; and Mimoza Shahini from the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Center, Kosovo. The plenary sessions will address the role of family therapy in reconciliation and will focus specifically on marital and couple relations, and the use of medications of children with behavioral health issues.

The World Family Therapy Congress has a rich history of bringing together the greatest clinicians from the field of family therapy, and in Portoroz we will continue this worthy tradition, said William Northey, Congress Chair. In addition to showcasing the preeminent thinkers and scholars in family therapy, it will probe the complexities of reconciliation and the role that family therapists can play in healing. The town of Portoroz will also honor participants with a welcome reception. There is no doubt that our Slovenian hosts are doing all they can to make this congress a very special one.

You may learn more about the conference from the website: <http://www.paragon-conventions.com/ifta2009>

## 2009 World Family Therapy Congress Invited Speakers

**Kim Halford** is Professor of Clinical Psychology at Griffith University, Brisbane Australia. Kim has published 4 books and over 130 articles on couple therapy, couple relationship education, and couples coping with major life stresses such as cancer diagnosis and treatment. He leads the international team that developed the Couple CARE programs, which are designed to make couple relationship education easy to access with DVDs, telephone and e-mail support, and use of the internet. Kim is active in work with couples, and has provided training in work with couples to approximately 20,000 professionals in more than dozen countries.

**Madhu Kasiram** is a Professor in the School of Social Work and Community Development at the University of KwaZulu Natal in South Africa. She specializes in family therapy in spite and despite the call for more developmentally oriented education and practice targeting macro systems in South Africa. She professes that entrance to community is often best achieved through family oriented work and that community camaraderie and empowerment too may benefit from knowledge, understanding and skill in family therapy. She has also made significant contributions to presenting and publishing on indigenizing family therapy for the South African context. Her recent interests have been on how best to adjust family therapy for work with HIV/AIDS, trauma and community

**David Schnarch, Ph. D.** is Director of the Marriage & Family Health Center of Evergreen Colorado, a licensed clinical psychologist, and founder of the Crucible® Approach to integrated marital-sexual therapy. He is an AASECT-certified Sex Therapist, the first recipient of the AASECT Professional Standard of Excellence Award, and a Clinical Member of AAMFT. He is the author of Constructing The Sexual Crucible: An Integration of Sexual and Marital Therapy (1991), Passionate

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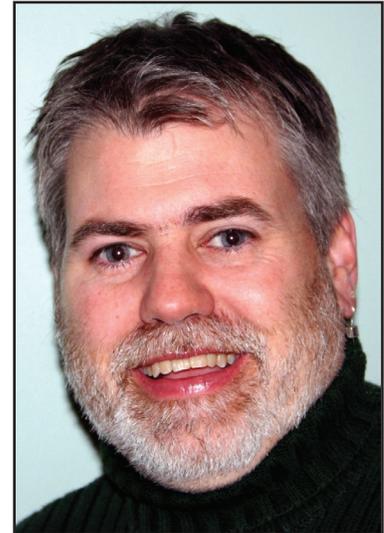
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# RECONCILING DIFFERENCES; CAN FAMILY THERAPY HELP HEAL THE WORLD?

**Judith Landau, President**

**William Northey, Congress Chair**



Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the International Family Therapy Association, it is our great pleasure to invite you to participate in the World Family Therapy Congress in Portorož, Slovenia March 4-7, 2009. The theme for this, our 17th World Congress, is Reconciling Differences: Can Family Therapy Help Heal the World?

The World Family Therapy Congress has a rich history of bringing together the greatest clinicians from the field, and in Portorož we will continue this worthy tradition. In addition to showcasing the preeminent thinkers and scholars in family therapy, we will also consider the crucial role that family therapy plays in process of coexistence, healing, and reconciliation as it relates to trauma, violence, abuse, and suffering throughout the world.

Following the tremendous success of the Porto congress, we anticipate that Portorož will exceed our accomplishments in Portugal by providing an incredible venue for the congress, as well as the splendor of the Adriatic Sea. In addition to the fantastic workshops, there will be ample opportunities for networking and sharing. We hope that you will not only plan to attend the congress, but that you will consider being a speaker. The call for abstracts is available on the congress website.

Please plan to join us in Slovenia and we will assure you that your time at the congress will be well spent. Having the rare opportunity to interact with people who share your passion for family therapy from around the world is truly an extraordinary experience. One we can tell you from our experience, you will always treasure. See you in Portorož?

**\*\*This Welcome was reprinted from the Congress Web site and was written by President Landau and Congress Chair Northey.**

**INVITED SPEAKERS CONTINUED**

Marriage: Sex, Love, and Intimacy in Emotionally Committed Relationships (1997), and Resurrecting Sex: Resolving Sexual Problems and Rejuvenating Your Relationship (2002). His books and articles have been published internationally and translated into many languages.

**Mimoza Shahini**, is the Head of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services in Kosovo and lecturer of State University of Prishtina. She holds an M.A. in Child Mental Health and doing her PhD in Medical University of Vienna in Mental Health and Behavior Sciences. She is President of Kosovo Child and Adolescent Mental Health Association, Member of the Advisory Board to the WPA Presidential Program on Child Mental Health, and member of different national organizations in Kosovo. The main subjects of her publication and research are on child mental health in post conflict circumstances (especially on setting child mental health services in such difficult conditions), adolescent problem behaviors, promotion of resilient school, suicide, epidemiology, family therapy etc.

**Carlos E. Sluzki, MD**, Professor, Department of Global and Community Health, and Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, George Mason University, Fairfax/Arlington, VA; Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, George Washington University School of Medicine, Washington, DC. Dr. Sluzki has been professor of psychiatry at University of California San Francisco and Los Angeles, and at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, Amherst. He has also been Director (1980-1983)

# Report of the Office of the Secretariat

General Secretary: William Hiebert, DMin



William Hiebert

## Changing Email Addresses?

Please keep the Secretariat up to date with your new email address. Forward any email address changes to the Secretariat as well as any postal address or telephone number changes.

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Congress Website: <http://www.paragon-conventions.com/ifta2009/index>

## JFP, IFTA's Official Journal, Online and in Print

Terry S. Trepper, Ph.D., Editor

The Journal of Family Psychotherapy is available both in print form and 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 received an email from Taylor & Francis Publishing, with instructions on how to access the Journal via InformaWorld. They send you your log in information directly to you. If you have not received that email, this may mean that the email address that IFTA has for you is incorrect. Please contact William Hiebert at [WJHIEBERT@aol.com](mailto:WJHIEBERT@aol.com) and provide him with your correct email address.

For any editorial questions, paper submission ideas, or to submit an article for review, please contact the editor, Terry Trepper, Ph.D., Editor, Journal of Family Psychotherapy, Department of Behavioral Sciences, Purdue University Calumet, 2200 169th St., Hammond, IN 46323 USA at [trepper@calumet.purdue.edu](mailto:trepper@calumet.purdue.edu).

## 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 it correctly, your browser needs to be upgraded.

If you wish to renew your 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.

## Training Division Membership Is Renewable Online

Training Division members can renew their Training Division membership online at the same time as they renew their IFTA membership. New members can also join the Training Division when they join IFTA online..

## Paragon Conventions the Slovenia Congress Organizer

Paragon Conventions is the Slovenia World Congress Organizer and is handling all of the registration and hotel arrangements. The website contains all of the information necessary for registration and other details for Congress planning. You can find the Congress website at: <http://www.paragon-conventions.com/ifta2009/index>. Any questions with regard to presentations, Congress registration or hotel reservations should be directed to Paragon.

### INVITED INVITED SPEAKERS CONTINUED

professor of the Mental Research Institute, Palo Alto, California, and Editor-in-Chief of the journals Acta Psiquiatrica y Psicologica de America Latina, Family Process and the American Journal of Orthopsychiatry.

**Jacqueline A. Sparks, PhD.** is an associate professor of family therapy at the University of Rhode Island and clinical member of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy. Dr. Sparks is co-author of the Heroic Client and Heroic Clients, Heroic Agencies: Partners for Change. She has published and presented widely on the over-prescription of psychotropic medication for children and the application of client-directed, outcome-informed work with children and families. She is co-author and research investigator of the Child Outcome Rating Scale and provides consultation for agencies seeking to transform policies and procedures from theory to client-driven.



## TRAINING MATTERS

*Phoebe Prosky, Coordinator/Secretariat*

The last six months have seen the launch of the Traveling Trainers Program of our Education and Training Division. The Division awarded its first two travel grants to trainers who did workshops in Turkey. In September Kathlyne Maki-Banmen presented a four-day training in Istanbul on Satir Transformational Systemic Therapy. The first two days focused on working with individuals and families and the second on couples: "Working with Sameness and Differences Congruently."

In October William Hiebert conducted a three-day workshop for ASAM Child and Family Development Center in Istanbul. Two of the days focused on advanced skills in couple therapy and the third day was a "Stuck Case Consultation: Consultation on Couples and Families Not Progressing in Therapy."

Our Division has developed an instrument to collect feedback from workshops we help to fund, which will be used to seek sources of funding to grow our grant-making capacity, working in conjunction with IFTA's Development Committee. The Traveling Trainers program is especially designed to reach areas where no family therapy training is available and to make it possible.

The Division is also working to establish a training track at our Congresses. This is dependent on our members' submission of workshop proposals on training. Please consider proposing a workshop on training at the next Congress.

Our cache of new and lovingly used training materials for our materials clearinghouse has all been given out, and we are in need of renewed supplies. Please think about training materials you have that you no longer need – books, video- or audiotapes- or publishers you know who might be able to donate books, and bring them to the congress in Slovenia for dissemination to programs who need them, or send them to the IFTA Education and Training Division Secretariat, 143 Flying Point Road, Freeport, Maine, 04032, USA. This has been a very popular program; it depends on those of us who have access to materials and our commitment to our colleagues and recycling!

If you have an interest in family therapy training, please look for the annual meeting of the Education and Training division in the Congress Program and come join us as we consider together issues both of the development of the Division and of family therapy training world-wide. Phoebe Prosky, MSW, 143 Flying Point Road, Freeport, Maine, 04032, USA can be contacted at <mailto:pprosky@suscom-maine.net>

## USED TRAINING MATERIALS NEEDED

Please remember to bring gently used training materials to donate to the Training Division table at the Slovenia Congress. It's a great way to make materials you are not using available to others who need them. Please bring these with you for our Division Table at the Slovenia Congress or mail to:

Europe: Brigitta Beghella, Girlingstra. 47, Salzburg, Austria

Everywhere else: Phoebe Prosky, Secretariat, 143 Flying Point Road, Freeport, Maine 04032, USA

## 2010 IFTA BOARD NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Three elected Board members terms will have ended by June 30, 2009: Francisco Aviles, Ph.D., Mexico; John Banmen, Ph.D., Canada; and David McGill, PhD, USA. While David McGill continues on the Board as Secretary, his position as a director at large and the two other positions are open for election.

Nominations for Board directors are open and members wishing to nominate board candidates should contact the Secretariat for the proper forms.

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

Photographs of IFTA International Congress 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](http://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](http://ifta.smugmug.com)

Enjoy seeing images from the past conferences in Porto (2007), 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.



# Visiting Portorož

The 17th International Family Therapy Congress will be held in Portorož, Slovenia, is a tourist town that boasts the longest tourist tradition in Slovenia and offers comfortable hotels and modern swimming pools, restaurants and events. It is a popular conference centre and can accommodate up to 1500 visitors. Portorož has a casino, a sport airport and marina. It is a town visited by tourists from all over Europe and other countries as well. It is an internationally known holiday centre and climatic health seaside resort.

In the Šavrinska Hills in the hinterland of Portorož lies a number of old Istrian settlements (Padna, Krkav e, Koštabona, Pomjan, Gažon), and not far from the coast there is the picturesque village Hrastovlje with its Church of the Holy Trinity adorned by late gothic narrative frescoes and is considered a real treasure of medieval fresco arts in Slovenia.

Close to Portorož is the old seaport of Piran that lies at the end of the Piran peninsula. It was surrounded by walls in the Middle Ages (200 metres of the city walls are still preserved). The whole town is protected as a cultural and historical monument and it has preserved its medieval layout with narrow streets and compact houses, which rise in steps from the coastal lowland into the hills and give the whole area a typical Mediterranean look. Today it is an administrative and supply centre and also an important coastal tourist resort with hotels, restaurants and holiday houses, the Sergej Mašera Maritime Museum and an aquarium, cultural institutions and events. (Abridged from [www.slovenia.info](http://www.slovenia.info))



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## EFTA-TIC (TRAINING DIVISION) MEETING IN TOULOUSE, FRANCE

Phoebe Prosky, Training Division  
Secretariat

In September I attended the EFTA-TIC family therapy trainers conference in Toulouse, France, representing our Education and Training Division in the spirit of exchange and collaboration. I was warmly received, first by Mony Elkaim, Chair of EFTA-TIC, who I ran into as I arrived, and later by Arlene Vetere, President of EFTA and by Kyriaki Polychroni, EFTA Secretariat, as well as by many other old and new friends.

The Congress venue was the Institut d'Etudes de la Famille, located on one of the small streets that form a labyrinth in an old area of Toulouse characterized by small shops and cafes, set in old buildings of brick. The door to the Institut is a huge double metal door some twelve feet high which did not yield to my pull, nor suggest anything about what was inside, save a poster of the Congress plastered on it. I rang the bell and was instructed to push on the left panel. It opened easily, and I found myself inside a large passageway that passed through several layers of interior buildings. In the last building is the neat, spare, modern suite of rooms that comprise the Institut – rooms at once friendly in proportion, yet ample in size to accommodate our gathering of 104 trainers from 18 countries.

The meeting got underway midday on Friday with introductions and other formalities followed by a warm-up process in which we interacted with each other in small groups. The format of the conference included a brief statement about their up-coming presentations by all workshop leaders, banks of three or four simultaneous workshops, followed by inter-workshops exchange in which all of us reconvened, and one person from each workshop spoke of how s/he had been impacted by the workshop. This was a helpful format in that it allowed all participants to 'taste' something of the workshops they had not attended. And sometimes these accounts were original and amusing in their own rights and added a further element to what had been experienced.

The official languages of the Congress were French and English, and the sessions for the group as a whole were delivered in informal alternating translation. Workshops were predominantly in one or the other language or both, and in at least one case, in Italian as well. These translations were rendered on the spot by fluent Congress participants. Included in our day was a brief visit en masse on foot to the Town hall where we were greeted in a grand arched room, whose walls and ceiling were inscribed with murals, by a representative of the Mayor of Toulouse.

From Friday at noon until Sunday at noon we immersed ourselves in the

process of workshops followed by inter-workshop exchanges. There were no plenary presentations, but there were two roundtable sessions attended by the group as a whole, one on the implications for therapy and training of the new multi-cultural European Union, and the other exploring the possibilities for creating a European training program in family therapy and systemic practice.

Subjects of the small workshops included representations of the elements of various training programs, explication of particular training techniques, explorations of the consciousnesses and interplay of the family therapy student and trainer, discussions of the impact on training of various political situations and developments, and work in research. There was an emphasis throughout on the development of the self of the therapist and family of origin work, and the majority of the workshops had experiential components involving the participants.

The mood of the Congress was warm and the exchange among participants was rich. Much thought and effort has gone into the joining together of the family therapy trainers of Europe in EFTA's Chamber of Training Institutes, and mutual respectfulness underlay the process of this gathering. In the roundtable on the final day, the question of the future development of family therapy training in Europe was engaged. There were many interesting proposals that included the students studying in more than one country during the training process through collaboration of training institutes. 5 international student and faculty exchange.