



21st World Family Therapy Congress in Orlando

Major Speakers Confirmed

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



Michael Ungar
Keynote Speaker



Celia Falicov
Keynote Speaker

Two truly international family therapy figures—Michael Ungar, PhD, and Celia Jaes Falicov, PhD—are confirmed as keynote speakers for the congress in Orlando, Florida, at Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort near Disney World, February 20-23, 2013. Both 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 in the process of formation, with the 2013 congress 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,

Key Dates for Orlando Congress

September 30 th	Deadline for Proposal Submission
December 15 th	Early Registration Ends

The Call for Proposals is open now through September 30th, 2012 (www.ifta-congress.com).

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 Responsible 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? Ceila 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 and a Super Saturday presentation. Her titles will be announced soon.

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 Election Results for 2012 Announced

Four persons were elected to the IFTA Board of Directors in recent balloting by the voting membership, two incumbents who were reelected and two newcomers, announced William J; Hiebert, DMin, IFTA General Secretary. The class of 2112-2015 will be composed of incumbents Lia Fernandez, MD, Portugal, and Roxana Zevallos, Lic., Peru; and new member Judith Kellner, PhD, USA. Anna Low, MSoSc, Hong Kong, will serve from 2012-2014, completing two years of an unfulfilled term. Sibel Erenel, MS, Turkey, will serve a shorter term for part of 2012.

The complete Board of Directors is below.

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 Web site: www.ifta-familytherapy.org

IFTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS JULY 1, 2011 – JUNE 30, 2012

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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**, Barbara Warner, CQSW, UK (2009-12).

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

2010-2013, Term ends June 30, 2013:

Sibel Erenel, MSW, Turkey; John Lawless, PhD, MPH, (USA); Martine Nisse, MS, (France); and Maire Stedman, MSC, (UK).

2011-2014, TERM ENDS JUNE 30, 2014

Ken Hardy, PhD, (USA); Anna Low, MSoSc, Singapore; and Joyca Ma, PhD, (Hong Kong) .

2012-2015, Term ends June 30, 2015:

Lia Fernandez, MD, (Portugal); Judith Kellner, PhD, USA and Roxana Zevallos, Lic. (Peru).

GENERAL SECRETARY: William Hiebert, DMin

CONGRESS CFO: Fred Jefferson mailto:fredhjefferson@yahoo.com, +651-340-616

2013 Keynote Speakers



Michael Unger



Cecile Herscovici



Peter Fraenkel



William Northey

Pre-Congress Research Forum Family Therapy Practice and Research: A Dialogue

Wednesday, 20 February
2012, 9 AM - 5 PM

Co-Sponsored by the accredited MFT programs at:

Florida State University, Nova
Southeastern University, and University
of Georgia.

Keynote Speakers: Michael Unger,
Cecile Herscovici, William Northey and
Peter Fraenkel

Vancouver Congress Ranked High With Participants

After the congress, evaluations were sent out to all participants asking for their overall experience and feeling about different parts of the congress. The scale used was a 1-7 point sliding scale with 1 being greatly disagree and 7 being greatly agree. Overall, 68 individuals completed the survey out of 350 paid attendees or 19%.

*Values/percentages below take all assessments 5 and above into consideration.

90% of attendees were satisfied with the topics covered (relevance, importance, etc.)

90% of attendees were satisfied with the presentation speakers

88% of attendees were satisfied with the website information, appearance, functionality, etc.

87% of attendees were satisfied with the Sheraton Wall Centre, Vancouver, Canada

85% of attendees found the conference program useful

85% of attendees would recommend this conference to others

84% of attendees found IFTA's World Family Therapy congress relevant and worthwhile compared to other conferences they've attended

81% of attendees found the welcome reception enjoyable

69% of attendees will return to the conference next year if possible

2012 Congress Reviewed

Plenary Speakers Cover The Decades and Family Therapy Approaches

A blue ribbon list of presenters highlighted IFTA's 2012 International Family Therapy in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, last March 21-24. The internationally known clinicians, teachers, and researchers gave the 365 persons attending the congress a rare opportunity to hear presentations covering the decades from the beginning of IFTA to the present, as well as to enjoy experts from several different family therapy orientations. They ranged from Florence W. Kaslow PhD, John Gottman, PhD, and Susan Johnson, PhD, and John Banmen, Ph.D.

stemming from 40 years of basic research and 17 years of applied research. Happily married couples, according to Gottman: Have positive everyday interactions and behave like good friends (POSITIVE STATE OF MIND); have CONFLICTS and regrettable incidents and handle their conflicts in gentle, positive ways; are able to REPAIR negative interactions during an argument; and are able to effectively share and discuss negative emotions with each other (ATTUNEMENT). The focus in Gottman's approach to couple therapy is on Emotion; Building Trust, Commitment, Fairness, and Loyalty; Skills to enhance friendship and positive affects; Skills to build relationship-building understanding; and Skills to create shared marriages.

Susan Johnson, Canadian psychologist and co-founder of EFT/Emotionally Focused Therapy, helped to kick off the 2012 World Congress as



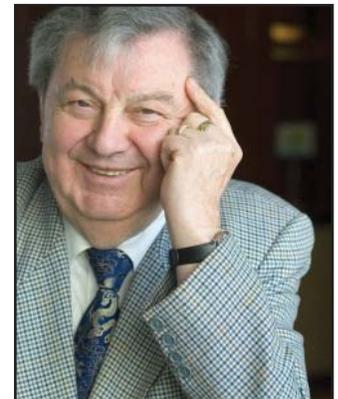
Florence W. Kaslow PhD



Susan Johnson, PhD



John Gottman, PhD



John Banmen, Ph.D.

The congress was opened by Kaslow, a co-founder of the International Family Therapy Association at the urging and support of Virginia Satir following the historic East-West Bridging conference in 1987 and the first IFTA president, gave a stirring picture of the context in which the pioneering cooperation and endeavors to spread family therapy took place. A pioneer in many parts of subsequent international family therapy activity, Kaslow also co-chaired a meeting of editors and publishers of family therapy journals during the congress, and updated her theory and practice of dealing with divorce in a well-attended Super Saturday institute.

"The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work: A Research-Based Approach" was the title of Gottman's lucid presentation of his work

a presenter during Wednesday's Pre-Congress Research in Family Therapy Forum. Next, during Johnson's popular Friday plenary presentation titled "The Science of Love and Bonding: A New Era for Couple Therapy," she outlined the new science of adult love and bonding and the neuroscience that supports it. She also provided a systematic perspective on the powerful emotions and needs that shape attachment relationships and the emotional disconnection that is the main cause of relationship distress. She then summarized the empirical process of clarifying the drama of love relationships in order to specify effective clinical interventions and influence key moments of change. Therapy segments were illustrated in which the reprocessing of key emotional signals occur and positive interactions patterns are

choreographed. Johnson also attracted another large and enthusiastic audience during the 2012 World Congress's Super Saturday workshop when she further articulated her approach in a presentation titled, "Extravagant Emotion: Transforming Bonds of Love in Couple Therapy."

A masterful presentation of the evolution of Virginia Satir's theory and therapeutic approach through four stages--communication, human validation stage, change forward stage, and the transformational stage--was made by Banmen. He also described four basic beliefs: Human beings are unique manifestations of the same universal life force. Human processes are universal; People are basically good. People have the internal resources they need. In a moving demonstration of why he is called "The Master" in China where he has taught for many years, the Canadian psychologist sensitively conducted a demonstration that allowed a large Vancouver audience to personally experience a Satir approach.

Besides Kaslow and Johnson, other Super Saturday presenters were Valentin Escudero, PhD (Spain), who talked on "Building Therapeutic Alliances With Mandated, Reluctant, and Absentee Clients," and Sandra Stith, PhD (USA), "Domestic Violence Focused Couples Treatment."

IFTA to Participate in A Multi-Country, Collaborative, Cross-National Family Therapy Research Project

A Cross-national family therapy research project will conduct a multi-country study that includes family therapy professionals from seven countries (Columbia, India, Iran, Indonesia, the Philippines, and the United States) and two regions of China (mainland China and Taiwan). The focus of the research will include several important family therapy topics (e.g., the state of family therapy training in each country; infidelity treatment practices; common factors in family therapy; women, depression, and therapy; extent of involvement of family therapists in medical settings). The cooperative research process should

shed light on important questions related to how family therapists learn about and practice family therapy in selected countries. The project is being underwritten by Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, VA, USA.

The cross-national family therapy research project includes co-researchers from the USA (Fred Piercy), Colombia (Ana Jaramillo), India (Manjushree Palit), Iran (Hassan Karimi), and China (one from mainland China [Ruoxi Chen] and the other from Taiwan [Wei-Ning Chang]), plus overseas collaborators from Indonesia (Catherine Martosudarmo) and the Philippines (Dr. Angel Antonio).

Each of the six research team members at Virginia Polytechnic Institute will recruit 45 mental health workers from their respective countries who conduct therapy with children and/or families. US IFTA members will be invited to participate through an invitation sent by ConstantContact. IFTA members residing in the United States will be invited to contact the research team if they wish to participate.

The 45 professionals in each country will then take an on-line survey dealing with important issues related to family therapy. Likewise, our Filipino and Indonesian colleagues will do the same.

The proposed research addresses important issues in the field of family therapy in such a way as to examine how attitudes, beliefs, and practices about selected issues may differ across seven countries, and two regions of China. The topics we will address have not been addressed previously through multi-national research. They are important topics that are at the forefront of our field.

The cooperative process we envision is one that should shed light on important questions related to how family therapists practice in selected countries and result in multiple publications. The results also should provide preliminary data that will situate family therapy well for future external funding from national and international foundations and agencies that support child and family health (e.g., Ford Foundation, Family Health International).

Training Matters

Phoebe Prosky, Secretariat

The Training Division is happy to report that we now have members in 27 countries! Our members come from Australia, Bahamas, Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, Finland, Greece, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Japan, Mali, Malta, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Puerto Rico, Romania, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United States. We greatly appreciate the support of our members, whose participation helps support the development of family therapy training around the world.



Phoebe Prosky with Professors Wang, Quan and Mei

We are starting an on-line Division newsletter to increase the benefit of our network to our members. Member Rick Whiteside and his partner Frances Steinberg are the inspiration for, and producers of, this initiative. They are sending out requests for material to all of our members. What we write will help keep us all informed of ongoing family therapy training activities and help to bolster our connections to one another.

Our Traveling Trainers Program in Kosovo is poised to enter its third year in the fall. The foci of this year will be clinical application of the training students have received in the first two years and the students' study of their own family systems.

The Traveling Trainers Program delivered a week of workshops in Beijing in April in conjunction with the Chinese Healing Arts Center in the United States,

the Chinese Women's University, and the XZT Culture Exchange, both in China. Phoebe Prosky conducted the workshops. For a description of our work there, please see the article "Traveling Trainers Program Goes to China" elsewhere in this Newsletter.

The Traveling Trainers Program has also been asked to contribute to a Facebook page initiated by Randa Babili. Randa has created the page to help support families in Syria in this time of duress and asked that we write short pieces about the care of self and family. She hopes to start a family therapy program in Syria in 2013 and has asked the help of the Traveling Trainers Program.



Quan, Prosky and Mei at dinner

The Training Division has also been contacted by a group in Gambia who are calling on the Traveling Trainers Program to help with family therapy training in that country. We are still in the early stages of exploration together for this project.

At the Vancouver Congress, the Training Division held both its regular Division meeting and a substantive workshop in family therapy training around the world. We also held our biggest raffle yet. All the major presenters contributed their training materials – the Gottmans, Sue Johnson, and the Banmens – and Training Division Rick Whiteside again donated one of his three-disc "Family Therapy 1-2-3" training DVD's. We greatly appreciate the generosity of these donations. The lucky winners of these valuable materials were Viviana Padilla from Puerto Rico and Robyn Mowery and Tom Todd from the United States.

Used books, CD's and DVD's on family therapy are one of the Training Division's hottest items at the Congresses. While they are available on the Division table to only those who have joined the Division, this year at the end of the last plenary we invited all of the participants to take with them whatever materials remained. Before this writer could get from the plenary room to the table, all of the materials had been taken and many other people come afterwards asking to take advantage of the opportunity. If you are reading this, please go and look through your family therapy materials and pick out an item or two you are no longer using. Please bring these with you to the Florida Congress and drop them off at the Training Division table. We will redistribute them so they can continue to enlighten the many people seeking training in family therapy around the world.

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



Chinese faculty with presenters Quan, Prosky and Mei

Daniel Martinez-Ortiz
Interview

Traveling Trainer Profile

In each issue of The International Connection, the Training Division is profiling one of its Traveling Trainers. These are IFTA Training Division members who have experience in family therapy training internationally and are willing to volunteer their time to train in areas of the world that lack family therapy resources. For a complete listing of faculty members, go to the Training Division Website.

The Student Trainers at Carlos Abizu University in Puerto Rico

For this issue of The International Connection we interviewed IFTA Traveling Trainer Daniel Martinez-Ortiz about the traveling trainer program he has created and been running for the last 7 years within his University. Dan is a full professor of clinical psychology at the Carlos Abizu University in Puerto Rico where he teaches family therapy and other subjects to psychology doctoral students. His traveling trainer program was born when he became discontent with the usual method of workshop presentation: a faculty member would write a proposal for a workshop at a conference, and then enlist the students in helping with a literature search and other ground work, and then the faculty member would make the workshop presentation. He felt the students could have a much fuller learning experience if they in fact carried the process of presenting all the way through from making the proposal to the presentation themselves. His role would be coach instead of presenter.

He proposed his idea to students whom he handpicked for their interest in, and aptitude for, teaching and supervising. His group and he developed the philosophy that they would like to bring family therapy training on a volunteer basis to places that may not have the resources to hire presenters. They would share free of charge what they had learned, believing that knowledge should be shared and not have to be paid for. They would find a way to work out the finances involved.

Dan and his students also began coming to IFTA Congresses and offering workshop there. From our Congresses and other activities they had done, the students got invitations to train. They have conducted trainings in their own country, Nicaragua, Spain, and Jamaica, as well as at IFTA Congresses in Argentina, the Netherlands, and Canada. They have also given workshops in family therapy to clinical supervisors within their own University. The subject matter they are prepared to teach includes introductory family therapy and advanced family therapy.

The students usually take part in the program for their first and second years of the doctoral studies. They are expected to present every other year at a conference. In their third year they are expected to develop and deliver a presentation independently.

How do they finance the travel to make volunteer presentations in such far-flung parts of the globe? The students raise the funds themselves. They have taken out loans, done fund-raisers, gotten grants from the municipal government, and borrowed from family members. The process of raising the money is a further aspect of their education. The University gives them support in terms of giving them time to go to the conferences and a small donation for expenses. They do not receive academic credit for doing their trainings and are expected to carry the entire regular academic

workload. The goals of the program are twofold: students get experience doing training, but they also learn about other cultures. They generally go to the site of a workshop they are conducting a few days in advance so that they can sightsee and learn about other countries. When they taught in the Netherlands, they also took time to visit Belgium and France. While in Spain they also visited France. The students are very excited about this aspect of doing trainings. For many this provides an opportunity to be away from home and be independent. For others it is a chance to travel before getting married and having children.

This program has worked extremely well and benefited everyone involved for several years now. It may provide a useful blueprint for training family therapy trainers in other universities around the world.

Official Venue of the 2013 IFTA World Congress



Disney's Coronado Springs Resort



Coronado Springs Resort Lobby



