

The Predecessors and Beginnings of the International Association of Group Psychotherapy and its Later Development

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The **Ist Congress of Group Psychotherapy** was held on the initiative of J. L. Moreno **in Toronto, Canada**, August 12-20, 1954, in association with the Fifth International Congress of Health. Registration there numbered over 300 attendees, with representatives from Europe, North-, Central- and South-America and Asia. As a result of that congress, the International Committee for Group Psychotherapy was organized, composed of 21 persons from 10 different countries. They were charged with nurturing the collaboration of workers in this field across national lines, planning for the next international congress, and preparing the way for the formation of an international organization.

At the First International Congress of Group Psychotherapy the following persons (among others) participated: *J. Bierer, M.D., UK, S.H. Foulkes, M.D., UK, H. Ezriel, M.D., UK, G. Heuyer, France, H. Hoff, M.D., Austria, *W.C. Hulse, M.D., USA, L.J. Hut, M.D., Netherlands, E.E. Krapf, M.D., Argentina, S. Lébovici, M.D., France, K.R. Masani, M.D., India, *J.L. Moreno, M.D., USA, F. Potts, M.D., Cuba, T. P. Rees, M.D., UK, E.J. Rosen, M.D., Canada, C.A. Seguin, M.D., Peru, *S.R. Slavson, USA, A. Sunier, M. D, Netherlands, N. Waal, M.D., Norway, *W.J. Warner, Ph. D., USA. The bearers of names marked with an asterisk (*) represent the Executive Committee of the **International Committee of Group Psychotherapy** (Warner, 1959).

The **IInd International Congress of Group Psychotherapy** (Stokvis, 1959) was held **in Zurich, Switzerland**, August 29 to 31, 1957, just after the International Congress of Psychotherapy, which had also been held in Zurich. The registration roll, including 64 who had previously enrolled but had been unable to attend as well as 15 persons who were present only for a part of the congress, totalled 550 persons. The registrations came from 34 different countries of Europe, North and South America, Australia, and Asia.

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As a young psychotherapist and group psychotherapist I was glad to have had the opportunity to meet on this occasion Sam Slavson from New York, one of the most eminent group analysts of that time and the founder of the American Group Psychotherapy Association in 1942 as well as of the International Journal of Group Psychotherapy (of which I have been consulting editor since 1958). At the same congress I met J.L. Moreno, Beacon/N.Y., the founder of psychodrama, and his wife Zerka T. Moreno, Wellmann J. Warner, USA, Berthold Stokvis, Netherlands, W.C. Hulse, USA, and Adolf Friedemann, Biel/Bienne, Switzerland. It was a great opportunity for me also to see other well-known workers in the field of group psychotherapy, such as S.H. Foulkes, one of the leaders of analytic group psychotherapy in Great Britain, Serge Lébovici, one of the eminent leaders of analytic group psychotherapy in France who combined it with psychodrama, and Joshua Bierer, U.K., the proponent of therapeutic social clubs.

In Zurich, the International Committee of Group Psychotherapy, again based on a proposal by J.L. Moreno, took action to form a provisional **International Council of Group Psychotherapy**, which was to “decide the time when its preparatory work has reached the state when the International Society of Group Psychotherapy will come into operation as an organization. At that time, the Council will set up the appropriate machinery for carrying out the provisions of the constitution as approved by the council” (Official Report of the 2nd International Congress of Group Psychotherapy, in Stokvis, B. (Second International Congress of Group Psychotherapy, Zurich, August 29th-31st, 1957, pp 591-596, S. Karger, Basel/New York, 1959).

It was further decided that the three following functions (among others) should be carried out:

- “1st to prepare a constitution of the projected International Association.
- 2nd to define the qualifications for the membership of individuals.
- 3rd to stimulate the development of organizations concerned with group psychotherapy in the national areas throughout the world.”

At this 1st International Congress of Group Psychotherapy in Zurich I was rather impressed, on the one hand, by a general will to achieve international collaboration and comprehension in the field of group psychotherapy and group dynamics; on the

other hand, also by the personal tensions between the main protagonists within the American group psychotherapeutic scene. Slavson, with his outstanding knowledge, his almost obsessional work drive and his strict observation of rules and techniques, his mastership in applying analytical principles to groups, but also his sometimes authoritarian attitude; and Moreno with his unlimited capacity for intuition, for dramatic acting out and his enormous empathy - but also his personal ambitions - represented two different worlds that necessarily had clashed. Whereas Moreno with his many-fold initiatives was more active in the formation of an international body, Slavson was more a systematic worker in building up, also in combination with the *International Journal of Group Psychotherapy*, an international network of interested people in this field. But there were other researchers with a more quiet nature, always willing to collaborate in this field, who worked very hard within the International Society. I think in this respect especially of the already named Wellmann J. Warner of the United States and of Adolf Friedemann of Biel/Bienne, Switzerland.

Work in the International Council continued, and since my experiences in Zurich I myself became very interested in it. Moreno was its president, the 1st Vice-President was S.H. Foulkes, the 2nd Vice-President Serge Lébovici, Berthold Stokvis was Secretary, and its Treasurer was Adolf Friedemann. As directors were chosen Joshua Bierer, J.H. Schultz (the founder of autogenic training), and Zerka T. Moreno and Wellman J. Warner.

I was asked on January 8, 1964, to be an auxiliary secretary of the Council helping Prof. A. Friedemann in his task as Secretary, which he took over in addition to his office as Treasurer after the early death of B. Stokvis in 1963.

The **IIIrd International Congress of Group Psychotherapy** took place in Milan, Italy, July 18-21, 1963. Thanks to the enormous efforts of Enzo Spaltro, Milan, this congress was a great success. Moreno together with his wife, Zerka T. Moreno and in association with A. Friedemann and myself, published the proceedings together with general considerations about group psychotherapy under the title *Handbook of Group Psychotherapy* (Moreno et al., 1966). Moreno was optimistic when he stated in this book: "This volume clearly shows the growing tendency towards convergence between the various schools, however, the international trend dominates the field, even in the work of analytic orientation. Group Psychotherapy is striving to attain the

status of a vigorous science in its own right. But in the work of many practitioners it is still immature and parasitic, leaning upon other disciplines for its concepts and terminology – psychoanalysis, group dynamics and existentialism, to name a few. The three mysticisms to be combated are: 1) psychoanalytic mysticism – the mysticism of the individual psyche as the sole source of group analysis; 2) group mysticism – when the group becomes a self-propelling entity independent of the individuals who comprise it; and 3) existential mysticism – when existential concepts are used instead of those gained through empirical investigation.”

In his great design Moreno recognized that insight in psychodynamics gained in the dual psychotherapeutic situation cannot be blindly applied in the group situation; and that the individual in the group cannot be neglected by addressing only the group as an entity. He also saw that a group ideology can never be as valuable as the knowledge gained through the empirical investigation of group psychotherapy.

At the **7th International Congress for Psychotherapy in Wiesbaden, Germany, August 21-26, 1967**, it was Sam Hadden and Alice Peters of the United States who organized a meeting “to plan an international forum for discussion of the practice, research, training and problems of group psychotherapy in the respective countries of the participants.” This meeting intended to seek an international comprehension within the framework of the American Group Psychotherapy Association. There was an intensive discussion - and there were many tensions since some of the persons present were in pursuit more of an international association without any link to national societies.

The **IVth International Congress of Group Psychotherapy**, organized by Raoul Schindler and his co-workers, took place in **Vienna, Austria, September 16-21, 1968**. One of the most remarkable facts was that the proceedings were already available during the congress. It was an enormous success. We were welcomed by the President of the Republic of Austria, Dr. h.c. Franz Jonas. In other words, group psychotherapy was recognized not only in the United States and Great Britain, but now also on the “old continent.”

The International Council met for a Committee Meeting. Present were among others the following members of the Council: J.L. Moreno, W.J. Warner, G.K. Sturup, A. Friedemann, R. Sarro-Burbano, J. Bierer, Raoul Schindler, E. van Emde Boas, Zerka T. Moreno, Martensen Larsen, Anne Ancelin Schutzenberger, S.H. Foulkes, F. Knobloch. I took part as the assistant to A. Friedemann. But also other representatives of international organizations attended the meeting. J.L. Moreno opened the proceedings and asked W.J. Warner to function as Chairman. There, one could see that an enormous development had taken place in the field of group psychotherapy. The International Council now in the field of group psychotherapy 130 members, spread over the entire globe. A stationary was printed showing this international participation:

International Council of Group Psychotherapy

Argentina Dr. E. E. Krapf Dr. J. J. Morgan Dr. Arnaldo Rascovsky	Greece Dr. G.C. Lyketsos Dr. Anna Potamianou Dr. N.C. Rassidakis	Sweden Dr. Hans Curman Dr. Goesta Harding Dr. Sven Larsson Mr. Nils Lindgren
Australia Dr. FW. Graham Dr. W.C. Wheeler	Hawaii Miss Rosie K. Chang	Switzerland Dr. E. Burren Dr. Harry Feldmann Dr. A. Friedemann Dr. Adolf Guggenbühl Craig Jakob. W. Hug Dr. Heinrich Meng
Austria Dr. F. Doleisch Dr. Hans Hoff Dr. Traugott Lindner Dr. L. Rosenmayr Dr. R. Schindler Dr.S. Schindler Dr. H. Strotzka	Hungary Dr. Istvan Hardi Dr. Z. Boszormenyi	Taiwan Dr. Eng-Kung Yeh
Belgium Dr. G. Bastin Dr. René Dellaert	India Dr. K.R. Masani Dr. Pandharinath H. Prah	Thailand Dr. Phon Sangsingkeo Dr. Prasop Ratanakorn
Brazil Dr. W. Kemper Dr. Gilberto de Macedo Dr. Walderedo Ismael de Oliveira Dr. A.C. Pacheco e Silva Dr. David Zimmermann	Iran Dr. E. Tchehrazi	Turkey Dr. Ihsan S. Aksel Dr. M. Sion
Bulgaria Dr. Nikola Shipkovensky	Israel Dr. H. Kreitler Dr. J. Schossberger	Union of South Africa Mr. R.C. Albino Dr. L.S. Gillis
	Italy Dr. Luigi Meschieri Dr. Giuan Franco Tedeschi	U.S.S.R. Dr. D.D. Fedotov Dr. Aina G. Ambrumova
	Japan Dr. Masaaki Kato	

Canada Dr. Miguel Prados Dr. E.J. Rosen	Taro Ogawa	United Kingdom Mrs.M.L.J. Abercrombie Dr. Joshua Bierer Dr. Donald Blair Dr. H. Ezriel Dr. S. H. Foulkes Dr. Maxwell Jones Dr. T. Main Dr. P.B. de Mare Dr. T. P. Rees
Ceylon Dr. W.G. Wickremesinghe	Malaya Dr. T.L. Green	
Chile Dr. Ramon Ganzarain	Mexico Dr. Luis Feder	
Cuba Dr. Jose Bustamante Dr. F. Potts	Netherlands Dr. C. van Emde Boas Dr. E. Carp Dr. G.W. Arendsen Hein Dr. L. Hut Dr. W. L. Meuring	USA Dr. Robert S. Drews
Czechoslovakia Dr. F. Knobloch	Dr. J. Spanjaard Dr. B. Stokvis Dr. Armand Sunier	Dr. Helen Durkin Mr. James Enneis Dr. Martin Grotjahn Dr. Samuel B. Hadden Dr. Helen H. Jennings Dr. Maurice E. Linden Dr. David Mendell Dr. Jacob L. Moreno Mrs. Zerka T. Moreno Mr. S.R. Slavson Dr. Wellmann J. Warner Dr. Lewis Yablonsky
Denmark Dr. C. Jorgensen Mr. O. Martensen-Larsen Dr. Paul Reiter Dr. G.K. Sturup	New Zealand Dr. Wallace Ironside Dr. R.W. Medicott	
East Germany Dr. B. Bauer Dr. Hans Szewczyk	Norway Dr. Finn Askevold Dr. Kjell von Krogh Mrs. Maison Mose Dr. Björn Urdal	Venezuela Dr. Pedro Reyes Dr. Rafeal L. Araujo
Egypt Dr. S. M. Tawadros	Peru Dr. B. Caravedo Dr. C.A. Seguin	
France Dr. Juliette Favez-Boutonnier Dr. René Diatkine Mme E. Kestenber Dr. Serge Lebovici Dr. Simone Blajan-Marcus Dr. Charles L. Pidoux Dr. Marcel Raclot Anne Ancelin Schutzenberger Dr. F. Tosquelles	Philippines Dr. Estefania Aldaba-Lim	Yugoslavia Dr. S. Betlheim Dr. Dimitrije Pivnicki Dr. Boroslav P.Stevanovic
Germany Dr. R. Heiss Dr. E. Hohn Prof. Ernst Kretschmer Dr. D. Langen Dr. J.H. Schultz Dr. Hildebrand R. Teirich	Poland Dr. K. Darbrowski	
	Portugal Dr. V. Fontes Dr. Joao dos Santos	
	Puerto Rico Dr. R. Fernandez Marina Dr. Luis Manuel Morales	
	Spain Dr. Ramon Sarro-Burbano Dr. J.L. Marti Tusquets Dr. C. Ruiz Ogara	

It was stressed that it would be unwise and unfair for the directors to make decisions alone "without allowing the balance of the Council membership to voice their opinion. Any formal decision will have to be made by popular vote, upon suppositions arising out of our discussion here today."

Prof. Friedemann and Dr. Warner each prepared a constitution, and Dr. Warner read his draft in English and Dr. Friedemann his draft in German. Dr. Foulkes translated

Dr. Friedemann's version into English. The suggestion was made to pull together the two constitutions, making them into one as there were many overlapping points, though each version offered something that was not as well covered by the other. I myself suggested at that meeting that no one be excluded from membership for not belonging to any national or international society, as otherwise many worthy persons might be eliminated. I stated that membership should be open to all who are practicing group psychotherapy.

S.H. Foulkes, originally from Frankfurt a.M./Germany, who had to emigrate to England, was, besides Slavson and Alexander Wolf in the United States, one of the pioneers of group analysis. He was not only very active in the field of training young group analysts, but also very much interested in establishing a constitution for the International Association of Group Psychotherapy. He was assisted in his aims by his wife Elizabeth. The object of his interest was always to come to an international exchange of views of qualified people. He founded the Group Analytic Society of London and had many disciples, among others Malcolm Pines, later the President of the International Association of Group Psychotherapy from 1980-1984.

The elaboration of the constitution lasted approximately until the **Vth International Congress of Group Psychotherapy**, which was held in **Zurich, Switzerland**, from **August 19-24, 1973**, organized mainly by Ambros Uchtenhagen, Zurich, assisted by Adolf Friedemann and myself. A. Uchtenhagen did a marvellous job. There were approximately 1300 people attending the Congress. The *Proceedings of the Vth International Congress of Group Psychotherapy* were edited by: Ambros Uchtenhagen, Raymond Battegay, and Adolf Friedemann. They appeared with the subtitle "Group Therapy and Social Environment" in the publishing house Hans Huber, Bern/Stuttgart/Vienna, in 1975. At this meeting in Zurich the present International Association of Group Psychotherapy was founded in a special meeting by J.L. Moreno, Zerka Moreno, Adolf Friedemann, Raymond Battegay, both Switzerland, Sam Hadden (chair), Jay Fidler, both USA, Malcolm Pines, G.B., Anne Ancelin Schutzenberger, France, Raoul Schindler, Austria, Anneliese Heigl-Evers, Grete Leutz, Heika Straub, all three Germany. At this session the constitution was adopted. - Moreno could still attend the Congress, though was already marked by his illness. He addressed a few words to the audience.- After years of preparatory work it was a wonderful feeling to finally have a formal organization unifying group

psychotherapists and the theoretical workers in this field all over the world: **The International Association of Group Psychotherapy (IAGP).**

The first **Executive Board of the IAGP** was composed, partly ad interim, by the following members: Honorary President: J.L. Moreno M.D., Beacon, N.Y. 12508, USA, President: Samuel B. Hadden M.D. Wynnewood, Pa. 19096, USA, First Vice-President: George Vassiliou M.D. Athens, Greece, Second Vice-President Anneliese Heigl-Evers M.D., Germany, Treasurer: Zerka T. Moreno, USA, Secretary-General Adolf Friedemann M.D., Switzerland, Hon. Asst. Exec. Secretaries: Anne Ancelin-Schutzenberger, France, Raymond Battegay M.D. Switzerland, Executive Councillors: Conrad van Emde Boas M.D., Holland, Malcolm Pines, England, Raoul Schindler M.D., Austria.

Interim Board of Directors: Joshua Bierer, M.D., England, Helen Durkin, Ph.D., USA, Jay Fidler, M.D., USA, William H. Holloway, M.D., USA, John J. O’Hearne, M.D., USA, David Mendell, M.D., USA, Vasso Vassiliou, M.D., Greece, Gretel Leutz, M.D., Germany, Heika Straub, Germany, S. H. Foulkes, M.D., England, Georg K. Sturup M.D., Denmark, A. Uchtenhagen, M.D., Switzerland, Maxwell Jones, M.D., USA, William C. Powles, M.D., Canada, Luis Feder, Ph.D., Mexico, H. Collomb., M.D., Senegal, Eduardo Cortesao, M.D., Portugal, E. Franzke, M.D., Sweden, Rafael Moses, M.D., Israel, Klaus Hoeck, M.D., East Germany, Juan Obiols, M.D., Spain, Leyla Zileli, M.D., Turkey

On May 14, 1974, J.L. Moreno died . His death represented a great loss for our association, for group psychotherapy in general, and especially for psychodrama, which he had founded.

After plans failed to organize the next congress in Nice/France and then in Madrid/Spain, it was decided to hold the **Vlth International Congress of Group Psychotherapy in Philadelphia, Pa., USA, July 31 – August 5, 1977.** The Program Committee was composed of Jay Fidler, Co-Chairman, Plainfield, N.J., USA, Malcolm Pines, Co-Chairman, London, and Sam Hadden, Wynnewood, Pa, USA, President, and Zerka Moreno, Treasurer, Beacon, N.Y., USA.

Approximately 600 participants were registered for this congress. There were not more probably because a month before the congress began there had been an

outbreak of Legionnaires' Disease in Philadelphia which had taken numerous lives. The program, however, was outstanding and contained symposia and section meetings on action, sociometry, composition and duration of group, nuances of the doubling technique in psychodrama, biofeedback training and group counselling, international discussion groups, etc. In plenary sessions papers were read about group processes in youth cults, perspectives of the development of group psychotherapy in the last ten years in the different countries of Europe, and special focus groups. There was a nice atmosphere at the Philadelphia congress during which there were many possibilities for communication among colleagues.

At the general Assembly in Philadelphia the following members were elected for the

Executive Board:

President:	Raymond Battegay, M.D., Basel, Switzerland
Past President:	Samuel Hadden, M.D., Wynnewood, Pa, USA
First Vice-President:	George Vassiliou, M.D., Athens Greece
Second Vice-President:	Anne Ancelin Schutzenberger, M.D., Paris, France
Secretary-Treasurer:	Jay W. Fidler, M.D., Flemington, N.J., USA

As **Executive councillors** were chosen: Zerka T. Moreno, Beacon, N.Y., USA, Malcolm Pines, M.D., London, England, Ambros Uchtenhagen, M.D., Zurich, Switzerland. The **Board of Directors** was composed of: Helen E. Durkin, Ph. D., USA, Grete Leutz, M.D., Germany, John J. O'Hearne, M.D., USA, William E. Powles, M. D., Canada, Luis Feder, Ps. D., Mexico, William H. Holloway, M.D., USA, Henri Collomb, M.D., Senegal, Guilherme Ferreira, M.D., Portugal, Marti Tusquets, M.D., Spain, Raoul Schindler, M.D., Austria, David Mendell, M.D., USA, Guillermo Ferschtut, M.D., Argentina, Fabrizio Napolitani, M.D., Italy, Paulo Marchon, M.D., Brazil, Johan Larsen, M.D., Netherlands, Didier Anzieu, Ph D., France, Vladimir Hudolin, M.D., Yugoslavia, Murray Cox, MRC. Psych., England, Jakov Katwan, M.A., Germany, Pierre Weil, Ph. D. Brazil, Ada Abraham, Ph.D., Israel, Prado de Molina, A.S., Spain, Erich Franzke, M.D., Sweden, Mohammed Shaalan, M.D., Egypt, Carl Goldberg, Ph. D., USA, Juan Pundik, Ph.D., Spain, H.M. Reijzer, Ph.D., Netherlands, Kohei Matsumura, M.D., Japan, Dean Elefthery, M.D., USA, Pierre Fontaine, M.D., Belgium.

Three Committees were formed: the Advisory Committee, the Nominating Committee, and the Membership Committee.

The **VIIth International Congress of Group Psychotherapy** was held **August 3–8, 1970, in Copenhagen/Denmark**. The Chairman of the Program Committee was Malcolm Pines, London, and the Chairwoman of the Congress Committee Lise Rafaelsen, Copenhagen. There were more than 1000 registered participants. The theme was : "The Individual and the Group: Boundaries and Interrelations in Theory and in Practice." This theme was developed in plenary sessions by invited speakers. Further, there were symposia and free papers on topics such as training, research and evaluation, deviant groups, self-help groups, family therapy, etc., as well as workshops, demonstrations, experiential groups, and international discussion groups. The congress was a complete success.

At the general assembly, the following **Executive Board** was elected: Malcolm Pines, M.D., London was elected President. The Past President was Raymond Battegay, M.D., Switzerland. As the First Vice-President was Zerka T. Moreno, USA, as Second Vice-President Raoul Schindler, M.D., Austria, as Secretary-Treasurer, as before, Jay Fidler, M.D., USA, as **Executive Councillors**: Fabrizio Napolitani, M.D., Italy, Vladimir Hudolin, M.D., Yugoslavia, Grete Leutz, M.D., Germany. The **Board of Directors** was composed of Ada Abraham, Ph.D., Israel, Didier Anzieu, Ph.D., France, Giovanni Boria, Ph. D., Italy, Dr. Maxwell Clayton, Australia, Paolo Dias Correa, M.D., Brazil, Murray Cox, F.R.C. Psych., England, Luis Feder, Ps.D., Mexico, Guillermo Ferschtut, M.D., Argentina, Pierre Fontaine, Belgium, Erich Franzke, M.D., Sweden, Francis W. Graham, F.R.C., Psych., Australia, Rollin Ives, Ed.D., USA, Ferdinand Knobloch, M.D., Canada, Karl König, M.D., Germany, Johan Larsen, M.D., Netherlands, J.L. Marti-Tusquets, M.D., Spain, Kohei Matsumura, Japan, Claude Pigott, M.D., France, William Powels, M.D., Canada, Marina Prado de Molina, A.S., Spain, Lise Rafaelsen, Denmark, Hans Reijzer, Ph.D., Netherlands, James Sacks, Ph.D., USA, Anne Schutzenberger, Ph.D. France, Alberto Serrano, M.D., USA, Ambros Uchtenhagen, M.D., Switzerland, George Vassiliou, M.D., Greece, Pierre Weil, Ph.D., Brazil, Marian B. Yeager, Ph.D., USA

The *Proceedings of the VIIth International Congress of Group Psychotherapy* were edited by Malcolm Pines and Lise Rafaelsen. They appeared under the title "The Individual and the Group. Boundaries and Interrelations" in two volumes published by Plenum Press, New York/London 1982, though the front pages failed to say that they represented the proceedings of the congress! The first volume was divided into six parts (Basics Issues, The Family as Matrix of the Individual, Boundary Issues, Definitions of Boundaries, Clinical Perspectives, Therapeutic Community Perspectives and Practice, Psychoanalysis and Group Psychotherapy). The second

volume comprised six parts with papers on clinical groups, group psychotherapy with children, adolescents, family- and marital therapy, psychodrama, psychosis, training, and cultural aspects.

Because of organizational problems, the **VIIIth International Congress of Group Psychotherapy** could not be held as originally planned in 1983, but was held from **April 22-27, 1984, in Mexico-City/Mexico**. The President of the Organizing Committee was Prof. Luis Feder, and the President of the Program committee was Prof. Raymundo Macias, both of Mexico City. They were assisted by Bernardo Blay Neto, Guillermo Ferschtut, Gretel Leutz, Elaine E. Goldman, Hindy Nobler, James M. Sacks, Claude Pigott, Alberto Serrano, Aaron Stein and J. Stewart Whitely.

The congress was very well organized, and we enjoyed having had the opportunity to come for the first time with our organization to this part of the world. Our Secretary-Treasurer Jay Fidler did a lot to coordinate the efforts for this congress. Since Malcolm Pines was recovering from an illness, Raymond Battegay, as immediate Past President, assumed his role again and chaired together with Luis Feder and Raymundo Macias the first plenary session. There was a very rich scientific programme: Besides subplenaries, there were symposia and section meetings on psychoanalytic group psychotherapy, education and psychotherapy, the interplay between individual and group dynamics, different group conceptualizations, the relationship between empirical investigation and clinical research, theory and practice in group psychotherapy with borderline and narcissistic conditions, etc.

There was a large international participation, and many colleagues from Mexico were very glad to have the opportunity to hear so near of their home about different group approaches.

The papers read appeared in different journals of psychotherapy or group psychotherapy, as regrettably with our very modest cash facilities it was not possible to publish proceedings in toto.

At the general assembly the following **Executive Board** was elected: President: Jay. W. Fidler, M.D., USA. Past President: Malcolm Pines, M.D., First Vice-President: Fabrizio Napolitani, M.D., Italy, Second Vice-President: Claude Pigott, M.D., France. As executive councillors were elected Luis Feder, Ps.D, Mexico, Guillermo Ferschtut, M.D., Argentina, Lise Rafaelsen, Denmark. It was decided to regularly publish a **Newsletter**, and therefore an editor was designated: Bo Sigrell, Ph.D., Sweden.

As new* members of the **Board of Directors** the following persons were elected: Günter Ammon, M.D., Germany, Fern Cramer-Azima, Ph.D., Canada, Bernardo Blay-Neto, Brazil, Juan Campos, M.D., Spain, Eugenija Cividini-Stranic, M.D., Ph.D., Yugoslavia, Ramon Ganzarain, M.D., Portugal, Raymundo Macias, M.D., Mexico, Roy MacKenzie, Canada, Hilarion Petzold, Germany, H.J.C. Ras, Netherlands, Nonna Slavinska-Holy, Ph.D., USA, Roger Snackers, Belgium, Stuart Whitely, England, Takashi Yamaguchi, M.D., Japan.

The site of the next, the IXth Congress, (1986) Zagreb, was decided to be Yugoslavia . An Arrangements Committee was formed with Eduard Klain, M.D., Ph.D., Yugoslavia as chairman. Eugenija Cividini-Stranic was nominated as chairwoman of the Scientific Subcommittee.

* Members who were already in the Board are not mentioned.

The **IXth Congress of Group Psychotherapy in Zagreb, August 24th-29th, 1986, Yugoslavia**, was, according to the President's Message (from Grete Leutz who was elected for this function during the association's general assembly during this meeting), published in the *Newsletter* Vol. 5, No. 2 of November 1986, "the most international congress of this association. Participants from far away as e.g. Argentina and Japan were enthusiastic enough to come in groups of 50, respectively 35 members." At another place she says: "To you, dear congress participants (in total about 900), who in appreciation of this association have come from all over the world – from the Americas, Asia and Australia, from Africa, the Middle East and Europe – I wish to express on behalf of IAGP heartfelt thanks for your scientific and human contributions . . . The Chairman of the program committee, Claude Pigott, and the committee members had collaborated in close cooperation with Eduard Klein and Ljiliana Moro of the Local Arrangements Committee so beautiful a program that it was difficult to chose."

On the evening of the first day there was an opening ceremony with welcoming addresses by Eduard Klein, President of the Organizing Committee, a representative of the state of Croatia, the outgoing President of IAGP, Jay Fidler, and the Mayor of Zagreb. In the first plenary, the next day, C. Pigott spoke about "The Challenge of a Congress: The World as a Group," J.W. Fidler about: "The Ecology of IAGP," and E.J. Anthony about: "Magic, Meaning, Motivation and Change within the Charmed

Circle.” In the next plenaries, subplenaries, symposia, paper forums, roundtables, workshops, and lectures a large variety of themes were treated which comprised an immense spectrum of problems of group psychotherapy and group approaches. For example: “The Challenge of a Congress: The World as a Group” (C. Pigott), “The Influence of African Myths in the Brazilian Group Psychotherapy” (B. Blay-Neto), “Where We Have Come from, Where We Are Going to?” (panelists: Leonardo Ancona, Raquel Berman, Howard Kibel, Grete Leutz, Claude Pigott, Malcolm Pines); “A Note on a New Paradigm about Anthropos and the Human Context” (George Vassiliou), “Narcissism as an Essential of Group Psychotherapy in a Fast Changing World” (Raymond Battegay), etc. Many other papers were of a very high quality, but it is impossible to name them all in this context.

In the general assembly the following members were elected to the **Executive Board**: As already mentioned: Grete Leutz, Germany (President), Jay Fidler, USA (Past President), Fern Cramer-Azima, Canada (President Elect), Alberto Serrano, USA (First Vice-President,) Juan Campos, Spain (Second Vice-President), Giovanni Boria (Secretary-Treasurer), Italy. **Executive Councillors**: Bernardo Blay-Neto, Brazil, Ramon Ganzarain, USA, Eduard Klain, Yugoslavia. Eight Committees were confirmed: Membership Committee (Chair: Raquel Berman, Mexico), By-Laws Committee (Chair: Raymond Battegay, Switzerland), Nominating Committee (Chair: Lise Rafaelsen, Denmark), Site Selection Committee (Chair: Fern Cramer Azima, Canada), Local Arrangement Committee for the next Congress in Amsterdam (Chair: J.P. Jongerius, Netherlands). Program Committee (Chair: Stuart Whitely, United Kingdom), Institute Committee (Chair: Hans Reijzer, Netherlands), Liaison Committee (Chair: Yvonne Agazarian, USA,) Monica Zuretti, (Argentina).

During the election of the **Board of Directors**, an enormous change occurred: 24 members were elected after the same number had retired or had to retire because their term had ended. Here are the new members: Yvonne Agazarian, USA, Leonardo Ancona, Italy, Raquel Bermann, Mexico, Leif Braaten, Norway, Jorge Cappon, Mexico, C.L.M. Cornelissen, Netherlands, Guillermo Ferschtut, Argentina, Pierre Fontaine, Belgium, Joachim Gneist, Germany, Elaine Goldmann, USA, Werner Greve, Germany, Earl Hopper, UK, Heman Kesselmann, Argentina, Mario Marrone, UK, Ray Naar, USA, Ona Pela, Nigeria, Adülkadr Ozbek, Turkey, Claude Pigott, France, Lise Rafaelsen, Denmark, Max Rosenbaum, USA, John Salvendy, Canada, Raoul Schindler, Austria, Bo Sigrell, Sweden, Monica Zuretti, Argentina.

At the **Board Meetings** that took place during the IAGP congresses, between these events and during the annual meetings of AGPA at other places of the world, IAGP's reason for being was repeatedly discussed. Should it be only a society that organizes congresses or should it be a society that certifies people who can prove they have the required qualification to be professional group psychotherapists? It was always decided that this association by its structure cannot be such a homogeneous body to decide such questions. Rather, the IAGP must remain modest and restrict itself mainly to organizing congresses and in the meantime to working with national or regional group psychotherapy societies when they are planning a meeting. As another aim was considered the furthering of communication between group psychotherapists and group dynamicists throughout the world.

Since the beginnings of our association the election procedure has often been discussed. It was only possible to hold elections during the general assemblies at the congresses. This has caused great difficulties. At the general assembly at the Copenhagen Congress it was decided to do **elections by mail** and to change the by-laws in this sense. Further, the question was discussed of the establishment of a central office. In the beginnings Jay Fidler, who was a relatively long-term secretary-treasurer by his devotion, and his assistant Nancy Krivits represented the nodal point of our network. But later, with the many changes to the secretaries or secretary-treasurers, there was no longer a permanence in the office of the IAGP. Since we did not have sufficient financial reserves, we had to content ourselves with the shifting offices in those places all over the world where our secretaries or secretary-treasurers happened to live. Most of the time we were in a very precarious financial situation. Our money sources were partly profits made from the congresses and partly the membership fees. Suggestions as to how to increase the membership (perhaps also the membership fees) or to raise funds were frequent themes at board sessions. During the meetings we were always aware of the fact that the *Newsletter* was our most important communication link and the main benefit of membership between the congresses. We were, therefore, very glad that Guillermo Ferschtut, Argentina, as Editor from 1981-1985 made successful efforts to develop it further. But we were also thankful to Bo Sigrell, Sweden, who took over the editorship of our *Newsletter* in 1986.

Perhaps too much attention was paid (in my opinion) to the by-laws. For the functioning of our association it is much more important which input each member and especially the members of the board are ready to give for the sake of IAGP and

with that for the practice and the research in the realms of group psychotherapy and group processes.

The **1st Pacific Rim Regional congress of IAGP** took place in **Tokyo, Japan, 1987, October 9-11**. The main theme was “Changes in the Individual During Group Psychotherapy.” It was co-organized by the Japanese Association of Group Psychotherapy founded 1984. Prof. Masaaki Kato and his colleagues had accepted Jay Fidler’s proposal in this regard. It was an outstanding occasion to learn about group psychotherapeutic methods used in Japan and especially about the fascinating work of Prof. K. Matsumura.

At a Board Meeting in Windsor/UK (Sept. 2-4, 1988) among other things we discussed a new category of membership for persons who have contributed meritorious services to our organization through long and active involvement with our organizational activities. A title proposed for them was “meritorious members.” This term didn’t please everybody, and in later board meetings it was decided to use the term “**Distinguished Fellow.**”

The **Xth International Congress of Group Psychotherapy** took place in **Amsterdam, Netherlands August 27 – Sept. 2, 1989**. Chairman of the Local Arrangements Committee was P. Jongerius, M.D., Netherlands, and of the Program Committee Stuart Whitely, MRC. Ps., UK. Some 1200 registered colleagues from 32 countries participated at the congress. The program comprised 230 sessions. Each day followed the same pattern. The morning began with a keynote speaker representing cultural, social, and political themes related to psychological processes in therapeutic groups and groups in society. As Whitely writes in his report in the *Newsletter* of January 1990, “the remainder of the morning was comprised of reflective discussion groups and panels. Following lunch, participants could stroll ... through poster sessions, the Moreno exhibit, or visit the Playback and Spontaneous theatres. Following the afternoon workshops, the Contact Group provided a forum for continued discussion of the day’s theme and allowed free interchange of members from all over the world.”

The program covered a large spectrum of themes. It is again impossible to mention all the interesting papers read at this congress. I take only some samples and can only mention the titles and the authors: Aggregation/Massification: A Fourth Basic Assumption of Unconscious Process in Social Systems (E. Hopper, UK), Therapeutic Community Treatment of Severe Personality Disorders (S. Karterud, Norway),

Dynamic Uses of the Inpatient Group (H.D. Kibel, USA), Unsatisfying Roles: Implications for Role Enrichment (D.A. Kipper, Israel), Alienation Phenomena in the Initial Phase of Treatment in Short Term Group Psychotherapy (V. Menoutis, Greece), Ethical Issues in Group Psychotherapy (J.D. Moreno, USA), Identity, Identification and Alienation in the Group-Analytic Process (J. Ondarza Linares, Italy), Multiple Mirror Technique (A. Ozbek, Turkey), The Three Pillars of Positive Psychotherapy (N. Peseschkian, Germany), Shame, Affect, Dynamics and Therapeutic Implications (M. Pines, UK), The Place of Values in Group Psychotherapy (M. Rosenbaum, USA, R. Battegay, Switzerland), Interaction Group and Narcissistic Personalities (R. Schindler, Austria), etc.

The following **Executive Board** was chosen: President: Fern Cramer Azima, Ph.D., Canada, Past President: Grete Leutz, M.D., Germany, President Elect: Alberto Serrano, M.D., USA, Vice-Presidents: 1st: Joan Campos Avillar, M.D., Spain, 2nd: Bernardo Blay-Neto, M.D., Brazil. Secretary: Stuart Whitely, M.D., UK, Treasurer: Giovanni Boria, Ph.D., Italy, Executive Councillors: Piet Jongerius, M.D., Netherlands, Claude Pigott, M.D., France, Monica Zuretti, M.D., Argentina, Newsletter Editor: John Salvendy, M.D., Canada, By-Laws Committee Chair: R. Battegay, M.D., Switzerland, Ethics Committee Chair: Max Rosenbaum, Ph.D., USA, Fellowship Committee Chairs: Bernardo Blay-Neto, M.D., Brazil, Grete Leutz, M.D., Germany, Liaison Committee Chairs: Yvonne Agazarian, Ed. D., USA, Monica Zuretti, M.D., Argentina, Individual Membership Chair: Giovanni Boria, Ph.D., Italy, Organizational Membership Chair: Raquel Berman, Ph.D. Mexico, Nomination Committee Chair: Earl Hopper, Ph.D., UK, Congress Scientific Committee Chair: Alberto Serrano, M.D., USA, Pre-Congress Training Workshops Sub-Committee Chairs: Roy MacKenzie, M.D., Canada, Anne Oakley, M.Sc., Canada, Canadian Host Organizing Committee Chair: Allen A. Surkis. Ph.D., Canada.

The new members of the Board of Directors were Jerzy, W. Aleksandrowicz, M.D., Poland, Maxwell Clayton, Th.D., Australia, Francesco Di Maria, Ph.D., Italy, Kamil Kalina, M.D. Czechoslovakia, Sigmund Karterud, M.D., Norway, Otto F. Kernberg, M.D., USA, Irene Lenz, Ph.D., Mexico, Jaak Le Roy, M.D., Belgium, Ljiljana Moro, M.D. Yugoslavia, Janine Puget, M.D., Argentina, Louis Alberto Py M. Silva, M.D., Brazil, Nuno Alfonso Ribeiro, M.D., Portugal, Max Rosenbaum, Ph.D., USA, Gerhard Rudnitzki, M.D., Germany, Allen A. Surkis, Ph.D., Canada, Ioannis K. Tsegos, M.D., Greece, Isaiah Zimmerman, Ph.D., USA.

The 2nd Pacific Rim Regional Congress of IAGP took place in **Melbourne, Australia, January 11-18, 1991**. The Main Theme was Rapprochement. Ian Martin, Melbourne, was the chairman, with Sabar Rustomjee, Cecilia Winkelmann, Ethiel Tillinger, Oliver Larkin members of the organizing committee. Among the invited guests for presenting papers were Patrick de Mare, Grete Leutz, Monica Zuretti, and Raymond Battegay. There was an excellent atmosphere between the congress participants, but everybody was affected by the onset of the first Gulf War on January 17, 1991.

The **XIth International Congress of Group Psychotherapy** was held in **Montreal, Canada, August 22-28, 1992**, in the marvellous Palais des Congrès. The theme of it was "Love and Hate Toward Resolving Conflict." As Prof. Fern Cramer-Azima in the President's Page of the association's Forum Vol. 1 Number, 3 Autumn 1991 wrote, this title "could not be more appropriate in view of the startling events of the Gulf War, the conflicts in Yugoslavia, the Balkans and of course the USSR.

Confrontations in ideologies, leaderships, and change reflect the underlying turmoil of the nations of the world." Fern Cramer-Azima had, together with Dr. Allen Surkis, begun the preparations for this congress already in autumn of 1989. By her initiative she made valuable proposals for the further development of our association. At a preparatory Board meeting in Lisbon on September 6-8, 1991, she had made proposals for the governance. There was decided to propose to the membership to reduce the size of the executive committee and the introduction of an **Assembly of Organizational Presidents**. This assembly would meet with the executive every 3 years at the Congresses and form a network with an elected chairman. On her initiative a Governance Committee was founded and Isaiah Zimmerman, a member thereof, distributed a working paper on a constitution revision. Isaiah Zimmerman joined this author then as co-chairman of the By-Laws Committee. All the proposals worked out at Lisbon were admitted at the General Assembly of our association during the XIth International Congress.

In view of the worldwide economic recession it was remarkable that more than 800 people attended the congress. The program was very rich and offered both in plenary and subplenary sessions as well as in symposia outstanding occasions to hear about almost all realms of group psychotherapy and group dynamics as well as the political implications of group psychotherapy.

In this respect, the memorable contribution at the final congress plenary by Mr. Yves Fortier, Queen's Council, and Former Canadian Ambassador to the United Nations on "Conflict Resolution at the International Level." He emphasized that diplomats have already learned much from psychology and psychotherapy. He named among other points that "Nations, like individuals, have dignity and deserve respect. As in psychotherapy, which leaves all parties to a conflict able to claim a victory – a 'win-win' solution – is far more likely to be durable than a clear-cut decision which imposes on one side unbearable burdens As modern day crisis between states emerge, the world must call on modern day techniques to assist in the search for solutions. While these techniques of dialogue, confidence building, respect for pride and dignity, are as old as man himself, they have been honed in recent years by members of your profession. You have proven that inner personal conflicts were amenable to peaceful denouement if the right atmosphere were created and the will to submit to analysis accepted..." The majority of the group psychotherapists and groupdynamicists present were very much touched by the confidence in us psychotherapists and group psychotherapists and many of us may have thought, if and how really we may be able to help to solving conflicts between ethnical groups and nations.

The results of voting were as follows: **Executive Board:** President: Alberto Serrano, M.D., USA, Past President: Fern Cramer-Azima. Ph.D., President elect: Earl Hopper, Ph.D., UK, Vice-President: 1st: Monica Zuretti, M.D., Argentina, 2nd: Lise Rafaelsen, M.A., Denmark, Secretary: Stuart Whitely, MRC.Ps., UK, Treasurer: Isaiah Zimmerman, Ph.D., USA, Executive Councillors: Giovanni Boria, Ph.D., Italy, Allen Surkis, Ph.D., Canada, Takashi Yamaguchi, M.D., Japan, **Forum Editor:** Fern Cramer-Azima, Canada, **By-Laws Committee co-chairs:** Raymond Battegay, M.D., Switzerland, Isaiah Zimmerman, Ph.D., USA, **Fellowship Committee Co-Chairs:** Lise Rafaelsen, M.A., Denmark, Giovanni Boria, Ph.D., Italy, **Governance Committee Chair:** Isaiah Zimmerman, Ph.D., USA, **Individual Membership Chair:** Giovanni Boria, Ph.D., Italy, **Nominating Committee Chair:** Gerhard Rudnitzki, M.D., Germany, **XIIth Congress Scientific Program Chair:** Monica Zuretti, Argentina, **XIIth Congress Organizing Committee Chair:** Janine Puget, M.D., Argentina. New members of the **Board of Directors.** Bernardo Blay-Neto, M.D., Brazil, Dalmiro Bustos, M.D. Argentina, Juan Campos Avillar, M.D., Spain, Chu-chang Chen, M.D., Republic of China, Giusy Cuomo, Ph.D., Italy, Roberto de Inocencio, M.D., Spain, Halina Dakowska, M.A., Poland, Yujiro Isoda, M.D., Japan,

Pieter Jongerius, M.D., Netherlands, David Kipper, Ph.D., USA, Benjamin Rippa, Ph.D., Israel, Jean Claude Rouchy, Ph.D., France, Sabar Rustomjee, M.D., Australia, Christer Sandahl, Ph.D., Sweden, Gabor Szonyi, M.D., Hungary, Saul Tuttman, M.D., Ph.D., USA, Estella Welldon, M.D., UK.

On September 23–28, 1993 the IAGP organized together with the Society of Psychiatry of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the Department of Psychiatry, College of Medicine of the National Taiwan University, the **3rd Pacific Rim Regional Congress**. Congress President was Prof. Chu-chang Chen, M.D., Chief of the named Department of Psychiatry. It was very well organized and gave occasion to many valuable and pleasant contacts with group psychotherapists of the whole region. The Main Theme was “Interdependence and Moderation in Group Psychotherapy.” It was derived from the Confucian Golden Mean-Chung Yung (equilibrium and harmony) philosophy and it was held on a very grand scale with numerous overseas contributors.

Before the XIth International Congress of Group Psychotherapy, the **Yearbook of Group Psychotherapies** No. 2, 1995 of the IAGP appeared, edited by Stuart J. Whitely, UK. It was intended to present a worldwide overview of published papers on group psychotherapies, and it gave really a good impression of the many publications in this field. It represented a comprehensive report of all papers about group approaches which had appeared in the different regions of the world.

The **XIth International Congress of Group Psychotherapy** was held in **Buenos Aires, Argentina**, from **August 27th – September 3rd, 1995**. The Congress theme was “Groups at the Doorsteps of the New Century.” Almost 1500 registrants participated. Many highly interesting scientific contributions were given at the different kinds of sessions and symposia. The discussions in large groups, at which hundreds of colleagues participated, led to engaged discussions, which will remain in the memory of all those who were present. I think that this congress was a success in many ways. It made it possible for a large number of group psychotherapists and group dynamicists to meet with each other, to present their work; it stimulated the exchange of different views, and made it possible for the IAGP to become known in South America. Also the registrants of foreign countries were well received and welcomed with great generosity. From a financial point of view, the congress itself

was not as successful as expected. But the IAGP received the benefit of a big number of new members who signed up and paid their membership dues.

The votes for the next Board had the following results: **Executive Board:** President: Earl Hopper, Ph.D., UK, Past President: Alberto C. Serrano, M.D., USA, President-elect: Roberto de Inocencio, M.D., Spain, Secretary: Christer Sandahl, Ph.D., Sweden, Treasurer: Sabar Rustomjee, FRANZCP, Australia, **Forum Editor:** Fern Cramer-Azima, Canada. The new members of the **Board of Directors** were Frances Bonds-White, Ed.D., USA, Luisa Brunori, PH.D., Italy, Cristina Enciso, Ph.D., Mexico, Guiherme Ferreira, M.D., Portugal, Jose Fonseca, M.D. Ph.D., Brazil, Rena M. Hatzidaki, Greece, Yuhiro Isoda, D., Japan, Frederic Jackman, Ph.D., Canada, Marcia Karp, M.A., UK, Dankwart Mattke, M.D., Germany, Hans Reijzer, Ph.D., Netherlands, Meg. Sharpe, B.A., UK, Walter Stone, M.D., USA, L. Ono Sujoy, Psych., Argentina, Allen Surkis, Ph.D., Canada, Gerda Winther, Ph.D., Denmark, Isaiah Zimmerman, Ph.D., USA.

At the Buenos Aires Congress the **First Report on the responses to a questionnaire promoted by the Consultative Assembly of Organizational Affiliates (CAOA)** of our association was also presented. Until then there have been five meetings of the CAOA: Montreal (August 1992), San Diego (February 1993), Washington (February 1994), Heidelberg (August 1993), Taiwan (September 1993).

The **XIIIth International Congress of Group Psychotherapy** was held **23-28 August 1998** under the Presidentship of Earl Hopper, Ph.D., and the Local Organizing Committee (Chair: Meg Sharpe) **in London** at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre. The theme of it was “Annihilation Survival Re-Creation.” There were approximately 800 registrants. The Congress was very well organized by the Local Organizing Committee (Chair: Meg Sharp, UK). The Pre-Congress Training Institute was co-chaired by Walter Stone, USA, and Marianne Wiktorin, Sweden). The Scientific Program Committee (Chair: Hans Reijzer, Netherlands) did remarkable work. Each morning and two afternoons began with a keynote symposium. The first morning it also served as the opening session. The theme was “The Transgenerational Transmission of Trauma and the Concept of ‘Time Collapse’.” The other keynote sessions were devoted to the following problems : (in French) “Spécificité du Groupe Familial et Psychothérapie en Famille”; “The Group and the Spirit of the Age”; “Ethical Anger; its Relation to Annihilation, Survival and

Recreation”; “On the Nature of Hope”; “Survival and Survival Units in Human History”; “Exile - The Neurotic Solution of the Jewish People-a Study in Group Dynamics.” Also the other sessions and panels were of high scientific level. Every day ended with “The Large Group” conducted by Lionel Kreeger. Hundreds of people participated. The discussions were always heated and centered around the congress theme and thus around genocide and the Holocaust and the traumatization of the survivors and their life in an environment - which often doesn’t have the necessary understanding for the victims who managed to escape extermination. After the session I asked myself whether the task is not too heavy for one group psychotherapist with a psychoanalytic orientation. It seemed to me that the moderator perhaps should have interfered when the group in excited moments totally lost its control. But certainly everybody who participated at that group learned much about group dynamics and the emotions that may be mobilized through the amplifying effect of the group milieu. The London congress was a full success not only in the realm of scientific work, but also from a social point of view.

The votes for the new **Executive Board** brought the following results for the years 1998-2000: President: Roberto de Inocencio, M.D., Spain, President elect: Sabar Rustomjee, FRANZCP, Australia, Past President: Earl Hopper, Ph.D., UK, Secretary: Christer Sandahl, Ph.D., Sweden, Treasurer: Hans Reijzer, Ph.D., Netherlands, **Forum Editor:** José Fonseca, M.D., Ph.D., Brazil. **Board of Directors:** (only the new Board members who came for those who retired or whose term had ended): Kate Bradshaw Tauvon, L.Psych, Sweden, Hanne Campos, M.D., Spain, George L. Christie, FRANZCP, Australia, Sandra Garfield, Ph.D., USA, David Gutmann, Ph.D., France, Howard Kibel, M.D., USA, David Kipper, Ph.D., USA, Moises Lemlij, M.D., Peru, Shalom Litmann, M.D., Israel, Leyla Navaro, M.A., Turkey, Junich Suzuki, M.D., Japan, Icamí Tiba, M.D., Brazil, Marianne Wiktorin, M.A., Sweden, Gerhard Wilke, M.A., UK, Agnes Chew-Chung Wu, Ph.D., R.O.C. - Chair Persons
Psychodrama Section: Peter Felix Kellermann, Ph.D., Israel, Jörg Burmeister, M.D., Switzerland. Chair Group Analysis Section: Göran Ahlin, Ph.D., Sweden.

In 1998 **Joan Campos Avillar** published in Spanish and English a very fascinating book with the title “A History of the IAGP: Facts and Findings. Una historia de la AIGP: hechos y hallazgos”, Plexus Editores, Barcelona, 1998 (ISBN: 84-605-8002-4).

Since the IAGP was founded in 1973 we had always had the problem that many people attended the congresses, but only a relatively small part of them remained long-time members of our association. It was, therefore, always an important task to recruit new members. Despite the fact that we regularly publish the **International Forum of Group Psychotherapy** since 1993, the **Newsletter**, which we began to publish for the first time in 1970, just before the VIIth International Congress in Copenhagen, and the **Globeletter**, which is sent out each year since 2000, we have not succeeded as much as we had expected to attract the group psychotherapists, group dramatists and group dynamicists of the world. Perhaps the economic crisis of the last years has contributed to this fact. Nevertheless, we can be proud of the highly interesting and successful international congresses of group psychotherapy as well as the multiple meetings of group psychotherapy and psychodrama we have co-sponsored and helped to organize.

The 4th Pacific Rim Regional Congress was held from **September 23rd-25th, 1999**, at **Tokyo**. The Main Theme was "Training and Supervision." The Organizing Committee chairman was Yunico Suzuki. Others on the Committee were Yujiro Isoda, Raiko Tanaka and Hidefumi Kotani. Among the invited guests were Alberto Serrano, Hun Jin Choi, President of the Korean Association of Group Psychotherapy, Agnes Wu and Sabar Rustomjee.

The **XIVth International Congress of Group Psychotherapy** was held in the Jerusalem Convention Centre in **Jerusalem/Israel, August 20-25, 2000**. The theme of the Congress was "The Spirit of Groups 2000: From Conflicts to Generative Dialogue." The **International Scientific Program Committee** was chaired by Frances Bonds-White, Ed.D., USA, and George Christie, FRANZCP, Australia. **Local Organizing Committee** Co-Chairpersons were Shalom Litmann, M.D., Israel, and Ben Rippa, Ph.D., Israel. The Co-chairpersons of the Pre-Congress Committee were Sandra Garfield, Ph.D., USA, and Peter Felix Kellermann, Ph.D., Israel. The whole program was very well organized and also gave room for discussions in which the presented papers could be thoroughly examined. Especially in the Large Groups the possibility was given for a discussion between different ethnic groups, making for a better understanding among them. During these sessions we could, however, not reach much of a mutual acceptance. Perhaps insight did occur, but without long-term discussion a substantive resolution could not be found.

For each day a Keynote Speaker was invited. The first was Prof. Noam Sheriff, Israel, who was born in Tel Aviv 1935, studied composition and conducting in Tel Aviv, Berlin and Salzburg and Philosophy in Jerusalem. The title of his presentation was “The Orchestra as a Social Micro-Organism, Past-Present-Future.” The next day Prof. Ashis Nandy, India, spoke about “Freud, Modernity and Postcolonial Violence.” He is a Senior Fellow and Director of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies and bearer of many distinctions. On another day Dr. Larry Hirschhorn, principal of the Center for Applied Research, Philadelphia, USA, an expert in team dynamics, organizational development, and change, spoke about “Passion and Group Life at Work.” The next Keynote Speaker was Prof. Eileen Barker, UK, Professor of Sociology with Special Reference to the Study of Religion at the London School of Economics. The title of her presentation was “Armageddon, Aquarius or Manchester United? Social Wombs and Spiritual Individualism for the New Millennium.” Many other sessions were also very impressive. It is, however, impossible to name them all here. Most of them dealt with theoretical or practical considerations on group psychotherapy, especially on group analysis and psychodrama, others with the methods used in different countries or parts of the world. In other words, the congress gave a marvellous overview on what at the time of the congress was being applied as a group approach or being considered.

The votes for the new Board gave the following results: **Executive Board:** President: Sabar Rustomjee, M.D., Australia, President elect: Christer Sandahl, Ph.D., Sweden, Secretary: Dankwart Mattke, M.D., Germany, Treasurer: Walter Stone, M.D., USA, **Forum Editor:** Luisa Brunori, Ph.D., Italy. **Board of Directors** (again I name only the new members – who replaced those whose term had ended or who retired): Carolina Beceril, Ph.D., Mexico, Jörg Burmeister, M.D., Switzerland, Luiz Cushnir, M.D, Brazil, Thor Kristian Island, M.D., Norway, Margarita Kritikou, M.D. Greece, Felix Mendelssohn, UK, Tomio Mijama, Japan, Hans Reijzer, Netherlands, Antonio Roma-Torres, M.D. Portugal, Haim Weinberg, M.A., Israel. The following members are Chairpersons of the **Family Therapy Section:** Richard Reposa, M.S.W., USA, of the Group Analysis Section: Göran Ahlin, Ph.D., Sweden **Organizational Section:** Marianne Wiktorin, M.A., Sweden, of the **Psychodrama Section:** Sue Daniel, Australia.

A great improvement of the administration of IAGP in this term was achieved when we started to use an “Intranet” page of our webpage.

After the Jerusalem Congress there were several events in which IAGP participated: **The 5th IAGP Pacific Rim Regional Congress in Melbourne, Australia, January 24th-28th, 2001.** The Main Theme was “The Tyranny of Difference.”

Co-chairpersons were Sabar Rustomjee and Richard Hallform. The Scientific Program Committee had as co-chairpersons Sue Daniel and Oliver Larkin.

Organizing Committee members were Robert Gordon, Diane Cornish and Liz Marks. Among the invited guests were Max Clayton, Felix de Mendelssohn, Yujiro Isoda, David Gutmann and Joseph Moreno.

The **IAGP Mediterranean Regional Meeting** in Zadar, Croatia, took place from August 29th to September 1st, 2001.

The 6th Pacific Rim Regional Congress was held **March 12th-15th, 2003**, in **Singapore**. Chairman of the Organization Committee was Douglas Kong, who was also President of the local Organizing Affiliate Association.

The first issue of the new **Forum**, edited by L. Brunori and J. Burmeister, appeared in 2003. This journal replaced the previous publication with this name, which originally had been designed to include *Newsletter*-type of material for our members' information. The new edition contains scientific articles that reflect the multicultural nature of our association.

The **XVth International Congress of Group Psychotherapy** was held **August 25-29, 2003** in **Istanbul, Turkey**. It was preceded by a **Pre-Congress on August 23-24**. Both took place at the marvellous Lütü Kirdar Convention and Exhibition Centre. As Istanbul extends itself both into Europe and Asia, and the two parts are bound together by bridges, and since this town contains many historical buildings and monuments from East-Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman times, the Congress theme was well chosen: “Crossroad of Culture: Where Groups Converge.”

Although some members may have been afraid to come to the Congress because of the second Iraq War and terrorism in general, there were more than 600 participants from nearly all continents. The program was the excellent product of hard work and collaboration of the Scientific Program Committee (SPC) of IAGP, and the Turkish Association of Group Psychotherapy (TAGP). It is impossible to name here all who contributed to reach that aim, but special mention merit Howard Kibel, Bernhard Strauss (Co-chairmen), Jörg Burmeister, Leyla Navaro (Vice-Chairpersons for the

Pre-Congress), and Isil Bulut, the local Organizing Committee (Co-chairpersons: Hakan Kumbasar, M.D., and Yildirim Dogan, M.D.) and its members and TAGP as a whole. The Opening Session of the Congress with the Presidential Address of Sabar Rustomjee, FRANZCP, Australia, with the theme “On Breaking the Shame Barrier: At the Crossroad of Culture” was very notable. She ended her Presidential Address with the following impressive reflections: “In understanding the psychology of guilt Sigmund Freud discussed in his article ‘Criminals from a Sense of Guilt’ (Standard Edition 14, 332-333) the possibility of there being already present in the ‘Pale Criminal,’ a sense of guilt, long before the crime was committed. So can we too then, in our work as group psychotherapists attempt to explore a pre-existing sense of shame and thereby cultivate a culture in which society can respond with attunement, rather than abandon with shame.”

Each day there was a plenary session with a well-known speaker on a highly interesting theme. The first day Prof. Ýlber Ortalayli of the Faculty of Law, Galatasaray University, Istanbul, spoke about “The Effect of Political Upheaval on Cultural Evolution.” The next day’s speaker at the plenary session was Prof. Franz Josef Radermacher, Professor of Mathematics and Artificial Intelligence, University of Ulm, Germany. His theme was “The Social and Cultural Dimension of Sustainable Development.” The third day Jonathan D. Moreno, Ph.D. (son of J.L. Moreno), Kornfeld Professor and Director of the Center for Biomedical Ethics, spoke about “Undue Risk: Secret State Experiments on Humans”. At the next day’s plenary session the speaker was Mrs. Laura Bonaparte, clinical psychologist and psychoanalyst, Buenos Aires, Argentina. The title of her lecture was “Working with Victims of Human Rights Abuses: Words Are Not Enough.” At the last day’s plenary session it was Prof. Sudhir Kakar, psychoanalyst and writer, New Delhi, who gave a lecture on “The Time of Kali: Religious Violence in India.”

The participants of the Congress had to work very hard each day, since there were paper panels, workshops, colloquia, experiential and supervision groups from early morning until late in the afternoon. The working day ended regularly with reflection groups in which what had been heard or experienced during the day could be discussed and worked through.

Not only the scientific, but also the social program was excellent. Especially the cruise on the Bosphorus on a private yacht and a dinner with Turkish specialities were highly memorable.

The following members were elected for the **Executive Board**: President: Christer Sandahl, Sweden, Past President: Sabar Rustomjee, Australia, President Elect: Frances Bonds-White, USA, Secretary: Howard Kibel, USA, Treasurer: Jörg Burmeister, Switzerland.

Board of Directors: Göran Ahlin, Sweden, Gregorio Armananzas Ros, Spain, Carolina Becceril Maillefert, Mexico. Kate Bradshaw Tauvon, Sweden, Bonnie Buchele, USA, Ta-jen Chang, Taiwan, Luiz Cuschnir, Brazil, Eva Fahlstrom, Sweden, Heloisa Fleury, Brazil, Luis Ernesto Fonseca Fabregas, Spain, Robi Friedman, Israel, Maurizio Gasseau, Italy, Einar Gudmundsson, Iceland, Pirkko Hurme, Finland, Thor Kristian Island, Norway, Douglas Kong, Singapore, Hidefume Kotani, Japan, Margarita Kritikou, Greece, Francesco Di Maria, Italy, Dankwart Mattke, Germany, Felix de Mendelssohn, Austria, Leyla Navaro, Turkey, Maria van Noort, Netherlands, Celia Riskin, Argentina, William Roller, USA, Antonio Roma-Torres, Portugal, Walter Stone, USA, Icamí Tiba, Brazil, Haim Weinberg, Israel, Marianne Wiktorin, Sweden. Section Chairpersons: Family Therapy: Bernard Frankel, USA; Group Analysis: Jamie Ondarza Linares, Italy; Organizational Consultation; David Gutmann, France; Psychodrama; Manuela Maciel, Portugal; Transcultural; Vassilis Menoutis, Greece.

During this term we switched to Yahoogroups. Also we started to use an Online Database System, Quickbase, for contact information about members, former members and others at our mailing list.

From **September 1st-5th, 2004, the 2nd Regional Mediterranean Conference** which was organized by both the Hellenistic Association of Group Analysis and Psychotherapy and our International Association of Group Psychotherapy was held in **Athens, Greece**. The Conference was co-chaired by Margarita Kritikou and Vassilis Menoutis. The Congress theme was "Olympism, Group-Transcultural Matrix and Brain Plasticity." It was not by chance that Athens was chosen for this meeting, since just before it the famous Olympics had taken place, in memory of the fact that this town also represents the time of old Greece with its Olympic Games and is one of the most important historic birthplaces of democracy, justice, and theatre.

The Scientific Program was very rich. Main Topics were among others: Olympics & Sports - War Truce, Ethics Philosophy, Group Analysis Matrix, Psychodrama Therapy-Sociodrama, Family Therapy - Phases of Life, Organizational Consulting, Transcultural - Political Issues, Therapeutic Community, Research - New

Technology, Psychodynamic Issues and Analysis, Loss – Psychotrauma – Stress - PTSD, Preventive Mental Health.

During the time of the Conference a **Board Meeting** was held in **Aegina** near Athens, where the **Scientific Program Committee** (SPC; Co-Chairs: Heloisa Fleury and Haim Weinberg) **of the XVIth International Congress of Group Psychotherapy in Sao Paulo, Brazil, 2006**, reported about its activity during the last half year. As the Congress Theme was chosen “Groups: Connecting Individuals, Communities and Cultures.” The Congress Venue will be FECAP (Fundação Escola de Comércio Álvares Penteado) in Sao Paulo, which has an auditorium for 1500 persons, three other smaller auditoriums, and more than 25 other rooms. Many small restaurants are all around as well as International Hotels very near. Well-known keynote speakers have already been contacted. The Congress dates are: **Precongress: July 17th-18th, Congress: July 18th-22nd, 2006**. Concerning the registration fees, it was proposed that people from countries with economic difficulties will pay 50-55% of the full fee. As the president of IAGP, Christer Sandahl, formulated in his Annual Report 2004, “the next Congress (in Sao Paulo) seems to be proceeding in a very constructive and productive fashion. If I can trust my good feelings (and I usually can) we can look forward to a successful event in Sao Paulo”. His remarks correspond totally with my impressions.

At the August 2004 **Board Meeting in Aegina**, Margarita Kritikou in her report of the membership committee (which she chairs) it became clear that since October 2003, when she took over her office, quite a number of new members were accepted. Margarita Kritikou and her committee did marvellous work. At the end of 2005 we were 401 members in our association. We should, however, still actively seek for new members and by this create a large framework of contact and communication in our field. From the section reports it could be concluded that our association is working very well. Our finances, however, should be better, if we want to develop all our practical, scientific and publishing activities.

During the **Annual Meeting of the American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA)** in New York, February, 2004, the Board of IAGP assembled. A photograph of it appeared in the Globeletter September 2004.

During the **Annual Meeting of the AGPA in New York 2005**, there was a meeting of the **IAGP Board of Directors, March 6th/7th, 2005**. Almost the whole Board was present. Also present were two Past Presidents. Remarkable was especially the report of the secretary Howie Kibel, who has accomplished an enormous task during his time of office. I think we owe him many thanks for his organizational work and his perpetual readiness to always be at our disposal when we send him mails, which he answers so promptly. I don't want to mention all the points here, since the present Board has received the minutes thereof. But I was very impressed by the **report about the work already done for the coming XVIth International Congress of Group Psychotherapy in Sao Paulo**. The reports of all our sections showed great activity in all of them. A reported dialog between Israelis and Palestinians was welcomed. We emphasized by our position that our association may be also a body to further such contacts between two groups or people living in tensions. The discussions concerning publishing the *Forum* and the *Globeletter* showed us on the one hand, how important it is to have contact with our members by orienting them to the scientific questions of our field and at the same time to our activities. On the other hand, the question was raised of how our finances will permit our maintaining all our activities. Very valuable was also the information update by Yaffa Sassoon.

From **August 6th to 8th, 2005**, a further **Meeting of the IAGP Board of Directors in Molde/Norway** was held. Already in the President's report the question was raised whether the name IAGP is still adequate for our society. I quote Christer Sandahl here with a very important sentence of his Presidential Report: *"When the IAGP was founded the psychotherapy scene was very different. Current psychotherapy has to a large extent developed within the medical/natural science paradigm. As group psychotherapists we see the pitfalls in this and the need to take social and humanistic perspectives into account when seeing our patients."* I agree very much with this statement. Enlarging Martin Buber's sentence that man becomes by "Thou and I" we can today say that man becomes an I by the We (or the group). I, like Christer, therefore, think that we should add to the term "International Association of Group Psychotherapy" something covering social processes, such as "and Social Processes." Christer's proposal is, in my opinion, very good ("International Association of Group Psychotherapy and Social Innovation"), but I think that adding "and Social Processes" might be better accepted in the realm of social psychology. Since I was not present in Molde, I don't know whether it has already been decided which name should be proposed to our membership for our association. On the

Agenda for the Molde Session there was also an important discussion about “Ethical Orientation for Group Leaders and Guidelines for a Code of Ethics.” Apparently the Criteria for Distinguished Fellowship* were again discussed. All other points of discussion can be seen in the Minutes.

* Distinguished Fellows until now are: Raymond Battegay, M.D., Fern Cramer Azima, Ph.D., Jay Fidler, M.D., Anneliese Heigl-Evers, M.D.-deceased, Grete Leutz, M.D., Zerka Moreno, T.E.P., Malcolm Pines, M.D. D.P.M., Raoul Schindler, M.D., Anne Ancelin Schutzenberger, Ph.D., T.E.P.)

On **September 24th-28th, 2005**, the **7th Pacific Rim Regional Congress of Group Psychotherapy** was held in Taipei, Taiwan, together with the **4th Asia-Pacific Conference on Psychotherapy** sponsored by IAGP and other organizations. There were about 200 registrants who participated in 15 workshops, 15 symposia, 73 paper presentations, and 47 poster sessions. Everything was very efficiently organized. The Main Theme was “Containment with Courage in a Century of Challenges.” Chairperson of the Congress was Ta-jen Chang, Honorary Chairperson of the scientific Program Committee was Hung-jung Chang. Among the invited guests were Christer Sandahl, Weng-Shing Tseng, Ulrich Schnyder, Chan Master Sheng-Yen. One of the keynote speakers, as already mentioned, was Weng-shing Tseng, President of the World Association of Cultural Psychiatry, who gave a 2-hour outstanding presentation of transcultural global issues looking at these from various perspectives. He described variations of oedipal conflicts in a number of Eastern cultures with clear diagrams and taking into account the history of each region.

And thus I end my historic overview of our IAGP, knowing that it is necessarily incomplete. I think that Anne Ancelin Schutzenberger could add many points from her great knowledge about the history of IAGP. But I hope that my overview may give the IAGP members an idea of how the IAGP developed from the preceding organizations to its actual state. **Now I wish the next, the XVIth International Congress of Group Psychotherapy in Sao Paulo, great success.** I hope that despite my old age I shall be able to participate at the Congress.