



**International Society for Bonding Psychotherapy (ISBP)**  
**Minutes of the Open Board Meeting : Washington August 31- 2006**

**Present:**

**ASBP:**

*Christine Alam, Elisabeth Anderson, Karen Calabres, Marilyn Ellis, Skip Ellis, Laurette Harvey, Ginny Hurney, Michael Hurney, Glen Keith, Paul Komatinsky, Elissa Levine, Norm Lowery, Karleen Rynick, George Rynick, Brenda Scribner and Robin Seiler*

**ESBP:**

Flemish-Dutch Chapter.: *Peter Geerlings, Martien Kooyman, Rob Olij and Moniek Van Deile,*

German Chapter. : *Jeff Gordon, Julia Gordon,*

Sweden Chapter. : *Inger Johansson*

ISBP President Skip Ellis called the meeting to order and summarized the agenda items, which were then addressed.

**1. Schedule of Upcoming Society Meetings**

The pattern has been to have the International Society (ISBP) meet every other year, and to have separate meetings of the American Society (ASBP) and the European Society (ESBP) in years in which the IS does not meet. These society meetings has replaced Teaching Fellow meetings.

The Board received information about the plans for the meetings of the AS and the ES in 2007. Skip stated that the AS is likely to meet in Herndon, VA, and to focus on research and tests used in research. It was suggested that the ES ask its national chapters to indicate if any of their members would be interested in attending a research-focused AS meeting in 2007 and, if so, what dates would work for them.

Martien indicated that there is an opportunity for the ES to meet in Vittorio Veneto, Italy, before or after the European conference on therapeutic communities that will be held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, June 6-10, 2007. Martien Kooyman would make contact with Gigetto de Bortoli about this meeting suggested for June 11 and 12 at Vittorio Veneto, Italy.

At the meeting a request was made for interest in holding the next ISBP Conference scheduled for 2008. There was no response from the attendees. A proposal for the next ISBP Conference was made by Johan Maertens to hold a joint conference on Bonding Psychotherapy and Therapeutic Communities in Belgium. in June 2009. That would provide an opportunity to exchange information with other professional groups, honor Dan Casriel, and then split into two smaller conferences, one for BP and one for TC. Johan

thinks that “The Sleutel” could cover much of the cost of the conference. A second proposal was made by Martien Kooyman to hold the next ISBP conference in the Hague in conjunction with the, International Conference on Therapeutic Communities in The Hague in 2009.

The conclusion is : **Martien will make contact with Johan Maertens about these proposals.**

**The decision ( 31/12/2006 ) for Europe is :**

**ESBP Conference : 19 and 20 MAY 2007 in VITTERIO VENETO (Italy)**

## 2. Chapter Updates

A number of national chapters of the ES provided brief updates. Information was also provided on activity in two other countries.

The Flemish/Dutch Chapter has four new Fellows and some new trainees, recently produced a film in Dutch with English subtitles that was shown at the conference, and will host a training program that Konni Stauss will give in Damme, Belgium, in English in October and December 2006.

The Italian Chapter is preparing a training program in Vittorio Veneto that it is hoped will take place in the fall of 2006 and include new trainees. Carlo Kreiner has one new member-in-training.

The German Chapter has five psychosomatic clinics, two main BP centers, and a few independent therapists. The chapter is talking about how the training process could be restructured by reducing the number of required hours and changing the format. There is interest in putting together a package that combines self-experience for trainees in BP groups and Konni Stauss’ new theory, as well as in integrating other types of therapy into the training. There are lots of people with M.D. and Ph.D. degrees who are interested in BP, and the chapter is trying to offer them in-clinic training and supervision.

The Swedish Chapter has TF and Fellows running groups and giving workshops. There are no trainees at present, and there is interest in the new BP theory that Konni has developed.

In Slovenia, there are two TF who work in a therapeutic community and who plan to train Eastern Europeans in the future.

In Argentina, Ramon Vega, who Martin trained years ago in Spain, is running groups. Last year Ramon was a cotherapist for some workshops that Martin gave in Italy, and is starting a training program in Argentina in the spring of 2008. He uses a Spanish translation of *A Scream Away from Happiness* done in Venezuela. He is eager to get materials in English. Johanna Maertens and Christine Bagneres are going to help him.

### **3. Communication**

Building on Karen Calabrese's presentation at the conference on the capabilities of the website, there was a discussion of the benefits of communication within ISBP and how we can use the website, newsletters, and e-mail to enhance communication. It was suggested that the national chapters submit the updates summarized above to the ISBP office, and submit similar updates quarterly in the future. There was general agreement that it would be valuable for each chapter to provide information on "who is doing what," and that the information be put into a master calendar of BP workshops, trainings, and presentations. Karen Calabrese and Moniek will develop a suggested format for the updates. Moniek could send twice yearly a reminder of the benefits of submitting such information and a request for updates.

The BP Website provides us the capability of holding electronic Board meetings using a password-protected space. Notice of Board meetings and other information can be provided via a Board-only newsletter and message board. Board members can be notified that they have until a specific date to cast votes.

There had also been discussion at the Conference of developing a BP practice or methods manual. A committee headed by Elissa Levine (American Society) and Rob Storm (European Society) was formed to coordinate the gathering of information for such a manual. For the newsletter Elissa Levine agreed to provide an update on information that is available for inclusion in a manual.

### **4. Training of BP Trainers**

There was discussion of the idea of having special training to prepare trainers who would be qualified to teach BP. Skip Ellis and Johan Maertens will develop proposals to address this topic.

### **5. Research on BP**

The Conference had included an excellent presentation by Julie Maertens of her pilot study. It was agreed that there will future work to advance research on BP will include three efforts. First, BP therapists will use and get experience using the research instruments/tests, especially the Relationship Scales Questionnaire (RSQ), Symptom Checklist (SCL-90R), and the Inventory of Interpersonal Problems (IIP). Second, the number of tests used will be expanded to include the SASB and Young Schema Questionnaire and pilots will be done. Third, a research design for a large study will be developed. The decision was to take small steps in learning the tools and process of research first then to undertake a more comprehensive study.

## **6. Criteria for Fellow and Teaching Fellow and Issues Related to Ethics and Litigation**

The Conference had included a presentation by Ginny Hurney on a proposal by the Board of the American Society to eliminate credentialing and testing of Fellows and TFs and replace those with requirements related to training and experience. Her presentation included several possible ways to address the issue. The motivation for the proposals was the fact that, if a Fellow or TF in the U.S. is ever sued for misconduct related to the practice of BP, there is significant risk that the AS will be sued as well on the grounds that it has certified the clinician to practice BP. An additional area of concern deals with possible litigation by a therapist who does not pass the tests for fellow or Teaching Fellow and then sues both the American and the International Society for discrimination. This has happened to other societies in the U.S. and is actually the greater litigation threat. Following up on Ginny's presentation, the ISBP Board asked her to come up with some other proposals and to put up on the Web site a message board for Fs and TFs only to discuss them. A new idea was mentioned to have different levels of TFs at the national chapter, American or European Society, and International Society levels or to have specialist TF's, i.e. one's qualified to teach theory, another for research, another for practice. This could involve different levels and types of training to be completed and/or different tests to be passed. An individual could be qualified in one or more areas of expertise.

There was further discussion related to differences in the litigation risk facing the different national chapters. It was suggested that having different levels of TFs might help address the issues.

## **7. Membership in the International Society of Group Psychotherapy (ISGP)**

It was noted that ISBP can obtain an institutional membership in ISGP if 35 ISBP members join. Skip asked that anyone who is interested in this, send detailed information about what would be required and the likely benefits to him and Johan.

## **8. Status of English Version of Konni Stauss' Book**

Skip reported considerable progress in translating Konni's new book, published in German in March 2006, into English. There is a complete draft in English with graphics, although some of the text is rough. Konni and Skip will be meeting with an editor, and several publication options will be explored.

## **9. Financial Reports**

Moniek submitted financial reports that provided balances and flows for the ISBP's checking and savings accounts. Christine Alam submitted a Treasurer's report that provided comparable information for the ASBP. In response to a question, it was noted that for the ASBP \$15 and for the ESBP €15 of the annual dues that each person pays to his or her national chapter goes to the ISBP.

**10. Closed Session**

The Board met in closed session to consider recommendations from the Credentials Committee regarding applicants for TF. The Board accepted the recommendation that **Julia Gordon** be accepted as a **Teaching Fellow**.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert S. (Robin) Seiler, Jr.  
Skip Ellis  
Moniek Van Deile