As a sequel to last year's Symposium on Desire, our upcoming annual Symposium is a foray into the language of gender and sexuality. The goal of our program, “Gender, Sexuality, and the Erotic in the Clinical Situation,” is to open up a dialogue regarding current concepts of gender, sexuality, and the erotic and to focus on how they play out in the transference-countertransference. We will attempt to discuss convergent and divergent aspects of femininity and masculinity. Gender play will be explored through gender narratives addressing the fluid nature of gender amidst ever changing yet persistent cultural, social, and psychological forces.

Historically, much of the postmodern discourse on understanding heterosexuality and homosexuality and aspects of masculinity and femininity have pointed to the construction of these polarities to ensure the continuance of compulsory heterosexuality and male dominance (Butler 1990, 1999). Gender polarizations and its effect on development have preoccupied many writers: Lacanian Jacqueline Rose, French feminist Luce Irigaray, relational therapists Jessica Benjamin, Lynne Layton, and Nancy Chodorow, to name a few. Hansell (1998) tried to bring together the psychoanalytic clinical and developmental perspective into a dialogue with the philosophical approach of gender theorists like Butler in a very useful format. Chodorow (1995) has emphasized both the cultural and personal constructs in gender, highlighting some historical conflicts within our theory and practice. As an academician and psychoanalyst she has critiqued both sides of the argument: postmodern perspectives may undervalue the psychological idiosyncratic meanings of gender for the individual and psychology might err in overlooking the role of cultural/social forces.

Harris (2005) refers to two lines of theoretical work describing gender development in which body is the main organizer of gender. “Femininity” is referred to as a primary body formation organizing the psychic experience of gender (e.g., Kestenberg, Mayer, Richards, Bernstein, Lax). The second strand is that gender is formed based on attachment and begins with the organization of gender development proposed by Stoller and taken up by Fast. Harris utilizes concepts of chaos theory.
Psychoanalysis and Change

By Harvey Falit, M.D.

Like an individual, a psychoanalytic Institute grows from both internal and external stimulation. The energy, ideas and challenges brought to us by our faculty— as well as our friends, neighbors, intellectual leaders and our associated organizations— all necessitate our continued growth and adaptation.

An Institute exists not in isolation but in relationship to the community. We live in many communities: geographic ones (e.g., Detroit, Ann Arbor, Birmingham); other professional communities (e.g., medicine, psychiatry, psychology, social work); national organizations; the community of newer psychoanalytic ideas which are so alive in our field; neighboring intellectual disciplines (e.g., neuroscience, philosophy, literary criticism). While we have our smaller community of individuals and individual relationships, we also must contend with state, national and even international issues: individuals who want to study psychoanalysis with us but have visa problems, learning how to offer psychoanalytic help to those hurt by war or natural disasters, dealing with the newly unemployed, and so on.

In our work with our psychoanalytic patients we have learned about the difficulties associated with change. As individuals, even when we seek change, we are concerned about its disorganizing effects. We worry if we will be better off. At the same time, we often have seen firsthand, in ourselves and in our patients, the benefits of facing and effectively dealing with challenges to established ways of functioning that are no longer adaptive or satisfying.

Psychoanalytic theory itself, of necessity, has undergone significant changes. As one of many examples, the evolving concept of countertransference should suffice to demonstrate how the challenges inherent in the analytic experience and an honest confrontation with their meanings can lead to important and useful changes in psychoanalytic theory and technique. Beginning with Freud’s (1910) notion that countertransference is something to be “overcome,” we gradually have developed a highly-nuanced, useful understanding of the analyst’s unconscious contributions to the clinical situation, in which “overcoming” the countertransference sits alongside a commitment to experiencing and understanding the countertransference. We have developed our theory to accommodate the realities of the clinical situation as we have become aware of them.

But change has not come easily. New ideas and their proponents had to vigorously enter the intellectual field inhabited by older ideas and struggle until a new level was reached. As a discipline, we are learning to integrate where we have tended to polarize; we are learning to say “both a and b” where before we said “either a or b.” It is not simply a question of either ego psychology or self psychology; it matters which patient you are talking about and which analyst you are talking about. It is not simply a question of research based on the clinical situation or the non-clinical situation. It is both.

“In theory, theory and practice are the same. In practice they’re different” [attributed to Yogi Berra]. When we confront challenges that require change within our own organization, we confront organizational stress. And we have good reason to be wary of change for its own sake: too rapid or unnecessary change can damage an excellent, highly-envied training program, a highly effective organizational structure and a well-thought-out curriculum, even as we strive to improve and grow. Therefore, when we envision change, we must combine careful scrutiny with open-mindedness and passion in order to evaluate which changes we must embrace to grow and which we must defer.

Over the next few years, the Michigan Psychoanalytic Institute will be confronted with requests for changes in our organizational priorities, structures, procedures and programs. We have made many changes already. I will highlight three. Responding to changes to the training in the major mental health disciplines (psychiatry, psychology and social work), we have introduced psychotherapy educational programs and an early admissions program. Responding to the opportunities afforded us by technology, for this year we have purchased the PEP-WEB for all of our members (a web-based assembly of all of the major psychoanalytic journals available for downloading, now including the Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud). Responding to the demands of running a much more complex organization, we have created the role of the Faculty Executive Committee, greatly expanding the faculty’s role in running the Institute.

Other psychoanalytic organizations are changing as well. Witness the changes currently occurring in the American Psychoanalytic Association. From an organization whose active members consisted only of individuals certified in psychoanalysis, it has grown into an organization which has many analysts in training and recent graduates working towards certification. Indeed, the roles of the Executive Council and of The Board on Professional Standards are currently under review.

Much more will be asked of us down the road. We will have to approach the challenges with open-mindedness and courage and a willingness to talk and negotiate. On the one hand, some issues will be mundane (scheduling); on the other hand, some will be philosophical and complex (pedagogical principles and theories). Reserving an opinion on the pros and cons of each issue, here is a sampling of what we will have to consider in the future:

• The possibility of developing a program in Child and Adolescent Training only, independent of our Integrated Adult, Child and Adolescent Training Program.
Milestones

Michael Singer, Ph.D., has been appointed as Supervising Analyst in Child/Adolescent Psychoanalysis by the Board of Professional Standards of the American Psychoanalytic Association. He is certified in adult, and child and adolescent psychoanalysis by the American Psychoanalytic Association.

Dr. Singer obtained his doctorate from the University of Washington and completed his post-doctoral fellowship at Children's Hospital of Harvard Medical School. He is a graduate of the Adult and Child Psychoanalytic Training Programs at the Michigan Psychoanalytic Institute.

Dr. Singer is on the faculty of the Michigan Psychoanalytic Institute where he has taught for many years in all of the Institute’s educational programs. He serves as chair of the Professional Educators Program Committee, as co-director of the Child Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Educational Program, chair of the Michigan Psychoanalytic Society Program Committee, and currently is co-chair of the Visiting Professor of Psychoanalysis Committee. He also serves on the Faculty Executive, Admissions, Child/Adolescent Analysis, Psychoanalytic Practice, MPI-Ann Arbor, and Ethics committees.

In addition to his many MPI and MPS activities, Dr. Singer is on the faculty of the University of Michigan Department of Psychiatry, teaching and supervising residents in the Long-term Psychodynamic Psychotherapy Program. He also consults to Ann Arbor area preschools and children’s agencies. He is certified by the American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors and Therapists as a Sex Therapist.

Dr. Singer resides in Ann Arbor, where he has a full time private practice in psychoanalysis and psychoanalytic psychotherapy. He works with adults, children, adolescents, and couples and supervises mental health professionals.
32nd Annual Symposium

Gender Play, Sexuality, and the Erotic in the Clinical Situation

By Sally Rosenberg, D.O.
Program Chair, Michigan Psychoanalytic Society

On Saturday, March 17, 2006, The Michigan Psychoanalytic Society will hold its 32nd annual Symposium. We are honored to host this year’s symposium featuring five distinguished scholars and clinicians who will share their thinking and expertise with us in this day-long symposium dedicated to current clinical and theoretical discussions regarding gender and sexuality.

Dianne Elise, Ph.D. (Oakland, CA) is a Supervising and Personal Analyst on the Faculty of the Psychoanalytic Institute of Northern California. She is an Associate Editor of Studies in Gender and Sexuality and on the editorial Board of the Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association.

Gerald I. Fogel, M.D. (Portland, OR) is a Training and Supervising Analyst and Founding Member and former Director of the Oregon Psychoanalytic Institute. He is a Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the Oregon Health Sciences University School of Medicine. He is on the Editorial Boards of the Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association and Studies in Gender and Sexuality.

Nancy Kulish, Ph.D. (Birmingham, MI) will be the discussant for Dr. Elise’s paper. Dr. Kulish is a Training and Supervising Analyst and Past President of the Michigan Psychoanalytic Institute. She is Adjunct Professor of Psychology at Wayne State University and Adjunct Professor Psychology at the University of Detroit. At the American Psychoanalytic Association, she co-chairs a workshop on Supervision and a Discussion Group on Contemporary Psychoanalytic Ideas on Masochism, as well as participating in a Study Group on the Female Body. Dr. Holtzman’s teaching interests have centered on dreams, perversions, clinical technique and ethical issues. She is well known for her publications and presentations, in collaboration with Dr. Nancy Kulish, in the area of female psychology and sexuality, co-authoring the book Nevermore: The hymen and the loss of virginity.

Small break-out groups will meet following the papers and discussions and the day will culminate in an audience/panel discussion. Please join us for what promises to be an outstanding clinical moment.

The Symposium will be held on March 17 at the Hotel Baronette in Novi, Michigan, from 8:15 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Our attendance is limited to 300, which makes it urgent to apply early. Lower registration fees will be offered for registrations received prior to February 15. For more information, please check the Events listing at www.mpi-mps.org or call Monica Simmons in the office at (248) 851-3380 (Farmington Hills) or (734) 213-3399 (Ann Arbor).

Symposium from cover
to describe gender in her groundbreaking book Gender as Soft Assembly. She views phenomena like gender as body-based psychic states as crucial points for intergenerational transfer of anxiety or affective charge. Genderedness is one particularly acute register of local trauma and of the more broad scaled traumas of social and historical change. Developmentally and historically, gendered states and selves can come to function like a magnet, a
strange attractor to manage, express, and organize relational transactions, meanings, trauma, and defense against trauma. Gendered selves thus often bear the makings of a complex interpersonal business. Gender is a particularly vulnerable and volatile carrier of many self-state experiences, those that are noxious and those that are idealized. Gender can feel fully authentic and fully inhabited or seem to be an alien falsehood, a caricature, a parody. One’s gender or genders can feel porous or solid, reified or flexible (2005).

Many metaphors have been used to capture the experience of gender, such as Dimen’s (1991) “force field …consisting of essences, but of shifting relations among multiple contrasts,” Harris’s (1991) “necessary fiction,” Benjamin’s (1998) “real appearance” and Goldner’s (1991) characterization of gender as a “false truth.” These metaphors condense the art of the double take, concluding that, although gender is not an identity or essence at the core of a person, it still is a core experience that comes to constitute identity (Goldner 2005).

“The tension between appreciating the richness and specificity of categories as lived and resisting the way categories construct is a challenge both to the academic discussions of gender and to clinicians working with gendered clients” (Layton 1998). She goes on to say, “people who come to therapy live within the constraints and pleasures imposed by the binary categories male/female, masculine/feminine, straight/gay, black/white, and, at the same time, they defy, undo, and remake these categories.” She draws here from Bersani (1993) who writes:

In spite of the oppressive intent in the social manipulations of the category, “homosexuality” was also received as an opportunity for self-fashioning. Even if the targeted men and women forged their own identity and culture in “the same categories by which (homosexuality) was medically disqualified,” the homosexual personality could also be experienced as a psychic enrichment (p. 34-35).

This reminds us of the nuances of language and that what is conveyed in our interpretive work is related to our own understanding of this complex subject. In addition, our knowledge is expanded upon with exposure to patients of all different types of sexualities and gendered states. In the end, we are all individuals, unique in regard to desire and personal narrative.

In contrast to the vast literature on female psychology and female development, male psychology has been neglected (Liebert 2006). Feminist liberation backlash to Freudian developmental formulations about women produced a proliferation of feminist writings. The accompanying myth was that we know about the psychology of men since Freud’s developmental stages seemed to favor the boy’s.

Stade (1986) reminds us of Freud’s notorious question “What do they want?” The “they” is of course understood to mean women. The more appropriate question, he asks, is “What do we want from them?” – by “we” he means men. And that question leads to “Why do we want it?” Stade writes a chapter in The psychology of men (Fogel, Lane, Liebert, 1986) entitled, “Dracula’s women, and why men love to hate them” in which he asserts that men want women to be womanly and manly and also sexy, virginal, and motherly. Women represent the unknown, madness, primal lusts, infantile sexuality unbridled, primitive, greedy, devouring, seductive passion unleashed without mercy (Fogel 1986).

Stade asserts that when men say that women are this or that, it is because they need women to be this or that.

Classical oedipal formulations have been revised and deepened by contemporary writings about men. Ross (1986) has written that phallic narcissistic modes can be a caricature of masculinity and function defensively and counterbolically against an ambisexual identity and fears of intimacy, fatherhood, nurturance, empathy and infantilism. The inhibition against men crying and the defense against sentimentality in men have been written about by Schaffer (1986) and Reichbart (2006) and others. Another theme of the conception of the phallus representing the fantasy of completeness as related to the penis is discussed in reviews of the film Blue Velvet. Layton (1998) raises the question of where these binary fantasies of completeness and deficiency come from. Diamond (2006) offers the view that disidentification from the mother represents a pathological process rather than normal development. Person (2006) has found differences between men and women’s fantasies. She concludes that masculinity is not the exclusive province of the heterosexual male (Lieberman 2006).

This year’s Symposium features two renowned analytic theorists and clinicians who have written and presented widely on their topics. Dianne Elise, Ph.D. and Gerald I. Fogel, M.D. will use clinical material to illustrate their theoretical positions. Our discussants, Nancy Kulish, Ph.D. and Don Spivak, M.D., are also well known as clinicians, writers and presenters. Our moderator, Deanna Holtzman, Ph.D., has also written and presented widely on these topics.

Dianne Elise, Ph.D. has written extensively on topics of gender and sexuality and erotic transference. She has been cited with high regard by many authors. In her 1998 paper “The absence of the paternal penis,” she describes the girl’s experience of object loss in conjunction with female anatomical structure, which may lend them to a particular genital anxiety regarding openness and emptiness. She hypothesizes that the father’s absence and the absence of the paternal penis may lead to an absence of mental representation of the vagina and to an inhibition of the role the vagina plays for a woman in sexual desire. Thus, unlike Horney, who suggests that the threatening presence of the paternal penis
in a girl’s mental representation leads to “denial of the vagina,” Elise emphasizes that the lack of relationship with the father is schematized by the female as being empty of something.

In her 1998 paper “Gender repertoire: Body, mind, and bisexuality,” Elise discusses bisexuality as the creative use of potential space that does not necessitate the collapse of core identity. She draws on the nursing couple as the site of bisexual identifications and as the earliest relation of the penetrating to the penetrated. Dr. Elise has contributed another important paper, “Blocked creativity and inhibited erotic transference,” in which she emphasizes the importance of exploring resistance to erotic transference in treatment.

In her symposium paper “Women, sex and gender: Excitements and entwinements,” Dr. Elise will discuss body narcissism and gender identity. She discusses what may underlie various expressions of pervasive inhibition and failure to actualize desire in women.

Dr. Fogel has published and presented widely on the psychology of men. His 1998 paper, “Interiority and inner genital space in men: What else can be lost in castration,” reassesses castration anxiety in light of current advances in psychoanalytic theory. Castration anxiety arises when any crucial part of mature psychic life is threatened. In Dr. Fogel’s symposium paper, “Gender play, bisexuality, and thirdness in the transference-countertransference,” he uses clinical examples to demonstrate that ambiguities, enigmas, and paradoxes of gender, sexuality, and thirdness inevitably arise with all patients, regardless of anatomical sex, core gender identity, or sexual orientation. In a context of rapid historical and theoretical change, the use of persistent gender stereotypes and sexual orientation. In a context of rapid historical and theoretical change, the use of persistent gender stereotypes and unconditionally limiting theoretical formulations, though often unintended, may mask subtle countertransference and theoretical blind spots, and limit optimal clinical effectiveness.

We are looking forward to a stimulating day of presentations and discussions on this important topic of understanding gender and sexuality in our clinical work.

References

Scholarships
By Chris Howlett, M.D.

As important as treatment and outreach are to the mission of the Michigan Psychoanalytic Institute, education is the primary purpose. Psychoanalytic candidates and psychotherapy students are the future of psychoanalysis and training them is our top priority. We are pleased to have scholarships available to allow more people to take advantage of the various programs, which include the psychoanalytic training programs, the psychoanalytic psychotherapy educational programs, and the fellowship program. This has been made possible by a generous gift from Drs. Samuel G. and Geraldine G. Reisman as well as subsequent gifts and fundraising efforts. The Scholarship Committee is charged with awarding the available funds based on merit and demonstrated need. The application deadline is July 6, 2007 for the 2007-2008 academic year and scholarships will be awarded by early September. For questions, contact Chris Howlett, M.D., Chair of the Scholarship Committee, at (248) 642-9350. Please contact the Michigan Psychoanalytic Institute for an application, which is available either on the Institute website (mpi-mps.org) or by calling (248) 851-3380 to have it sent by mail.

DVD on Early Childhood Development

A new DVD entitled “Telling the Story: Positive Mental Health Development in Early Childhood” was recently released by The Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA) in partnership with the MPI Early Childhood Development Center. The DVD will be distributed by RESA throughout the Wayne County school system. Based on a script and filmed parent workshop by Nancy Blieden, Ph.D., the DVD focuses on helping parents understand their essential role in children’s developing life stories through their social/emotional interactions and interpretations of the meaning of life events. Using the DVD, Drs. Blieden and Wayne Ruschay (RESA) lead a three-day workshop for home visitors to at-risk Wayne County families to help them understand their impact on the social/emotional development of children.
The Michigan Psychoanalytic Institute has a long tradition of inviting nationally and internationally prominent teachers and clinicians to share their thinking and experience with our regional Michigan mental health community. The Visiting Professor of Psychoanalysis Program is an annual opportunity for a distinguished analyst to meet with Institute and Society members, educational programs in psychiatry and psychology, and mental health agencies in the community. This intensive, weeklong program is the only one of its kind in American Psychoanalysis, and exemplifies MPI’s widely recognized innovative outreach activities.

This year we are delighted to announce that MPI’s 2007 Visiting Professor of Psychoanalysis will be Mark Solms, Ph.D. Dr. Solms is an internationally renowned psychoanalyst who has pioneered the integration of cognitive-affective neuroscience with psychodynamic thought. Currently he is Director, The International Neuro-Psychoanalysis Centre, London; Chair in Neuropsychology, Dept. of Psychology, University of Cape Town, South Africa; and translator and editor, the Revised Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud and The Complete Neuroscientific Works of Sigmund Freud. He is also honorary Director, Arnold Pfeffer Center for Neuro-Psychoanalysis, New York Psychoanalytic Institute. Dr. Solms will be visiting our area during the week of April 9-14, 2007.

Dr. Solms is editor of the journal Neuro-Psychoanalysis and has authored numerous contributions to the field. He has published extensively in the areas of sleep and dreaming, the neuroscience of subjective experience, and clinical neuropsychoanalysis, among others. His innovative work has been supported by many research grants and honored with numerous awards, including The American Psychiatric Association’s International Psychiatrist Award in 2001.

Dr. Solms will offer a series of lectures on a variety of clinical, theoretical and research topics relevant to psychoanalysis, as well as more informal clinical conferences. With Dr. Solms’s ability to clarify and integrate complex issues, this should be a stimulating and informative week. Many events are open to the general public.

We appreciate the continuing collaboration with our colleagues in area training programs and clinics to make this educational opportunity available. This year Dr. Solms’s visit will be co-sponsored by the University of Michigan Department of Psychiatry, the University of Michigan Psychological Clinic, Eastern Michigan University Clinical Psychology Program, Wayne State University Psychiatry Department, Henry Ford Hospital Psychiatry Department, University of Detroit-Mercy Psychology Department, Michigan State University Psychiatry Department and Clinical Psychology Program, and Madonna University, as well as by the Michigan Psychoanalytic Society, the Michigan Psychoanalytic Council, and the Candidates’ Organization of the Michigan Psychoanalytic Institute.

In anticipation of Visiting Professor Week April 9-14, 2007, Dr. Solms shared his thoughts about neuropsychoanalysis for our readers. Please see page 8 for the text of his remarks.

Treatment Clinic Evolves, Continues to Serve Our Community
By John Gilkey, M.D.

As it has for many years, the Treatment Clinic of MPI continues to provide high quality reduced and low fee treatment to the residents of Michigan. Candidates evaluate and treat psychoanalytic patients, skilled Treatment Clinic staff clinicians provide supervised reduced fee psychodynamic psychotherapy, and patients can be referred for a full range of evaluation and treatment when necessary. Offices in both Farmington Hills and Ann Arbor make treatment possible for a wide range of children, adolescents and adults.

The primary mission of the Treatment Clinic (TC) is to provide the most clinically appropriate psychodynamic treatment available, especially psychoanalysis and psychoanalytic psychotherapy. While helping to fulfill that goal by seeing patients through the Treatment Clinic, candidates from MPI gain valuable supervised clinical experience during psychoanalytic training. The number of patients receiving treatment through the TC continues to grow as word spreads about this invaluable resource.

To help meet the needs of our community, the TC also employs a number of staff clinicians who evaluate and provide therapy at the offices in Ann Arbor and Farmington Hills. Supervisory time for TC staff clinicians is donated by MPI faculty members. Over the past two decades, the TC has been fortunate to have had a number of individuals who were instrumental in operation and development. For the past ten years, Ms. Jane Kessler has filled that role. Ms. Kessler has recently decided to devote more time to her position at Madonna University, where among other duties, she is Co-Director of their low fee treatment clinic. We wish her all the best, and hope she will maintain her close ties to MPI, MPS and APT.

Overseeing TC function is the TC Committee. Members of the Committee regularly meet with candidates for clinical conferences, further contributing to their educational experience. Please direct any questions regarding the TC to John Gilkey, M.D. or Dwarakanath G. Rao, M.D., Co-Chairs of the TC Committee. To make a referral to the TC, please call 248-851-7739 in the Detroit metro area, and 734-761-2727 in the Ann Arbor area. Thank you for trust and support.
Psychoanalysis in the 21st Century:

Putting the Psyche Into Neuropsychology

By Mark Solms, Ph.D.
2007 MPI Visiting Professor

I trained in neuropsychology in the early 1980s. At that time (even more than today) the field was dominated by cognitive theory and methods. Accordingly, we learned a great deal about the manner in which the mechanisms of language, memory, visual recognition, and the like, were organised in the brain, but we learned very little indeed about those aspects of mental life that were less readily amenable to computer-based models. Subjects like emotion, motivation and personality were barely touched upon in my training in neuropsychology.

The great strength of scientific psychology in general, and neuropsychology in particular, is that it considers the mind objectively. The mind is, after all, just a part of nature—it must somehow be reducible to lawful mechanisms that can be precisely defined in objective, third-person terms. All the achievements of scientific psychology derive from this. Especially in the case of neuropsychology, the fact that the mind can be literally objectified in the form of a physical organ, is a great advantage. Studying mental mechanisms from the viewpoint of their physical basis in anatomy and physiology has enormous value from the natural-scientific standpoint, for it introduces into psychology all the possibilities of measurability and control that a physical science provides. The fleeting, fugitive stuff of the mind has always been an embarrassing handicap to scientific psychology. But still, my frustrations at the limitations of the discipline grew. This was the origin of my interest in psychoanalysis.

I later realised (in analysis, as it happens) that I also had a more personal reason for wanting to understand these aspects of the brain. When I was four years old, my six-year-old brother sustained a traumatic brain injury as a result of falling from a clubhouse roof while our parents were yachting. Needless to say, this dramatically altered the course of his life as well as the lives of all of us in the family. No doubt this event, and its painful sequelae, impressed upon me in a most direct way the real profundity of the link between mind and brain, between person and brain. It was, I am sure, the traumatic consequences that this connection caused my brother—more than any other single cause—that aroused my interest in the physical basis of the mind. And yet my teachers in the 1980s were telling me that things like personality and identity and self were not appropriate topics for a promising young student of neuropsychology to concern himself with. Such interests were in fact positively dangerous—at least as far as academic career prospects were concerned.

But still, my frustrations at the limitations of the discipline grew. This was the origin of my interest in psychoanalysis. A friend in the philosophy department—of all things—suggested that I attend a seminar on Freud’s “Project for a Scientific Psychology.” I remember well the mixed feelings I had in that seminar. It felt as if I were committing treason. But I quickly learned why I was there. Freud, for all his faults, was evidently a scientist of the kind that I aspired to be: he had clearly made a serious attempt to incorporate the mind (the real mind) into the realm of neurological science. He seemed to be a truth-loving researcher who, when confronted with the enormous difficulties implied by the very idea of a “science of subjectivity,” decided that his methods had to be adapted to this subject matter, rather than the other way round. The other approach could only result in the exclusion of the human
subject from science.

I was soon compulsively reading everything about Freud and his work that I could lay my hands on. To his enormous credit, my supervisor—while clearly disapproving—made no attempt to prevent me, while simultaneously making clear that nobody in neuropsychology today still took seriously the speculations that Freud laid out in his 1895 “Project,” and even more so his subsequent work.

I found it difficult to understand the prejudice. If Freud was wrong, or limited by the primitive scientific methods of his time, then surely all we needed to do now was subject his conclusions to modern scientific scrutiny. Using modern technology, such as neuroimaging, it would surely be possible to test, revise, and replace his findings where necessary. Surely that was preferable to excluding the subject matter of psychoanalysis from science.

My determination to take the former course was greatly strengthened by the knowledge that Freud himself had been a neuropsychologist. He had in fact made very valuable contributions to aphasiology, and had introduced the concept of agnosia in the early 1890s. He had only abandoned the study of the brain—very reluctantly—due to the lack of any valid methods for exploring the neural basis of the complex mental phenomena he discerned in his clinical work. This historical origin of psychoanalysis provided a useful foundation for re-integrating Freud’s later contributions with neuropsychology. Freud was, after all, one of us; he thought like a neuropsychologist, at least in what came to be known as his “metapsychological” writings.

And so I decided to jump ship. In 1989 I began training in psychoanalysis at the Institute in London. In the ensuing years I was gradually immersed in the methods and findings of that discipline—devoted to the study of real lived lives. Needless to say, there were once again many frustrations and disappointments along the way, but at least I was now among colleagues who were trying to understand the things that had interested me all along.

What was lacking, of course, was adequate scientific control, which was closely linked in my mind to the lack of any serious effort on the part of analysts to discover the neural basis of the complex mental processes that their clinical work had uncovered. This, then, was the contribution that I myself could make. Basing my work on the enormous advances that had occurred in neuropsychology in the intervening century, I could find the neural foundations that Freud had sought in vain. This could serve as a starting point for a new, deeper neuropsychology of the person.

I immediately set out to research the brain mechanisms of dreaming, my rationale being that dreaming was the mental function that Freud (1900) had chosen to use as the starting point for his first attempts to conceptualise the overall structure and function of the mind. If I could establish the neural correlates of this aspect of his model, I assumed, I would have forged something of a Rosetta Stone for correlating the findings of psychoanalysis with those of modern neuropsychology. The results of my efforts in this direction quickly paid dividends (Solms, 1995, 1997, 2000). Thereafter I broadened my focus in various directions, concentrating mainly on complex neuropsychiatric phenomena produced by focal brain injury, such as anosognosia and confabulation (Kaplan-Solms, 2000; Turnbull, 2005; Fotopoulou et al., 2004; Solms, 2001).

The unfolding results of this exciting work have more than vindicated my decision to take psychoanalysis seriously. On this basis, I and a growing number of like-minded colleagues have established a new interdisciplinary area called neuro-psychoanalysis, the simple aim of which is to introduce the psyche into neuropsychology—to demonstrate that the brain cannot possibly be understood if the subjective aspect of its nature is neglected or even ignored (see www.neuro-psy.org).

In closing, if I may be forgiven for quoting a journalist in this context, I can think of no better description of what neuro-psychoanalysis aims to achieve than what Fred Guterl wrote in Newsweek: “It is not a matter of proving Freud wrong or right, but rather of finishing the job.” I am delighted to be participating in that task.

References

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**FREE ASSOCIATIONS** Newsletter of the Michigan Psychoanalytic Institute and Society

February 2007

**PRESIDENT from 2**

- Taking another look at the balance of older versus contemporary readings in our curriculum
- Further integrating empirical research into our psychoanalytic training
- Improving or changing the Training Analyst System
- Exploring the possibility of combining some of our educational programs for the enrichment of our students: e.g., combining some Psychotherapy programs with Early Admission programs
- Changing the days we hold classes to accommodate the changing needs of some of our students
- Eliminating certain programs which are no longer useful
- Reexamining the cohort structure of our seminars
- Using telecommunication more effectively for teaching
- Facing the financial issues related to the separate existence of a Society and Institute (double payments for Continuing Education accreditation, increased insurance costs)
- Helping our office function more effectively
- Involving our Foundation members in the life of the Institute

We have not survived and grown for 50 years because we have stuck our heads in the sand. Faced with cuts in federal funding in the 80's, we developed a foundation. Faced with changes in psychoanalytic theory in the 90's, we changed our curriculum. Given the opportunity to use technology to provide bibliographic information to our faculty and candidates, we purchased the PEP-WEB. Confronted with changes in graduate education in the mental health disciplines, we developed our psychotherapy educational programs and our Early Admission Program. New challenges will demand that we grow in ways we cannot yet envision. I am optimistic that we can embrace necessary changes while maintaining our core values.

**APT 2007 Brunch Series**

*By Linda Gold, M.S.W.*

I. On Sunday, February 4, the APT hosted Usha Tummala-Narra, Ph.D., who spoke on "Women and Spirituality, the Intersection of Spirituality and Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy.” Dr. Tummala-Narra is the author of a chapter in a forthcoming book on women and spirituality. She states, “The attempt to make meaning of the soul is inherent to psychoanalytic inquiry. Feminist ideology and multicultural psychology have played a critical role in challenging traditional psychoanalytic conceptions of the practice of religion and spirituality….Both psychoanalysis and spirituality share the goal of a search for one’s ‘true’ identity...a search [which] becomes particularly poignant for both the therapist and the client.”

Dr. Tummala-Narra is an Adjunct Professor, Michigan School for Professional Psychology and a Teaching Associate at Cambridge Health Alliance/Harvard Medical School. Among her many achievements, she was the founding director of the Asian Mental Health Clinic at the Cambridge Health Alliance/Harvard Medical School and a faculty member, supervisor, and research associate at Cambridge in the Victims of Violence Program.

II. On Sunday, March 25, Kehinde Ayeni, M.D. will present a talk on her novel, *Our Mother’s Sore Expectations*, which has been described as “truth wrapped in the guise of fiction”...of an ethnically diverse and extremely wealthy African country that has struggled through the legacy of slavery, colonialism, and independence, followed by tyranny and oppression from despots who repeatedly pillaged her. *Our Mother’s Sore Expectations* demonstrates the perils of denying personal and national history and suggests that only that which is self has the power to heal.

Dr. Aisha Abbasi, M.D., Training and Supervising Analyst, MPI, will offer comments and discussion.

Dr. Ayeni, a public health physician, psychiatrist, and advanced candidate at MPI, was born and raised in Nigeria. She founded Foundation for Indigenous Development and Advocacy (www.foundida.org), a nonprofit organization whose goal is that every Nigerian child has a minimum of elementary school education. Proceeds from sales of her book go to Foundida.

III. On Sunday, April 29, 2007, APT will offer a brunch meeting, with the author Neil Chethik, who will speak about his latest book *Voicemale: What Husbands Really Think About Their Marriages, Their Wives, Sex, Housework, and Commitment.*

Chethik, a journalist devoted to the psychology of men, reached out to a diverse group of more than 350 American husbands in order to gather material for this book. The program promises to be stimulating and entertaining and may provide some insight into the age-old question: “What do men really want?” Neil Chethik grew up in Ann Arbor and is an author, speaker, and writer-in-residence at the Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning in Lexington, Kentucky. His first book, *FatherLoss*, was published in 2001. For more information on his work, visit www.NeilChethik.com.

All presentations will be followed by audience questions and answers and discussion with the authors and participants. APT members $10, General Public $15, Students $5 (at door). A light brunch will be served. For additional information or to register, please contact Monica Simmons at (248) 851-3380.

**Board Member Monica Navarro Honored**

Foundation Board Member Monica P. Navarro has been chosen as one of Crain’s Detroit Business’ "40 Under 40" Honorees for 2006. Each year, Crain’s Detroit Business magazine selects 40 outstanding individuals, local to the Detroit area, who have made a major impact in their respective industries before the age of 40. Former winners include professional actors and athletes, presidents and CEOs of major Fortune 500 companies, and high ranking political figures.
**Member News**

**Dr. Richard Ruzumna** was a speaker at the Fall meeting of the Michigan Psychological Association. The theme of the meeting was Current Concepts on Anxiety. Dr. Ruzumna spoke about anxiety from a psychoanalytic perspective including the role of antianxiety medications.

Foundation President **David L. Haron** and Board Member **Monica P. Navarro** were selected as two of the top experts in the country to speak at the 6th Annual Ingenix Healthcare Coding, Billing and Compliance Conference in Orlando, Florida on November 28, 2006. Their two day presentation was entitled "Health Care Fraud and What Coding Professionals Must Know to Protect Themselves." Mr. Haron spoke on the Federal False Claims Act and Qui Tam lawsuits. Ms. Navarro focused on the ethical and legal obligations of healthcare providers facing fraud allegations by an employee.

A four-part series of articles penned by **David L. Haron** and law clerk Mercedes Varasteh have been published by the Michigan Chapter of the International Association of Special Investigation Units (IASIU). The articles, which survey Medicare and Medicaid fraud by healthcare practitioners, have appeared in the August, October, and December 2006 issues of *The Investigator*, a bi-monthly newsletter published by the Michigan IASIU. The Michigan Chapter of IASIU is dedicated to combating fraud in the insurance industry, and provides members with tips for investigative practices and high standards of conduct.

**Jay Abel-Horowitz, M.D.** presented a talk on "Chinese Medicine for the Psychotherapist" at Birmingham Maple Clinic in January, 2007. The talk demonstrated the surprising similarities between early psychoanalytic psychosomatic theories and the classical Chinese medicine approach to the body-mind. One aspect of the Chinese concept of Qi is that it functions as a drive energy that bridges the mind-body gap in a way that Libido was not understood as doing. Integrating Chinese medicine and psychoanalysis results in a more comprehensive psychosomatic psychology that can be applied in the psychoanalytic consulting room.

**Dr. Merton Shill**'s paper, "Intrapsychic Intersubjective Conflict and Defense in Modern Freudian Theory: a Response to Stolorow" (2005), has been accepted for publication in *Psychoanalytic Psychology*. The paper shows that many intersubjective/relational thinkers confuse the interpersonal with the intrapsychic but, in principle, intersubjectivity is an aspect of intrapsychic (ego) functioning. The intersubjective aspect of the interaction of analyst and patient takes place separately and uniquely in the minds of each.

Freudian theory delineates various intrapsychic sources of conflict: internal object representations and the operation of the several components of psychic structure such as the superego or various ego characteristics. These all include the products of intersubjective experience. The drives are also represented intrapsychically, are not merely “biological” and are an integral part of the intrapsychic environment in which intersubjective experience is processed and represented. The drives cannot therefore be excluded from the latter. This approach expands on an argument in an earlier paper that in modern conflict theory signal anxiety is a subjectively-experienced affect state which occurs during an intrapsychic intersubjective conflict. Freud’s ego is the creator, organizer and vehicle for intersubjective experience.

On January 13, 2007, **Laura Huggler** received her Ph.D. in Human and Organizational Systems from Fielding Graduate University in Santa Barbara, CA. The title of Laura’s dissertation is "CEOs on the Couch: Building the Therapeutic Alliance in Psychoanalytically Informed Executive Coaching." Melvin Bornstein, M.D. served on her dissertation committee as the external examiner. Laura’s research project involved co-created, retrospective case studies with six CEOs who had voluntarily entered into intensive psychoanalytically-informed executive coaching with her in order to address problems such as difficulties with the Board/CEO relationship, work inhibition, and a driving need for perfectionism at work. The CEOs were then interviewed 1+ year(s) post-termination in order to assess outcomes, what they determined was most helpful to them in the coaching dyadic relationship as they made changes in their leadership style and what enabled them remain in coaching, especially during difficult periods.

**Julie Jaffee Nagel, Ph.D.** presented a paper "Psychoanalytic and Musical Perspectives on Shame in Donizetti’s Lucia di Lammermoor" at the New Orleans/Birmingham Psychoanalytic Center on March 23 and participated in an interdisciplinary panel on March 25 on the topic "Being Lucia: Exploration of the Character and the Opera." Her participation was part of a weekend of programs that included a performance of Lucia di Lammermoor. On April 10, Dr. Nagel will present a program on Performance Anxiety on Internet 2, produced by the North Carolina School for the Arts which will be broadcast live at a number of universities.

**Dr. Dale Boesky** will meet with the Wisconsin Psychoanalytic Society on October 6, 2007 at which time he will discuss his recently published paper: "Robert Waelder: The Principle of Multiple Function: Observations on Over-determination. Commentary." In: *Psycho analytic Quarterly* 76: 93-118. ♦

**Publication Notices**

CALENDAR

March 17       Novi
MPS - Gender Play, Sexuality and the Erotic in the Clinical Situation (32nd Annual Symposium)

March 25       Farmington Hills
APT - Our Mother's Sore Expectations
Kehinde Ayeni, M.D.

April 1        TBD
Reel Deal IV - The Squid and the Whale

April 14       Farmington Hills
MPS - Freudian Theory in the Light of Contemporary Neuroscience
Mark Solms, Ph.D.

April 29       Farmington Hills
APT - Voicemale: What Men Really Think About Their Marriages, Their Wives, Sex, Housework, and Commitment
Neil Chethik

May 12         Ann Arbor
MPS
Alexandra Harrison, M.D.