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President's Message

Mark Aveline

At the end of June, the Society had a most successful international scientific conference in Weimar, our 34th annual meeting. Fine weather, a beautiful city, a well-designed modern conference centre and superb organisation by the local host and Conference Manager, Bernhard Strauss, and his team, provided the perfect backdrop for the scientific programme. Colleagues from 24 countries presented on many topics in a programme of plenaries, parallel sessions, workshops and poster sessions. Sadly, worries about Sars and travel led some to withdraw their presentations. I hope that next year in Rome the lure of scientific discourse among friends will overcome whatever anxiety the world has in store for us. Nevertheless, attendance at 335 passed the break-even point, a vindication of the calibre of the conference and the attention to financial and other detail by the Executive Council, Programme Council and local host.

This year, there were some innovations in the scientific programme. A reviewers' workshop featured in the pre-conference programme and was well attended. The editors of *Psychotherapy Research* hope that participants will have gained in confidence in the task of reviewing papers submitted to the Journal. The editors would welcome offers from members to act as assessors; contact Bill Stiles (Clara Hill from January 2004) or Uwe Hentschel.

Plenaries on each day provided a corrective for the dispersion of up to ten parallel sessions. They met the need expressed widely last year that we have some educational "What do we know?" sessions. Another educational element was a research consultation workshop where members could get advice on design, methodology and analysis from a panel of experts. I believe that both innovations were appreciated, especially by Young Scholars. Their special interest group met and I hope will have increasing influence as the group become better established. After a good start in Chicago, other special interest groups are languishing; their potential for fostering networking is not being realised. Remember that fully constituted special interest groups can be represented on the Programme Council. Let many flourish.

Executive Council members received a few critical comments about the standard of some presentations: poor time keeping and weak scientific content were particularly mentioned. We have had some discussion about introducing two-way evaluative feedback on sessions, structuring the ab-

stracts, being explicit about the completion stage of the work being presented, and being more selective about papers and panel elements. John Clarkin, the new Programme Chair and President-elect, has begun work on preparing for the international meeting in Rome in 2004 and is working closely with the local host, Antonio Semerari, and his colleagues. Send John your ideas on improving the scientific content of our conferences, copied to me.

This year, we moved closer to having an up to date electronic system for submissions and registration. In an act of wilful complication of my task as Programme Chair (but, maybe, of lasting benefit to the Society), I wrote a *Conference Planner* application in 4th Dimension, a cross-platform relational database, to administer this year's scientific programme. This linked to the conference website designed by Jenny Rosendahl and other members of the local host's team. We are investigating transferring some or all of the elements to the Society's website as a way of having reusable technology. I would be interested to hear from any member with experience of programming in 4th Dimension and willing to help with the project (mailto:aveline.spr2003@btopenworld.com).

The Society owes a particular debt of gratitude to Karla Moras who has just completed her year as President. What with the financial worries over the Santa Barbara meeting and other difficult legal and money matters, she has had a hard time. Her persistence, fairness and attention to detail have been invaluable in getting the Society to its present point of solvency. The EC also loses the warm contribution of Louis Castonguay, who is succeeded by Lynne Angus as North American Chapter President. Franz Caspar, whose wise head has been so useful in troubled times, rotates off the Executive having completed his four years of service. Both Louis and Franz will be missed.

In a scientific Society, it may come as a surprise to members how much time the Executive Council members and former members have devoted to financial and legal matters. Santa Barbara has been at the top of our list, closely followed by the Society's tax return and problems with the dues collection by Oxford University Press.

To discharge our responsibility for corporate governance, the EC has prepared a comprehensive detailed analysis of what went wrong with the Santa Barbara meeting. Once the report has received a final legal and factual check, it will be made avail-

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Michael J. Lambert, PhD



I am pleased to have been nominated for the office of vice president. I have been a member of the Society since 1973 and consider the Society to be my primary scientific affiliation, once serving as its' Secretary/Treasurer. My early career focused on scholarly reviews of the psychotherapy research literature, an activity that has just culminated in editing the 5th edition of Bergin & Garfield's Handbook of Psychotherapy and Behavior Change. Over the years I have maintained openness to the full range of therapies and attempted to write balanced and fair reviews of the research literature. Personally, I find most systems of therapy highly attractive and interesting. Thus, I feel at home at meetings of the Society, and feel proud of the fact that most systems of intervention (from behavioral to psychodynamic), and modalities of offering treatments, (from individual to group, to systems), are represented. I am committed to keeping the Society a place where multiple perspectives and methodologies are valued, and where results triumph over allegiances.

In recent years my own research agenda has turned toward efforts to integrate psychotherapy research and clinical practice. This current focus has evolved from the growing emphasis on accountability that has influenced medical services in general and seems to be felt world-wide. If there is a bias that would affect my role as a temporary leader in the society it would be to emphasize the importance of research directly effecting patient care. Clearly, the current cultural context of healthcare delivery provides an exceptional opportunity for psychotherapy researchers to have an impact on how patients are treated. Given the unusually heterogeneous nature of the Society, the striking differences between practices across countries, our theoretical hegemony, and the unusually diverse and talented composition of our members, there is little doubt that we can continue to enjoy our differences and yet find ways to make our common interests have a greater impact on future clinical practice.

If elected vice-president I would make a central goal increased informal dialogues between members. I would propose to encourage dialogue on topics of general and broad concern to the field—the impact of length of treatment on outcome, the differences in outcome that can be attributed to specific treatments, the essential aspects of clinical training in psychotherapy, the special importance of long-term treatments, and the integration of research findings from different cultures. I would like the Society to increase dialogue between members at the annual meetings. From such dialogues, work products that are aimed at constructive criticism of social policies that are not in the best interest of patients. I think this would be an enjoyable addition to the usual emphasis on methodology and research results.

A representative sample of my publications over the past 30 years follows:

- Lambert, M. J. & Ogles, B. M. (2004). The efficacy and effectiveness of psychotherapy. In M. J. Lambert (Ed.), *Bergin & Garfield's Handbook of psychotherapy and behavior change* (5th Ed., pp. 139-193). New York: Wiley.
- Lambert, M. J., Whipple, J. L., Bishop, M. J., Vermeersch, D. A., Gray, G.V., & Finch, A. E. (2002). Comparison of empirically derived and rationally derived methods for identify-

ing patients at risk for treatment failure. *Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy*, 9, 149-164.

Lambert, M. J., Whipple, J.L., Vermeersch, D. A., Smart, D. W., Hawkins, E. J., Nielsen, S. L., & Goates, M. (2002). Enhancing psychotherapy outcomes via providing feedback on client treatment response: A replication. *Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy*, 9, 91-103.

Lambert, M. J., & Barley, D. E. (2002). Research summary on the therapeutic relationship and psychotherapy outcome. In J. C. Norcross (Ed.). *Psychotherapy relationships that work: Therapist contributions and responsiveness to patients* (pp. 17-32). New York: Oxford University Press.

Lambert, M. J., Hansen, N.B., & Finch, A.E. (2001). Patient-focused research: Using patient outcome data to enhance treatment effects. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 69, 159-172.

Vermeersch, D.A., Lambert, M.J., & Burlingame, G.M. (2000). Outcome Questionnaire: Item sensitivity to change. *Journal of Personality Assessment*, 74(2), 242-261.

Lambert, M.J. (1999). Are differential treatment effects inflated by researcher therapy allegiance? Could Clever Hans count? *Clinical Psychology: Science & Practice*, 6, 127-130.

Lambert, M.J. (1998). What are the implications of psychotherapy research for clinical practice and training? *Nordic Journal of Psychiatry*, 52, (41), 38-49.

Lambert, M. J., Chiles, J. A., Kesler, S. R., & Vermeersch, D. A. (1998). A compendium of current psychotherapy treatment manuals. In G. P. Koucher, J. C. Norcross, & S. S. Hill (Eds.), *Psychologist's Desk Reference*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Lambert, M. J., & Okiishi, J. (1997). The therapist's contribution to psychotherapy outcome. *Clinical Psychology: Science and Practice*, 4, 66-75.

Horowitz, L. M., Strupp, H. H., & Lambert, M. J. (1997). Overview and summary of the core battery conference. In H. H. Strupp, L. M. Horowitz, & M. J. Lambert (Eds.) *Measuring patient changes in mood anxiety and personality disorders: Toward a core battery* (p. 11-56). Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association Press.

Tingey, R., Lambert, M. J., Burlingame, G.M., & Hansen, N. (1996). Assessing clinical significance: Proposed extensions to method. *Psychotherapy Research*, 6, 109-123.

Ogles, B.M., Lambert, M. J., & Masters, K. S. (1996). *Assessing Outcome in Clinical Practice*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

Anderson, E.M., & Lambert, M. J. (1995). Short-term dynamically oriented psychotherapy: A review and meta-analysis. *Clinical Psychology Review*, 9, 503-514.

Stein, D. M., & Lambert, M. J. (1995). Graduate training in psychotherapy: Are therapy outcomes enhanced? *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 63, 182-196.

Lambert, M. J. (1983). Introduction to assessment in psychotherapy outcome: Historical perspective and current issues, In M. J. Lambert, S.S. DeJulio, E. R. Christensen, (Eds.), *The Assessment of Psychotherapy Outcome*. New York: Wiley-Interscience.

Lambert, M. J. (1976). Spontaneous remission in adult neurotic disorders: A revision and summary. *Psychological Bulletin*, 83, 107-119.

Bernhard Michael Strauss, Ph. D.

Thanks for the honor to be nominated for the election of the SPR General Vice-President!

When I attended my first meeting of the SPR in Ulm (1987), I had just changed my position and gone from the University of Hamburg (where I was mainly involved in studies on measurement, sex research and psychoendocrinology) to the University of Kiel. The impressions I gathered during my first contact with SPR, immediately inspired and motivated me to begin with psychotherapy research intensively. Over the years, the society became my most valued scientific family. I was attending all the following annual and European meetings. I have visited one of the fabulous Ravenscar conferences and one North American meeting in 2001. I was happy to be selected as the local host of SPR's 34th Annual Meeting this year in Weimar (Germany), the place where I live. I was also able to serve SPR as being the European Co-Editor of our journal, *Psychotherapy Research*, between 1995 and 2000, fruitfully cooperating with Robert Elliott, and later with Bill Stiles as the North American Co-Editors.

What is - in my eyes - so special about SPR? I appreciate meeting colleagues from all over the world, representing so many different methodological and theoretical approaches of our field. Having many experiences with other scientific organisations on a national and on an international level, I have never met such a fruitful, open and pluralistic spirit than in SPR. For me, SPR has opened the way to cooperations with colleagues that influenced me profoundly. Just to mention a few: through SPR I came in contact with Len Horowitz with whom Hans Kordy and I developed a German version of the IIP. I met Paul Pilkonis who influenced my work on clinical attachment research, and Roy MacKenzie and Gary Burlingame, with whom I recently had the great pleasure to write the chapter about small group treatments in the latest edition of the *Handbook of Psychotherapy and Behavior Change*.

Attachment and group treatment constitute some of my major research interests. In addition, I am currently directing research projects on psychooncology, infertility, interpersonal assessment, treatment evaluation, and psychological aspects of (chronic) medical illness. All these interests generally developed out of my clinical work. In different institutions, such as the University Hospital in Kiel, I have gathered experience with outpatient and inpatient psychotherapy and with psychotherapeutic work in a C/L service. When I was a student at the University of Constance (in the Southwest of Germany), I received a behavioral training. Later, I also went through a psychoanalytical training. Currently (since 1996), I am Professor of Medical Psychology and Director of the Institute of Medical Psychology at the Hospital of the Friedrich-Schiller-University in Jena, an old university located in East Germany. On my publication list, one can find several books, many book chapters and articles (cf. www.med.uni-jena.de/mpsy). I have already been on the board of different scientific organisations and was elected to be the president of the German College of Psychosomatic Medicine between 2000 and 2003. Currently, I am coediting three different German journals dealing with psychotherapy related issues. I am also on the editorial boards of some other national and international journals. For many years, I have been involved in different psychotherapeutic training programs.

If I was elected, I would try to continue fostering SPR's interdisciplinarity, internationality, and its methodological, theoretical and cultural pluralism. My experiences in boards and in leading groups might be helpful in attaining these goals. I would also strengthen some interests that have played a less prominent role in our society so far, such as small group research and psychotherapeutic interventions for the medically ill.



A sample of my publications:

- Borkenhagen, A., Decker, O., Brähler, E., Strauss, B.: The journal of the society for Psychotherapy Research and the diversity of Psychotherapy Research: A compilation and comparison of North American and European contributions. *Psychotherapy Research*, 2002, 12, 491-514.
- Schmidt, S., Strauss, B., Brähler, E.: Subjective physical complaints and hypochondriacal features from an attachment theoretical perspective. *Psychology and Psychotherapy: Theory, Research and Practice*, 2002, 75, 313-332.
- Schmidt, S., Nachtigal, C., Wüthrich-Martone, O., Strauss, B.: Attachment and coping with chronic disease. *Journal of Psychosomatic Research*, 2002, 53, 763-773.
- Strauss, B., Gelmroth, S.: Gruppenentwicklung in zwei stationären intendiert dynamischen Gruppentherapien [Group development in two intended dynamic group treatments in an inpatient setting]. *Psychotherapeut*, 2002, 47, 356-364.
- Burlingame, A., MacKenzie, K.R., Strauss, B.: Small Group Treatment: Evidence for Effectiveness and Mechanisms of Change. In: M. J. Lambert (Ed.): *Bergin and Garfield's Handbook of Psychotherapy and Behavior Change* (5th Ed.), New York, John Wiley & Sons, 2003, 647-696.
- Aveline, M., Stiles, W.B. & Strauss, B.: *Psychotherapy Research*. In: J. Holmes et al. (Eds.) *The OUP Textbook of Psychotherapy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press (in press).
- Strauss, B. (Hrsg.): *Involuntary Childlessness – Psychological Assessment and Counseling*. Hogrefe & Huber Publishers, Seattle, 2002
- Strauss, B. (Hrsg.): *Psychotherapie bei körperlichen Erkrankungen [Psychotherapy for patients with medical illness]*. *Jahrbuch der Medizinischen Psychologie*, Band 21, Hogrefe, Göttingen, 2002.
- Strauss, B., Buchheim, A., Kächele, H. (Hrsg.): *Klinische Bindungsforschung [Clinical attachment research]*. Schattauer, Stuttgart, 2002
- Strauss, B., Hartung, J., Kächele, H.: Geschlechtsspezifische Inanspruchnahme von Psychotherapie und Sozialer Arbeit [Genderspecific use of psychotherapy and social work]. In: K. Hurrelmann, P. Kolip (Hrsg.), *Geschlecht, Gesundheit und Krankheit – Männer und Frauen im Vergleich*. Bern, Huber, 2002, S. 533-547.
- Strauss, B.: Störungsspezifische Ansätze in der Gruppenpsychotherapie [Disorderspecific approaches in group psychotherapy]. *Gruppenpsychotherapie und Gruppendynamik*, 2002, 38, 205-211.
- Strauss, B., Buchheim, A.: Bindung und Trennung: Zum Verhältnis von Bindungstheorie und Psychoanalyse. *Psychotherapie und Sozialwissenschaft*, 4, 2002, 138-152.
- Schmidt, S., Fischer, T., Chren, M.M., Strauss, B., Elsner, P.: Strategies of coping and quality of life in women with alopecia. *British Journal of Dermatology*, 144, 2001, 1038-1044.
- Schmidt, S., Bauer, A., Greif, C., Merker, A., Elsner, P., Strauss, B.: Vulvar pain: Psychological profiles and treatment responses. *Journal of Reproductive Medicine*, 46, 2001, 377-384.
- Strauss, B.: Sexualität und Persönlichkeitsentwicklung [Sexuality and personality development]. *Persönlichkeitsstörungen – Theorie und Therapie*, 2001, 5, S53-S62.
- Strauss, B.: Bindung, Bindungsrepräsentanz und Psychotherapie [Attachment, attachment representation and psychotherapy]. *Psychotherapie in Psychiatrie, Psychotherapeutischer Medizin und Klinischer Psychologie*, 6, 2001, 90-96.

Future Meetings

International Meetings

2004 International meeting:
Rome, Italy, June 16 - 20,
host: Antonio Semerari

2005 International meeting:
Montreal, Canada,
host: Chris Perry

2006 International meeting:
Edinburgh, UK,
host: John McLeod

Regional Meetings

2003 NASPR meeting will
take place in Newport, RI,
November 5-9,

2005 SASPR meeting will
take place in Buenos Aires,
Argentina, April

2005 Joint EU-UK meeting -
Lausanne, Switzerland

2003 VP ELECTIONS:

Remember to cast your
vote by October 1st,
2003

www.
psychotherapyresearch.org

President's message (cont.)

able to members on request from the Executive Officer, Paulo Machado. We will notify you that it is available by posting a notice on the Society's website and emailing members on the email list. This will probably be towards the end of July. At Santa Barbara, many errors were made whose financial consequences meant that we have had to draw deep on our cash reserve. This will need to be rebuilt. The good news is that the Society is solvent. We have improved our support structures and hope that this combination of problems will not recur.

Mike Lambert, acting in his capacity as a local resident, maintained our status as a not-for-profit organisation incorporated in Utah. Robert Elliott spent many hours sorting out the Society's tax return; we owe him many thanks. As we do to Paulo Machado. To get our affairs in order, we had to take legal advice. Beneficially, we escaped being fined and have a new robust procedure in place to avoid future problems. Tax wise, it may be advantageous for Chapters to be fiscally independent of SPR international. Robert is seeking legal advice on the feasibility of doing this and any implications for our Constitution.

The Journal is going from strength to strength and our Editors are very satisfied with the service provided by the production team at Oxford University Press. However, the dues collection is not going well. Only one dues notice was sent out in 2002 and, despite many prompts by the EO and others, the notices for 2003 are only being dispatched as I write, some nine months late. This failure in organisation is interfering with the good functioning of the Society. We are going to take strenuous action to resolve the situation.

Mike Lambert received the Senior Career Award of the Society at the Honour's lunch on June 28, a

well-deserved recognition of his contribution to the field. Sadly, no junior Awards were made as no nominations had been received. Please put colleagues forward for both awards when the call for nominations goes out later in the year.

Some people have said to me that SPR is like a secret society: low profile and difficult to join. I would like to refute these rumours. There are some success stories. The North American Chapter gained 55 new members through its recruitment campaign. The UK Chapter is planning a similar initiative. Within the European Chapter, Italy has an excellent track record in recruiting members. Numbers are recovering within the South American Chapter. Having an attractive, folded A4 publicity brochure and a display poster for SPR might help in the effort to raise our profile. Chapters could insert an extra sheet in the brochure giving local details and including a membership application form. Again, I would be most interested to hear from any member willing to help with the project and possessing design and graphic artist skills.

I would like to return to our old membership pattern of more equal numbers of psychologists and psychiatrists, especially in North America where we now have few psychiatrist members. Your advice on how this might be achieved would be most welcome. Of course, those two professional groups are not the only ones within SPR but, in my view, it is important for the future strength of the Society that they are both well represented in our ranks.

If you have concerns, ideas for improving the Society or want to tell us about things that we are doing well, do write to any member of the EC or me.

35th SPR International Meeting Rome: June 16-20, 2004

Dear colleagues:

SPR has the pleasure of inviting you to the 35th Annual Meeting of the Society for Psychotherapy Research which will be held in Rome June 16 to 20, 2004

All of you know Rome for its history, artistic and cultural heritage which has been accumulating for 27 centuries. I hope that its feature as Universal City, where different cultures find their place of contact, will be a worthy background for a creative debate among researchers coming from all over the world.

The local Organising Committee selected a Conference Venue located easy access from down-

town bustling city, but in a very quiet area, with cottages spread in a large pine-tree park. The Santa Maria della Pietà has been a meaningful choice – it has been hosting the Psychiatric Hospital until 1979.

Our Annual Meeting is an important date which has become a tradition. We believe that the programme which is being prepared will offer a wide variety of topics and interesting new data from all over the world.

We look forward to welcome you in Rome.

Antonio Semerari
Chair
Conference Management Committee