



Dear friends and colleagues

As you may know already, the new Board of Directors of the IFP has assumed office in fall 2006: Alfried Längle (Austria), Vice-President, Mechthild Neises (Germany), Secretary General, Michael Rufer (Switzerland), Treasurer, and myself as President. Over the last few months, we have been very busy with housekeeping tasks. These are obviously rather unspectacular duties, but of course they have to be attended to on a regular basis in order to ensure that the IFP is running properly.

The *Secretarial Office in Zurich* is running smoothly under the watchful guidance of Cornelia Erpenbeck. She is responsible for all administrative matters concerning the IFP and may be contacted at her office should there be any queries. At present she is busy updating the IFP website which, according to the current statistics, attracts increasing numbers of visitors. However, to further optimize the visibility of the IFP, I would like to encourage all our members to introduce a link to the IFP website (<http://www.ifp.name>) on your respective homepages. We would be happy to do so vice versa: please feel free to approach Cornelia Erpenbeck in case you need a hand!

Candidates for Presidential Election: According to the bylaws, a new President will have to be elected in 2010. By this time, I will have served as President for two full 4-year terms and will thus not be allowed to stand for election for a third term. Ideally, my successor should be elected in 2008 already so that the President-elect can serve on the Board for 2 years prior to assuming office, to grant enough time to learn the ins and outs of the organization and the various duties involved.

Officers of the Board: A handing-over of tasks took place from the outgoing Secretary General (A. Längle) to the incoming Secretary General (M. Neises), as well as from the outgoing Treasurer (R. Reul-Verlaan) to the incoming Treasurer (M. Rufer). M. Neises agreed to act as liaison officer for our German-speaking membership societies. M. Rufer has started to review and update our membership database. All members will be contacted by M. Rufer soon to establish a personal relationship.

New Membership Societies: The Indonesian Psychiatric Association, Section on Psychotherapy, was formally accepted as a new membership society. Its President, Dr. Sylva D. Elvira, was notified in written form. A very warm welcome to our new Indonesian member! It was also noted with great satisfaction that the 5th Conference of the Asia Pacific Association of Psychotherapists will be organized by our new member in Jakarta, Indonesia, from April 5 to 7, 2008.

Congresses: I was invited to give a keynote lecture at the Chinese-German Congress on Psychotherapy which will be held in Shanghai, China, from May 20 to 23, 2007. The congress will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the German-Chinese Academy for Psychotherapy. It will be hosted by the Shanghai Mental Health Center and supported by the China Association for Psychological Health, Division of Psychotherapy and Counseling, the Chinese Psychological Society, Division for University Students Psychological Counseling, and the Shanghai Doingsheng Hospital. The theme of the conference will be

'Changing societies – changing people'. I will certainly take the opportunity to strengthen our bonds with a number of Chinese as well as other Asian associations for psychotherapy! For more information, please visit the congress website at www.dcap.de.

IFP-Sponsored Master Classes, Workshops and Seminars: The aim of these events is threefold, namely to help disseminate novel, evidence-based psychotherapeutic approaches, to raise the international profile and recognition of the IFP, and to recruit individual IFP members, thus generating income for the IFP. After two very successful workshops in 2007, a workshop on Brief Eclectic Psychotherapy for posttraumatic stress disorder with Prof. Berthold Gersons is planned for October 2007 in Vienna. More workshops to be announced!

History of Psychotherapy and IFP: Following the suggestion of the Board, the Past President Edgar Heim started to write up the history of psychotherapy, with a special emphasis on organizational aspects of the development, starting back in the 19th century, and particularly the history of the IFP, which was founded in 1933. The manuscript will be finalized by the end of 2007. The Board is currently discussing with several publishers (Karger and others) the terms of this first IFP-sponsored book publication.

Finally, my 'ceterum censeo': all our members, meaning individual members of the IFP as well as individual members of associations who have membership status with the IFP, are offered the IFP's official journal, *Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics*, at a substantially reduced subscription rate. For details, please contact S. Karger directly at:

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Wishing you an enjoyable summer!

Best regards
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