



# SOCIETY FOR PSYCHOANALYSIS AND PSYCHOANALYTIC PSYCHOLOGY

DIVISION 39

AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION



## From the President

Welcome to the New Year! The new year brings new possibilities and challenges for SPPP and psychoanalysis.

I'm sure that many of you are aware that *Lyra Health* published a white paper in November 2019 that labelled psychoanalysis on a list of "common iatrogenic treatments". This is obviously false, harmful to the public good, and must be answered.

SPPP is undertaking a number of efforts to address this. First, we are enlisting the assistance of APA. The Executive Committee has written a letter to Jared Skillings, PhD of the Professional Practice Office to inform APA about the existence of the white paper, to express our strong concerns and outrage, and to ask APA to assist us in addressing the dissemination of this false information. We received a very positive response from APA. **Dana Sinopoli, PsyD**, chair of the SPPP Professional Issues Committee, and I spoke with Jared, Lynn Bufka (Associate Executive Director for Practice Research and Policy) and Deanne Ottaviano (APA General Counsel) and are developing a plan to communicate with Lyra. They offered strong support for our effort and were in agreement that the language of “psychoanalysis iatrogenic” was dangerous and harmful. We were the first division to contact APA regarding the white paper, but APA believes that other divisions may be adversely impacted by Lyra white papers as well. APA is working with us to develop a broader strategy in the event it does not receive a satisfactory response.

Additionally, the EC, in conjunction with our Professional Issues Committee, is drafting a letter from SPPP to *Lyra Health* to communicate our concerns and insist that it retract the white paper, apologize for the false content, and amend the content, if they were to re-publish it. We are also discussing other actions to take and will be communicating with members about a more division-wide coordinated effort to address these issues in the event we receive unsatisfactory responses to all our requests. For example, we might ask division members to contact Lyra, details TBD. Of course, any member may do so of their own accord. We will see what Lyra’s response, if any, is to our communication and APA’s. Having the white paper remain on the internet is harmful to our patients and psychoanalytic practitioners of all stripes; it is iatrogenic, so to speak. Please stay tuned!

We want members to know that the early registration for the 2020 Spring Conference in New York: *Reckoning/Foresight* has been great! Well over 600 people have already registered for the conference via early bird registration. If you haven’t registered yet, please do so. We expect the conference to be a great success. We are re-vamping our CE process in order to address ongoing concerns and to make it easier and more efficient to acquire CEs. Our CE chair, **Soffia Palsdottir, PsyD**, has pursued an arrangement with a new provider, Eventur, which will make the CE process more streamlined and accurate. The Board approved spending additional funds in order to improve the experience for attendees. Soffia will be working with our new conference coordinator, Heather Kennedy, and our longstanding administrator, Ruth Helein, to make this process as user friendly as possible.

The Board of Directors welcomes new folks to the board for 2020 and familiar folks in new roles. **Joseph Schaller, PsyD** is our president elect. **MaryBeth Cresci, PhD, ABPP** takes over as parliamentarian after serving as a Council Rep for many years. We welcome new Council Reps, **Dana Charatan, PsyD**, **Liz Goren, PhD**, and **Alice Lowe Shaw, PhD**, who will complete the Council Rep term of **Bryant Welch, PhD, JD, ABPP**. New members at large include **Bhupin Butaney, PsyD** and **Oksana Yakushko, PhD**. We thank **Scott Pytluk, PhD, ABPP** and **Kirkland Vaughans, PhD** for their service as members at large these last years.

I have appointed **Stephen Anen, PsyD** as the new program chair. Stephen was a conference co-chair for the spring conference in New Orleans (2018). He brings great experience to this role and tremendous enthusiasm. The board offers great thanks to **Colin Ennis, PsyD** in his role of program chair for several years and the passion he brought to the role in overseeing several successful conferences and programming at APA. We also offer great thanks to **Iaine Darwin, PsyD** who stepped into the role of

... We also offer great thanks to **Jaine Bar Wain, PsyD**, who stepped into the role of interim program chair and provided a steady hand and invaluable experience to ensure smooth continuity in our programming. Jaine, of course, is a treasure to SPPP!

Please consider making a donation to the **Marsha D. McCary Fund for Psychoanalysis**. The fund was established to recognize and promote the contributions of psychoanalysis to psychology as a science and profession. It encourages and supports programs in education, research and service that will advance the profession and keep the psychological community and the public informed of developments in psychoanalytic scholarship, research and practice. The fund is committed to increasing public awareness of the benefits of psychoanalytic principles and treatments, as well as on the applicability of psychoanalytic thought to clinical, organizational and social problems. You can find information about the donation process here: <https://www.apadivisions.org/division-39/about/fund/>.

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