

Summary of the IPA Board meeting held in New York (January 2017)

The IPA's Board of Representatives met over three days (14-16 January 2017) in New York, USA.

The Board held three open discussions. The first focused on an interim report from the IPA and Constituent Organizations Task Force. Franz Wellendorf (Task Force Chair) gave an overview of a survey conducted by the Task Force. In general, Societies desired to be more informed about IPA activities, to be more involved in important discussions, for example, about training standards, and to have more clarity about the structure of the IPA and its functioning. The Board noted that the Task Force will make final recommendations after the responses are analysed in more depth.

The second open discussion focused on proposed variations to training within the Eitingon model and included presentations from the Education & Oversight Committee. The Board noted that discussions/consultations had been on-going for a number of years on the matter of frequency requirements in the Eitingon model and considered a proposal to give societies more flexibility in deciding their minimum standards. It was agreed to postpone a vote on the proposed modification until the last meeting of the current Board, to allow a final consultation with Societies. It was also agreed that each Society would be sent the material presented by the Education & Oversight Committee, and would be informed that the proposal would modify a minimum standard, enabling Societies to change their own policies (or not) per their circumstances. The deadline for receiving feedback from Societies would be the end of May 2017.

The third open discussion was attended by the President and President-elect of APsA, and the President and Secretary General of NAPsA, and focused on improving communication and collaboration with the regional organisations. The Board agreed that it was important to foster an IPA mentality in the North American region, and that it was important to engage with NAPsA, APsA, and CIPS as equal stakeholders in the on-going discussions about Equivalency Procedures for groups.

Andrew Brook (IPA Treasurer) reported to the Board, and the Board approved the 2017 budget and several dues discounts. The Board also discussed a recommendation from the Budget & Finance Committee regarding a possible dues increase, and agreed that the Treasurer would draft a best practice statement on the payment of IPA dues.

Maria Teresa Hooke (ING Chair) presented an overview of the ING Committee's work in 2016. The Board approved i) a new IPA status for organisations (non-training), ii) that the Psychoanalytic Society of Serbia be presented for Component Society status at the next IPA Business Meeting, iii) that the South Africa Study Group be given Interim Provisional Society status, and iv) that the South African Psychoanalysis Initiative be recognized as an Allied Centre. The Board also approved the election of several new Direct Members of the IPA.

The Congress Working Group (CWG) reported that the preparations for the Asia-Pacific Conference in Taipei (May 2017) and the Buenos Aires Congress (July 2017) were proceeding well.

Taking into consideration feedback from colleagues, some members of the Board expressed concerns about possible low attendance of colleagues from other regions at the Buenos Aires Congress. The importance of free activities for students and residents being included in the programme, as a means of opening the Congress, was emphasized, as was a desire for an option to pay registration fees in installments, if possible.

CWG informed the Board that the Buenos Aires Congress Local Arrangements Committee would be organizing free activities for students at local Societies throughout the Congress. It was also noted that the registration fee for IPSO Candidates had been significantly reduced; and that the fees for dues-discounted and regular members would be comparable to the previous Congress. Regarding installment arrangements, it was noted that registrations cannot currently be paid in installments, but agreed that potential options would be explored with the Argentine Societies.

The Board received annual reports from IPA Committees, agreed a range of committee appointments, and approved mandates for a Confidentiality Committee, a Gender and Sexual Diversity Studies Committee, a Clinical Observation Committee, and a Professional Observatory. The Board also agreed in principle to a proposal to expand the committee nomination procedure and to explore various means to expand the base of members involved in the IPA's work.

The Board approved amendments to several procedural codes and discussed proposed revisions to the IPA Ethics Code, noting that the Ethics Committee would be reviewing feedback from the Board before sending a final proposal for approval at a future meeting. The Board also agreed to review the security recommendations in the IPA's Policy on Remote Analysis in Training, and the Practice Note on the Use of Telephone and VoIP Technologies in Analysis, and to determine ways they might be strengthened. The Board also agreed to consider a Statement on Democracy at its next meeting, and agreed in principle that the ING Committee and its APsA counterpart be brought together to determine if universal Equivalency Procedures for groups might be established throughout the IPA.

The Board approved the Archive Task Force's recommendation that the majority of the IPA's administrative archive be transferred to the Wellcome Library.

The next meeting of the Board will be held on 24 July 2017 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.