

The IPA - Benefiting its Members and the World

Presidential and Vice-Presidential Statement of
Harriet Wolfe and Adriana Prengler



Belonging to the IPA means an immense opportunity to see beyond ourselves as local practitioners, educators and theorists. It allows us to join forces with a diverse, creative, international community to the constructive benefit of the world, our profession, and ourselves. The IPA, with almost 13,000 members and 6,200 candidates, has Societies, Study Groups and Direct Members in 65 countries around the world. Our international membership contributes its knowledge and many talents to the IPA, and the IPA offers a forum to share, coordinate, and support the international psychoanalytic community.

We are honored to be nominated as President and Vice-President for the next administration of the IPA. If elected, we will attend to internal challenges such as the diverse opinions regarding training standards, and external challenges such as the need to improve our public image as clinicians, scientists, and participants in the vital public conversations of our time.

As President and Vice-President, we want to make sure that IPA members' active involvement in world issues corrects popular misconceptions about psychoanalysis, sparks the curiosity of patients to enter psychoanalysis, and stirs the interests of mental health professionals to apply for psychoanalytic training.

40 years of Combined Organizational Experience:

Both of us are training analysts in our respective institutes and have extensive clinical, teaching, and professional writing experience. More importantly for the positions we aspire to, we have 40 years of combined successful leadership experience at the local, regional and international levels of psychoanalysis. As President of the San Francisco Center for Psychoanalysis, Harriet reorganized its Board of Trustees, initiated a strategic planning process and dealt with complex ethical matters. As President-elect of APsAA, she helped author the Six Point Plan to solve organizational dilemmas. As President of APsAA, her implementation of that re-organization led to wide recognition of her strong

capacity to negotiate change and manage conflict at the organizational level. She is currently on the IPA Task Force on Representation.

Adriana was Secretary of the Sociedad Psicoanalítica de Caracas in Venezuela and Secretary General of FEPAL. She was an active IPA Board Representative during the administration of Claudio Eizirik and a strong contributor to the IPA Budget and Finance Committee in which she served for nine years. She was the founding Chair of two IPA committees that continue to offer members and candidates concrete benefits. After moving to Seattle, Washington, in 2010, Adriana became a member of the Board of Directors at the North Western Psychoanalytic Society & Institute (NPSI) and recently also became a member of the Board of Directors of the Confederation of Independent Psychoanalytic Societies (CIPS).

Our organizational work is characterized by transparency and sound management of conflicts and financial challenges. We have a strong commitment to democratic principles, ethical approaches to conflict, and decision-making processes that reduce divisiveness and result in reconciliation and consensus.

Securing the Benefits of Membership in the IPA:

In 2009 Adriana created a presentation outlining the benefits of belonging to the IPA and participating in the IPA's international committees. More recently, IPA Treasurer, Andrew Brook, made a similar presentation which is now on the IPA website. We have a keen understanding of how vital committee participation is to the integrated fabric of the IPA and how much that participation offers all IPA members. But many committees work with little visibility and they do not communicate with each other. We want to improve inter-committee communication, establish shared projects, and ensure greater committee visibility to the membership as a whole. We view this goal as a necessary challenge going forward because committee work is the backbone of the Association. It benefits members in difficult times and encourages the exchange of ideas, allowing us to be enriched by our differences and united around our common interests.

Building Multidirectional Communication:

The IPA currently has a comprehensive website and brings to the members the e-journal *Psychoanalysis Today*, the IPA blog, the popular IPA scientific webinars, and the IPA newsletter. Clearly, the technology is in place. We will use it creatively to enhance communication between the IPA and its members, Societies, Regional organizations and the social surround. This communication must be multidirectional. The IPA needs to hear much more from its members. The Societies are the fundamental organization to which members relate and who know their members' concerns best. Thus, there is an urgent need for Society presidents to bring their ideas to the IPA Board and for the Board to meaningfully hear and process their input. We want to strengthen Multidirectional Communication, including the IPA's interaction with the Regional federations (EPF, FEPAL, NAPsAC),

and encourage links to new groups such as those in the Asia-Pacific region, for the transmission, development and progress of psychoanalysis.

Tackling the Problems of Ageing and Dislocation:

The wisdom of our experienced members deserves to be honored and also engaged to help encourage young people to enter psychoanalysis. We want to offer creative ways for experienced analysts to write for the public, and to teach and mentor students at all levels of education and training. We want to put a spotlight on the Candidates' Loan Panel that offers financial support to candidates in need and on the Psychoanalysts' Emigration and Relocation Committee that provides informational support to emigrating analysts and candidates, so that they do not have to abandon their careers or IPA membership when they are forced or decide to emigrate.

Addressing Information Management and Institutional Memory:

Like most associations, the IPA has a problem maintaining its institutional memory. Committees and task forces sometimes re-encounter old problems and invent new solutions without awareness of past efforts. We plan to address this crucial need for information management with a comprehensive approach including an online handbook for writing committee reports, guidelines for the organization of IPA Congresses, and a reexamination of our information storage and dissemination practices. Also, we will reinvigorate the sharing of ideas for outreach programs through the Resource Library in the Members' Section of the IPA website.

Ensuring High Training Standards and Respect for Diversity:

The IPA explicitly promotes the collective aspirations of psychoanalysts around the world to maintain high standards of training and practice. The psychoanalytic perspective and way of working requires a set of skills based on both unity and diversity. Our international unity lies in our commitment to basic psychoanalytic theory and the three pillars of training: personal analysis, supervision and theoretical learning. The diversity in our different models and theories reflects complex adaptations and the mature traditions and high standards of training that have evolved around the world. Our unity binds us together in strength while our respect for diversity permits creative expression. We will work to ensure the IPA functions as a unified coalition built on consensus and common purpose while encouraging and respecting diversity.

Support for Research:

Psychoanalytic research is essential to inform ourselves and the public about the measurable benefits of psychoanalysis as an explanatory model and as a treatment. We will continue to support creative collaborations across Regions initiated by our Research Committee and include research findings in our communications with IPA members. It is necessary for the IPA to lead the international effort to explore those aspects of psychoanalysis that make it uniquely effective.

A Focus on IPA in the World:

The current troubled state of the world is something that concerns us deeply. We plan to expand the new “IPA in the Community” division that Virginia Ungar and Sergio Nick have introduced to include an additional emphasis on “IPA in the World”. The active involvement of IPA members in addressing the psychological consequences of natural and man-made disasters is essential. Communities that experience such traumas as earthquakes and floods, or terrorism and violation of human rights, benefit from psychoanalytic consultation, education and psychoanalytically-informed treatments. We are consulting with psychoanalytic colleagues who are actively studying resolution of intractable conflict and also peacemaking to help define how the IPA can establish an effective global voice about issues of social concern. We are exploring potential affiliations with organizations active in thoughtful responses to contemporary social issues. We also plan an initiative to assist interested members in writing articles, books, and social media commentary in plain language that can bring psychoanalytic expertise to the general public.

We are excited to work with you to achieve these goals. The IPA exists to serve the profession and all of its members. We invite you to be in touch with us about your ideas and your concerns. We ask for your support because we want to make the IPA an organization that is deeply relevant to your daily professional life, a vital part of sustaining and enriching your work as a psychoanalyst, and a force that will help preserve the profession we all love and the world we share.

HARRIET WOLFE, MD, FIPA

Member, IPA Task Force on Representation (2018-)
Member, Advisory Board for Proposed Interregional Psychoanalytic Outcome Study (2017-)
Founding Board Member, IPA Interregional eJournal, *Psychoanalysis.Today* (2015-18)
President, APsaA (2016-18)
President-elect, APsaA (2014-16)
Chair, APsaA Committee on Psychoanalytic Education (2012-14)
Chair, San Francisco Center for Psychoanalysis (SFCP) Board of Trustees (2011-13)
Co-Chair, SFCP Capital Campaign (2011-13)
President, American College of Psychoanalysis (2006-7)
Training and Supervising Analyst, SFCP (2006-)
President, SFCP (2000-03)
President-elect, SFCP (1998-2000)

ADRIANA PRENGLER, MA, FIPA

Member, Board of Directors Confederation of Independent Psychoanalytic Societies (CIPS) (2018-)
Founding Chair, IPA Psychoanalysts’ Emigration and Relocation Committee (PERC) (2017-)
Chair, NPSI Continuing Education Committee (2016-2017)
Member, IPA Administrative Affairs Committee (2014-2015)

Member, Board of Directors, NPSI (2013-2016)
Training and Supervisor Analyst, SPC, (2010-); NPSI, (2012-)
Member, IPA Budget and Finance Committee (2005-2014)
Latin American Representative to the IPA Board (2005-2009)
Founding Chair, IPA Candidates' Loan Panel (2005-2009)
Secretary General, FEPAL (2002-2004)
Secretary General, SPC (1999-2002)