

INTERNATIONAL
SOCIETY OF
HYPNOSIS



VOLUME 6 NUMBER 1

APRIL 1983

A MESSAGE FROM THE NEW ISH PRESIDENT

As I assume the Presidency of ISH in this difficult period of time, I am grateful for the confidence you have placed in me. I am also honored to preside over this international forum of professionals, highly dedicated to the scientific study and application of hypnosis.

We all know that life and health are mediated by the most intricate, complex, and delicate biological and environmental transactions. We also are aware that hypnosis is a medium par excellence to uncover the propensity of imagination for grandiose productions which are sometimes difficult to place into proper perspective. A careful appraisal of facts and fiction, of the borderline between reality and imagination, of the usefulness and limitation of hypnosis, in the light of the mainstream of scientific and clinical research and practice in general, should be more than ever kept in sharp focus.

The self-image of the Society itself is currently undergoing some change. A very dynamic force has emerged among our European colleagues, the European Society of Hypnosis in Psychotherapy and Psychosomatic Medicine. Obviously, interest in hypnosis comes with age, and this maturation process has to remain grounded in mutual support, respect, and regard.

The highly successful Glasgow Congress will stay engraved in the memories of all who attended, for having permitted us the opportunity to discover the soul of Scotland and its historical contribution to the field. We all owe a debt of gratitude to Professor Michael Bond, the Congress Chairperson, to the very efficient Organizing Committee, and especially to George Fairfull Smith who was in large part responsible for ISH coming to Scotland in 1982. Plans are now rapidly progressing for the 10th Congress to be held in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, from August 10-16, 1985, under the leadership of the Congress Chairperson, Dr. George Matheson. Officers of ISH hope to see you there, and suggest that you consider registering now to support ISH and the Congress.

In the interim, I will do my best to serve the Society, with the continuing help of Immediate Past-President Fred H. Frankel, President-Elect David R. Collison, Secretary-Treasurer Peter B. Bloom, Newsletter Editor Campbell Perry, as well as Mary F. Auxier and Stephen R. Fairbrother of the ISH Central Office. Above all, I count on you for your support, as well as your comments and suggestions.

Avec mes respects,

Germain Lavoie
Germain F. Lavoie
President

From the Newsletter Editor:

"Anwesenheit" is a sensation of the presence of another person, known to occur in the bereaved, in mountaineers, and in the hallucinations which occur while going to sleep or waking. It may be comforting to the next ISH Newsletter Editor, Professor Campbell Perry--if he has the experience in connection with this post--to know that the previous Editor (myself) will be that presence!

Many members of the ISH have been interested in the outcome of the Executive Council meeting in Glasgow and the subsequent discussions that evolved concerning the affiliation of the European Section with the ISH. As discussed in Glasgow, a new constitution has been drawn up by Prof. Dr. Guantieri and Dr. Wikström re-naming the society, "The European Society of Hypnosis in Psychotherapy and Psychosomatic Medicine" (ESHPPM). Once the Constitution has been ratified by the relevant European National Constituent Societies of ISH, a proposed change to the ISH Constitution will be submitted to the ISH Board of Directors, and then to the Council of Representatives. If approved by these bodies, the constitutional change will then be submitted by ballot to the full membership of ISH so that ISH can have not only National Constituent Societies, but also Regional Constituent Societies of which ESHPPM may then be eligible to be the first.

For those of us who worked together to form an active European Confederation of National Societies of ISH, this is indeed a large step towards a milestone of greater collaboration throughout Europe. As I turn over the Editorship of the ISH Newsletter to Professor Perry, it gives me great pleasure to share with you these exciting collaborative developments in Europe.

M. Anthony Basker

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Newsletter Editor

