Report of the Meeting of the Continental European Chapter January 2004

Organizational Structure of the Chapter
Fortunately Anne Michael and her husband Horst Michael (Stuttgart) are still supporting the administrative work (bank accounts, membership lists). Many thanks to them!

Student/Young Researcher Travel Awards
Up to now we have four applications for the Rome Meeting. They will be evaluated by a small committee (Elisabeth Jandl-Jager, Vienna; Hans Kordy, Stuttgart, and myself).

Next European Chapter Meeting
The next meeting is planned to take place March 3-4 2005 in Lausanne, Switzerland. It will be held as a joint meeting with the UK-Chapter. Yves de Roten and Michael Stigler will be our hosts.

Annual Meeting
The 35th Annual Meeting of the SPR will be held at Aurelia Convention Centre in Rome, Italy, June 16 - 19, 2004. We are sure that the scientific programme together with the beautiful location will make it an unforgettable event. For further information see SPR-homepage.

Eva Bänninger-Huber, President

Election of a new President of the European Chapter of SPR

For nominating candidates we inaugurated a new procedure. We implement a search committee to look for qualified candidates, to contact them and ask for willingness for candidature. The search committee (Cord Benecke and Anna Buchheim) propose the following two candidates: Guiseppe de Nicolò (Rome, Italy) and Reiner Dahlbender (Ulm, Germany).

Statements of Candidacy

Dr. GIUSEPPE A. G. NICOLÒ
Medical Doctor- Specialist in Psychiatry - Psychotherapist
I consider an honour my candidature for European Chapter of SPR particularly because SPR is my most important and prestigious affiliation. Together with my colleagues for many years I have been devoted to the development of the research in psychotherapy in our country and during the last four years I have been the national secretary of the SPR Italian Chapter. During these years the Italian Chapter has been growing in its members and has organized 4 national meetings, published a Journal in Italian language to allow young researchers to make their works known. I made a web site for SPR Italia www.psychomedia/spr-it. I think I gave a valid contribution to all these matters. I am a Medical Doctor, Psychiatrist, Psychotherapist; Director of Mental Health Service Valcannuta in Rome. Co-Director of High School of Cognitive Psychotherapy (S.P.C.) in Reggio Calabria (Director Prof. Francesco Mancini); I attended a training course in cognitive therapy having Antonio Semerari as supervisor. The approach was that of the Italian typical cognitivism with particularly attention to attachment theory, to therapeutic relationship and metacognitive functions.

Research:
Coordinator of a centre of Multicentric Research within the - Progetto Nazionale Salute Mentale 1998-2000 of Istituto Superiore di Sanità - “Multicentric Research: Loss Trauma in Dissociative disorders and Borderline Personality disorder”.
Co-coordinator of the research “Multicentric research about drop-out in Mental Health Services in Italy” National Mental Health Project 1998-2000 of High Health Service. Principal investigator of the research “The increase of metacognitive functions as index of psychotherapy efficacy” National Mental Health Project 1998-2000 of High Health Service. With my research group I instituted the III Centro di Psicoterapia Cognitiva in Rome, specialized in the research on therapeutic process of patients with PPDD. Clinical outcomes of the work were published in two books: Psicoterapia cognitiva del paziente grave, Raffaello Cortina Editore, Milano, 1999; and I disturbi di personalità, Modelli e Trattamento, Laterza, Roma, 2003. We created two tools finalized to the study of the process: the Grid of problematic states and Metacognition Assessment Scale. Concerning sessions, we created the widest data bank in Italy. Such transcribed sessions were used for cultural exchange among SPR international colleagues. Besides, I attend to personality disorders especially paranoid disorder. I develop my clinical activity on severe patients diagnosed with either psychosis or severe personality disorders.

Giuseppe Nicolò
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PD. Dr. REINER W. DAHLBENDER
Medical Doctor- Specialist in Psychiatry - Psychotherapist

I am honoured to have been nominated to serve the SPR as European President. On the occasion of the international conference in Ulm 1987 I came for the first time into contact with the SPR. The people I learned to know on this conference were so inspiring to me that I felt a strong motivation to engage myself in psychotherapy research more intensively. This had two momentous consequences: firstly, I subsequently became member of the SPR and secondly, I changed to a position at the University of Ulm. Since that time the SPR, which is dedicated to the scientific study of psychotherapy in all of its various forms, became my primary scientific affiliation. Particularly in this organisation I personally experienced the spirit of internationality, and multidisciplinarity, a broadly varied scientific authority, and the helpfulness among friends. Therefore it gives me pleasure for years to be a
member of the scientific board of the Psychotherapy Research and serve the SPR as a faithful and fair reviewer.

From 1973/1976 to 1980/1983 I studied medicine as well as sociology, social psychology and political sciences at the Justus-Liebig University at Giessen (Germany). Afterwards I went through a neurological-psychiatric training, and a full psychodynamic-psychoanalytic specialization. Since 1990 I am assistant medical director at the department for Psychosomatic Medicine and Psychotherapy at the University of Ulm (Head: Professor Dr. med. H. Kächele), where I run both out-patient and in-patient services but mainly developed a broad range of consultation- and liaison services. I established several collaborative task forces throughout the hospital and the university, and national, and international co-operations in the area of psychotherapy research and psychosomatics. Ongoing clinical practise with psychiatric, and psychosomatic in- and outpatients in single-, and group-settings for more than 25 years is still a pivotal resource for all my activities in research, and teaching.

I started my empirical research interests with activities in medical sociology where I got my doctoral thesis dealing with a micro-sociological issue about professional orientations of hospital nurses. As psychotherapy research could show that the therapeutic relationship is crucial for change and mental recovery, at Ulm I started focussing on the - for a long time well-known - regulative impact and significance of interpersonal relations on the genesis and severity as well as on the process of therapeutic change of mentally caused or influenced diseases. Initially I addressed my research greatly to the development of qualitative approaches, above all to methods for the identification of maladaptive relationship patterns and for the measurement of change in the therapeutic process (e. g. Core Confictual Relationship Theme, Defense Mechanism Rating Scale, Mastery Scale, Psychodynamic Functioning Scales, Quantitative Assessment of Interpersonal Themes etc.). Among other things, I was part of a multicentre research project that examined associations between the repertoire of transference patterns and the severity of the mental illness among young neurotic women using the CCRT approach. Since 1992 I have been very intensively engaged in the development of the Operationalized Psychodynamic Diagnostics (OPD) that has been translated into English, Italian and Hungarian up to now, while a Spanish translation is in progress. In this context, for instance, I was involved in the development of a Screening instrument for the indication of psychotherapeutic interventions for physically ill persons. Beyond that I developed questionnaires, for instance to depict central relationship patterns or to discriminate different types of attachment.

Over the years I have acquired manifold methodical-statistical experiences with the evaluation of categorial and ordinal scaled variables, in particular with small samples. Numerous of these experiences entered my elaborate post-doctoral thesis. Investigating the impact of internalised conflicts, there defense and mastery as well as the psychic structure of female in-patients on the severity of their mental symptoms I developed by means of different qualitative approaches and innovative statistic procedures a model of the severity of mental disturbances. At present I conduct a large single-case study on a psychoanalytic long-time treatment investigating relationship patterns and mastery.

From 1996 to 2000 I was the coordinator of the psychooncological task force within the research program "Hereditary Breast- and Ovarian Cancer" of the German Cancer Aid. In 2000 I received the research price of the Cancer Federation of the federal state of Baden-Wuerttemberg for an investigation about patient-decision-making in the oncology. Till this day I contributed to fundraising activities in co-operation projects to more than 1 million €. I am one of the three member of the executive committee of the OPD and member of a number of scientific societies. Beyond that I am on the board of several national and international journals (e. g. Psychotherapy Research, Ricerca in Psicoterpapia) and at the same time consultant for also international fund givers (e. g., MIUR - Italia). For many years I have been involved in the training of medicine and psychology students as well as in the training of
psychotherapists, psychoanalysts and physicians of different medical areas. As a lecturer, especially as an OPD trainer, I have been invited nearly all over Europe (A, CH, F, GR, H, I, N, NL). I held approximately 250 lectures and wrote almost 150 publications.

If elected as European President I would make a central ambition to increase discourse between the "old continent" SPR members in order to implement clinical and methodological standards in diagnostics and therapy evaluation. The amplifying of European research exchange should frame proposals that apply for EU funding.

Reiner Dahlbender
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*** SPR BALLOT ***

Select one candidate to serve as
President of the European Chapter of the Society for Psychotherapy Research:

( ) Giuseppe Nicolò

( ) Reiner Dahlbender

Please return your ballot by **29.03.2004** (Deadline!!) to insure that it is included in the results.

Send e-mail to
spr_ballot@f-juen.net

and type in your vote
! note that your are only allowed to send one vote!

or mail the printed form to

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