
IARPP eNEWS

An Electronic Periodical of the
International Association for Relational Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis
Volume 3, Number 1 — Fall 2004

President's Column

by Stuart A. Pizer, Ph.D., ABPP

Memories of our rich and successful Biennial Conference in the lovely setting of Santa Monica continue to roll like a California wave through the summer. Philip Ringstrom, Jody Davies, and Spyros Orfanos deserve our sustained congratulations for the vision of a truly comparative psychoanalytic dialogue about relational clinical work as well as our appreciation for the massive efforts, the devotion of time, and challenges to the nervous system inherent in producing such a major program. Our thanks extend to the significant work of Valerie Ghent, IARPP's Administrator (also a gifted singer and daughter of Mannie Ghent), who generously offered to help fill in after Mannie died, and stayed to establish herself as a mainstay of IARPP's functioning.

Plans already are well under way for the IARPP Conference to be held in Rome, Italy from

June 23-26, 2005. The conference theme, "Unconscious Experience: Relational Perspectives," the setting in a 17th Century architectural gem in the heart of Rome, and the able stewardship of Gianni Nebbiosi and Emanuel Berman all promise an exciting experience ahead. Barbara Pizer and Hazel Ipp, co-chairs of the 2006 IARPP Biennial Conference, January 26-29 in Boston, MA, are creating a program that will extend the reach of relational thinking, including participation on panels by new contributors along with our seminal thinkers.

Speaking of foundational thinkers in Relational Psychoanalysis, the next Online Colloquium sponsored by the Continuing Education Committee (Margaret Crastnopol, chair; Anthony Bass and Spyros Orfanos, co-chairs) will honor the work of Emmanuel Ghent with a study of his extraor-

dinary paper "Masochism, Submission, Surrender." This Colloquium, available to all IARPP members, will run from Nov. 1 through Nov. 21, and will include as panelists: Dodi Goldman, Adrienne Harris, Tony Bass, Paul Williams, Jeremy Safran, Mark Epstein, David Scharff, and Stuart Pizer. The

Continued on Page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Upcoming Web Seminar with Anthony Bass

Report on the Second Biannual IARPP Conference by *Spyros Orfanos*

Seminar for Continuing Training in Contemporary Relational Psychoanalysis with *Joseph Lichtenberg*, Barcelona, Spain

Report from the Membership Committee by *Neil Altman & Steven Knoblauch*

Introductory Panel Report from the April 2004 Conference by *Doris Silverman*

S. Pizer, Continued from Page 1

early winter Colloquium, to be announced, will focus on a paper selected in conjunction with IARPP's Inclusivity Committee (Lynne Layton, chair).

I am very pleased to announce that an IARPP membership benefit I had hoped to launch last year has indeed become a reality. The Writer's Development Project (now chaired by Jody Davies and co-chaired by Steven Cooper and Susi Federico-Nebbiosi) has received, and met, several requests from members engaged in writing projects for linking with pro bono writing mentors from among IARPP's intellectual leadership. Do

hold in mind that this valuable resource for the cultivation of a writing project is available to IARPP members as a privilege of membership... and contact Jody Davies (DAVIESJM@aol.com) or Val Ghent (vghent@psychoanalysis.net) if you wish to request a writing mentor.

Neil Altman and Steven Knoblauch have graciously agreed to co-chair an IARPP Membership Committee. They have assembled a strong international committee to foster various dimensions of our membership life. Look for their column elsewhere in this issue of the eNews.

Finally, as I approach the half-way mark in my two year tenure as President, I want to reiterate my commitment to advancing IARPP's mission—as expressed by its founders and set in motion by Lewis Aron, our first President—to build a truly inclusive, democratic, participatory international community for Relational Psychoanalysis. As one step toward that end, and through the work of Val Ghent

with kind consultations by Larry Zelnick, we are currently engaged in setting up technology tools appropriate to IARPP that should be in operation soon for the use of our members only, including a directory, chat rooms (where, for example, continuing conversations about our colloquia and conferences can be held), a bulletin board for announcements of general interest, etc. I also enthusiastically support the establishment of an online version of our biennial conferences so that IARPP members (and, indeed, non-members as well) who cannot readily travel to a conference location may still avail themselves of as much of a conference as our available technology can convey. In a more general sense, I anticipate over time a broader international proprietorship for IARPP and, as we proceed to build the committee, governance, and programmatic structures of IARPP—its full skeleton and functioning systems—more opportunities for IARPP members to join actively in developing the life of our Association. ❖

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IARPP eNews

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Save The Dates:

- *Memorial for Emmanuel Ghent at New York University, Sunday November 21, 2004 — For more information contact Debbie Birnbaum at: drbirnbaum@att.net*
- *IARPP Rome Conference June 23 - June 26, 2005: "Unconscious experience: Relational Perspectives / L'esperienza Inconscia: Prospettive Relazionali" - Rome, Italy — Pre-registration will begin January 1, 2005*

WEB FORUM SEMINAR WITH ANTHONY BASS

WHOSE UNCONSCIOUS IS IT ANYWAY? UNCONSCIOUS EXPERIENCE IN THE PSYCHOANALYTIC RELATIONSHIP

Our next web-based seminar will be taught by Anthony Bass, and is titled: ***Whose unconscious is it anyway? Unconscious experience in the psychoanalytic relationship.*** The seminar coordinator will be Larry Zelnick.

The seminar will begin on September 27 and will run until October 25. These seminars are limited to a maximum enrollment of 20 participants and they fill up quickly. For this reason, priority will be given to those who have not participated in previous seminars.

Reading material will be posted on the website once the seminar begins.

This seminar series will be conducted via easy-to-use web-based seminar rooms provided by ***The Psychoanalytic Connection***. In these web-based seminars all the communications are posted in a private web-accessible e-classroom, rather than sent via email to each participant's individual-email box. In other words, it is a web-forum, bulletin-board structure. The limit on the number of participants along with the web-forum structure allows these seminars to provide greater opportunity for personal contact and open discussion among the seminar participants, along with facilitating a sense of shared participation and joint activity.

The seminar will run for 4 weeks. The first of the 4 weeks will be an introduction to online learning devoted to giving participants a chance to become familiar with the web-forum medium.

Remember, there will be a limit of 20 participants per seminar, and sign up will be on a first-come first-serve basis. So please keep your eyes open for the registration announcement. If you do not get into this seminar, please do not get frustrated. A number of other seminars are already scheduled and others are being planned.

FUTURE SEMINARS SCHEDULED INCLUDE:

- Joseph Schwartz: ***Science and psychoanalysis: What are the real issues?***
- Daniel Shaw: ***On the therapeutic action of analytic love: Exploring the analyst's love in theory and practice***
- Andrew Samuels: ***Jungian analysis today***
- Adrienne Harris: ***Envy, pleasure and danger: Women's conflictual relationship to ambition, aggression and envy.***

Unpacking the Clinical Moment: IARPP's Historic Second Biennial Conference

By Spyros D. Orfanos

We live in a psychoanalytic era that offers an overwhelming number of conferences. Clinicians and scholars are often confused by the dazzling choices they have. But not all conferences are created equal. Those able to attend the Second Biennial Conference of the IARPP, "Unpacking the Clinical Moment: Continuities and Discontinuities between Relational Theory and other Psychoanalytic Perspectives" experienced an unusual treat. According to one attendee, "The conference was tremendously provocative and compelling. My knowledge is widened and my commitment to the work I do is deepened."

The conference was in two parts: (1) optional pre-conference Master Classes, and (2) the Main Conference. Part 1 was designed to offer basic grounding in relational theory and practice and featured 37 internationally renowned presenters. Part 2 was designed to focus on comparative psychoanalysis and featured four detailed case presentations by distinguished psychoanalysts Emanuel Berman, Sue Grand, Adrienne Harris, and Malcolm O. Slavin. Substantive discussions followed each of the clinical presentations. "I'm

thrilled that IARPP has come into existence. The intellectual stimulation created by having so many of the mothers and fathers of this movement participate and raise questions during the discussion was one of the best parts of the conference," commented one registrant.

The conference was chaired by Phillip A. Ringstrom, who worked closely with co-chairs Jody Messler Davies and Spyros D. Orfanos to design a strong organizing theme: the continuities and discontinuities in theory and clinical practice between Freudian theory, Kleinian theory, Self-Psychological theory, Jungian and Lacanian theories, and the Relational perspective. In addition, the historical contributions of British Object Relations theory and Interpersonal theory were examined. On opening night of the Main Conference the film *Real Women Have Curves* was viewed and discussed. The two closing panels of the conference addressed points of integration among all the theories introduced over the weekend and the future of the relational perspective respectively.

The conference, held at the elegant Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel from April 29 to

May 2 of 2004, attracted 527 registrants from over a dozen countries. A remarkable 23% of the registrants were either enrolled in graduate school or in psychoanalytic training programs. One-third of the attendees were members of the IARPP. There was such a youthful and energetic air about all participants that one senior analyst commented on how refreshing this was for a psychoanalytic meeting. Another analyst remarked, "I felt a strong sense of community," conveying the collegial and collective atmosphere of the entire event.

Athens may have had the Olympics in late summer, but Santa Monica had the Second Biennial Conference of the IARPP in late spring. Both were history making.

For audio tapes or CDs of the Santa Monica IARPP Master Classes and the Main Conference contact Content Management Corp. at 818.957.0874 or on the web at www.softconference.com/240429. Rome, Italy will be the setting for the next IARPP conference. It is scheduled for June 23-26, 2005. In an effort to continue the encouragement of young and fresh voices, housing can be arranged for students. Information will follow. ❖

**INAUGURAL CONFERENCE OF THE SECOND SEMINAR FOR CONTINUING TRAINING
IN CONTEMPORARY RELATIONAL PSYCHOANALYSIS (2004-5) with J. LICHTENBERG**

**Sponsored by IARPP/Barcelona and ISIPSe
(Istituto di Specializzazione
in Psicologia Psicoanalitica del Sé e Psicoanalisi Relazionale - Italy)**

Friday 1st October & Saturday 2nd October
Conference room of FIATC (Diagonal 648, Barcelona)
Conference to be held in English and Spanish

*APPROACHING THE DIFFICULT PATIENT: WHAT THEORIES HELP
THE THERAPIST? WHAT TECHNIQUES HELP THE PATIENT?*

Friday 1st October

—8:00 PM - 8:15 PM : Introduction to the Conference:
Gianni Nebbiosi, Francesc Sainz and Ramon Riera

—8:15 PM - 9:00 PM: Round table discussing the summary of Joseph Lichtenberg, Frank Lachmann and James Fosshage's ***A Spirit of Inquiry: Communication in Psychoanalysis***
Participants: Alejandro Ávila, Víctor Hernández, Eulàlia Torras, Joseph Lichtenberg
Chair: Valentín Barenblit

Saturday 2nd October

—9:30-11:00 PM: Joseph Lichtenberg: *Discovering who we have come to be for each other by the "wearing of attributions"*

Discussant: Gianni Nebbiosi (Rome)
Chair: Nicola Ciccone (Rome)

—Noon - 2:00 PM: Joseph Lichtenberg: *Bringing the theater of the mind into the patient-therapist dyad ---- transference, enactment, and model scenes*

Discussant: Hugo Bleichmar (Madrid)
Chair: Rosa Royo

—4:00 PM - 6:00 PM: Joseph Lichtenberg: *The therapist speaks ---- from the patient's perspective, from the therapist's perspective, and via disciplined spontaneous engagements*

Discussant: Joan Coderch (Barcelona)
Chair: Rosa Velasco

To register, or for more information, please send an email to: iarpp-barcelona@comb.es
in which you specify your name, postal address, and email address

The registration fee is 90 Euro.

You can transfer money to the bank account: 2100-3298-05-2200057480

Organizing committee: Cristina Bonucci, Nicola Ciccone, Susanna Federici, Catalina Munar, Gianni Nebbiosi, Ramon Riera, Ana Rodríguez, Pepita Rodríguez Molinet, Rosa Royo, Francesc Sainz, Mariangela Tempestini, Rosa Velasco.

Report from the IARPP Membership Committee

Neil Altman and Steven Knoblauch, Co-chairs

We are in the process of organizing a membership committee. Following is the charge to the committee from Stuart Pizer, IARPP President:

The IARPP Membership Committee will be co-chaired and consist of sufficient members to represent geographic and professional distribution of IARPP membership and to perform the tasks of the committee. The co-chairs will serve a liaison/consultation function for the administrator and will report to the Executive Committee, particularly the Treasurer and President, who may request the co-chairs to bring budgetary or policy issues to the Board for discussion and/or vote.

The tasks of the Membership Committee shall include:

- Recruitment of new members, outreach, and encouragement of IARPP related regional activities and communication.
- Support for the formation of Local Chapters.
- Consultation on questions pertaining to membership status, including but not limited to: requests for dues reductions by individuals or population groups; dues status of student, retired, or disabled members; terminations of membership; communication with non-renewing or dues-delinquent members; advice and support for the administrator regarding “lost” members (e.g. invalid email addresses, members who relocate).
- Advice on form, access, protections, and use for membership database and direc-

tory.

- Consideration of requests from other entities (e.g., publishers, other associations) for trade or sale of our membership lists.
- Consideration of membership benefits.

Following are members who have so far agreed to serve on the committee. Others may be added in the near future.

Neil Altman (New York, USA)
Steven Knoblauch (New York, USA)
Shelly Petnov-Sherman (New York, USA)
Karen Rosica (Denver, USA)
M. Pia Roggero (Milan, Italy)
Susie Orbach (London, UK)
Marilyn MetzI (Kansas City, USA)
Margaret Black (New York, USA)
Jeremy Safran (New York, USA)
Randy Sorenson (Los Angeles, USA)
Tessa Phillips (Sydney, Australia)
Holly Levenkron (Boston, USA)
Maureen Murphy (San Francisco, USA)
Chana Ullman (Rehovot, Israel)
Renato Barauna (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)
Susi Nebbiosi (Rome, Italy)
Valerie Ghent (NYC, USA)

If you have any questions about the membership committee, or would like any information about setting up a local chapter or organizing local activities, please contact either of the co-chairs, Neil Altman at neilaltman@hotmail.com, or Steven Knoblauch at sk@psychoanalysis.net.❖

Continuities and Discontinuities Between Contemporary Freudian Theory and the Relational Perspective

Introductory Panel, IARPP Conference, April-May 2004

Moderator: Doris Silverman

Presenter: Emanuel Berman

Discussants: Stephen Portuges and Steve Ellman

By Doris Silverman, Ph.D.

Placing relational thinking in its historical context, Doris Silverman, the moderator of the panel, provided a brief historical view of precursors to current relational views. She also briefly addressed the two different theoretical positions offered by the Freudian discussants of Emanuel Berman's case, locating them in the historical context she offered.

Emanuel Berman presented a case of a man who had difficulty relating.

Using another discourse it could be said that the patient had an avoidant as well as a disorganized attachment. The former suggests that the patient's affects and schemas are organized around negative and disappointing experiences, and the pursuit of an idealized relationship (to his analyst), to be found in a wished-for perfect world that will transform him. Consistent with this attachment style is the dominance of violent, aggressive experiences, sometimes acted out, more often restricted to fantasies. Whereas sadomasochistic fantasies exist, the patient demonstrates the masochistic, victim position.

The unpredictability of his environment, the inhuman, more mechanical view of people, his fears of losing his mind, and the fog-like dissociated states

reflect a disorganized attachment relationship. Much of these experiences suggest the patient's difficulties with self-regulation. His anxiety rapidly escalates and he can't contain it. He experiences panic states and annihilation anxiety. Competitive grandiose tendencies can't be contained, and denigration follows to help him deal with out-of-control affect states.

The complicating analytic focus was on ways to attend to an enormous threat that relationships offered (breakdown and fear of madness) and the great need for affiliation, close contact and intimacy. People burden him as he assumes the caring role only to be disappointed and feel exploited. He regularly withdraws from the analytic interaction, feeling guarded,

Continued on Next Page

EDITOR'S NOTE:
The IARPP Spring Meeting 2004 was organized around four case presentations by Relational analysts followed by discussion from alternate theoretical points of view. The Moderators of those panels have provided summaries of the deliberations- the first of which appears in this issue. The remaining panels will appear in subsequent issues.❖

Silverman, Continued from Page 7
suspicious, and negative. Positive, friendly overtures are regularly turned into potential disappointments followed by memories of past hurts and humiliations.

Berman's approach was to stay close to the material the patient offered. He was cautious in providing interpretation; he avoided self-disclosure as long as his patient continued his own avoidant responses. Berman encouraged buds of intersubjective interest and capacity. He regularly helped the patient notice both positive and negative features of their interaction, highlighting to the audience that libidinal and aggressive fantasies both reflected a beginning connection to his analyst. Interpretations, however, are often experienced as super-ego criticisms—the patient reacted with pain and despair, responding that his problems are deep-rooted. He often presented Berman with a no-win situation; for example, he does not want Emanuel to offer medication, yet if Emanuel does not then he is unappreciative of his suffering. Such stuck-ness, with little hope for help and care, leaves

the patient feeling desperate about his emotional situation. Emanuel fears that his patient is caught between the fear and wish to engage: to engage is experienced as an act of submission, but the other side leaves him detached, deeply alone, fearful and isolated in an unreal world.

Stephen Portuges is more closely aligned to the work of Paul Gray. Thus libidinal wishes of a sexual and aggressive nature and their affective components are the major motivational forces in the patient's mind. The careful analysis of the patient's defenses is the main arena of the psychoanalytic process. In such a setting there is a focus on the mind of the patient as reflected through close process analysis of the manifest content of the patient's mind. Portuges pays careful attention to any disturbances that hinder the patient's communications. As he comments, "I am committed to helping her appreciate the components of conflict that are signaled by observable and reportable alterations in the flow of her narrative: silences, inappropriate affect, obvious avoidance of topics,

rituals, lateness, missing hours, or not paying are typical indications that, among other things, the patient may show what she is troubled about telling." Knowledge about one's defenses for Portuges and Gray provides tools for the patient that can offer self-understanding. This allows thoughtful work to proceed after one's analysis is completed.

Describing Portuges's view in theoretical terms I would say that his case formulation underscored the mother's repeated abandonments early in the patient's life—that is, the loss of the libidinal love object with ensuing aggression, reinforced by the patient's experience of physical restraints in infancy. His repeated beatings at the hands of an older brother enhanced his tendency to experience his world sado-masochistically. His suspicious, mistrustfulness (paranoid anxieties) defended against his passive conflicted homoerotic and libidinal wishes

Portuges's focus on process highlights the drive derivatives he believes are operative and he selected a couple of examples to demonstrate

Continued on Next Page

Silverman, Continued from Page 8
his viewpoint. He addressed the patient's aggression, and then offered a different approach than Berman's. For example, the patient presents a fantasy of remaining in the bathroom while his analyst waits for him and he refuses to enter the consultation room. The patient notes with curiosity that such ideas as tormenting his analyst never emerge when he is on the couch. Berman offers the idea to the patient that such a fantasy "signifies revenge for his neediness toward me, which he finds humiliating; and possibly it expresses a wish that I experience a similar vulnerability to his own." The following session the patient recalls a memory of humiliation at the hands of his father.

Consistent with Portuges' position, he suggests an alternative handling of this situation. First he would explore the

transference implications of this bathroom fantasy, that is, "what is it about being on the couch that makes having that fantasy difficult?" Wherein lies the conscious danger for the patient? Second, Portuges maintains that the patient's dependency stirs humiliation. The patient copes with his passive longing through defensive activity (reversal)—the analyst then becomes the worried, helpless, confused one, waiting for the patient in the bathroom and not knowing what to do. Rather than an understanding of this defense, the patient recalls another experience of humiliation. Portuges sees the possible "iatrogenic consequences" of a failure to address "the defensive and affective components of conflicted compromise formations." Portuges does not address what the possible "iatrogenic consequences" might be. He may be right about such sequelae; however, it also may be a function of theory, analogous to the once-purported conviction that a removal of a phobic reaction leads to another symptom replacing it. (This difference also has earmarks of the contentious discussion

about Freud's intervention with the Rat Man, when he completed the patient's statement about the rats boring "into the anus"; a statement that made the patient too anxious to complete. Lipton suggests that the controversy "reflects a new definition of technique which places more emphasis on the behavior of the analyst than on technique..." One can say, as does Lipton, that in this instance Berman's patient did return the following day and recalled an instance of humiliation, acknowledging the underlying conflict that he was defending against.) Of course, it is only the careful scrutiny of subsequent interactions between the patient and analyst that can provide an answer to these different points of view. In addition, it is the relational emphasis on the explicit and implicit behavior of the analyst and its impact on shaping the patient's transference, regardless of the analyst's conscious intent, that has become relevant for further dialogue. Both discussants voiced their point of view as representing a contemporary Freudian perspective, yet they were quite different. Such divergences

Continued on Next Page

2005 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

We will be starting 2005 IARPP membership renewals in October. New members can join early and receive three months free membership.

Silverman, Continued from Page 9

might reflect what Victoria Hamilton has written about contemporary Freudians. Their work reflects considerable eclecticism. That certainly is there in Steve Ellman's presentation. He uses concepts and ideas drawn from self-psychology, Winnicott's work and the writings of Klein and Bion. For example, a key ingredient for Ellman is the necessity to establish a "consistent and utilizable transference." To achieve this goal he uses constructs drawn from the work of Kohut, Bion, and Winnicott. From Kohut he uses the idea of the analyst's empathic immersion in the analysand's experience. From Bion and Winnicott he draws on the constructs of containment and the holding environment. In Ellman's words, "The analyst must be able to feel the anxiety, turmoil and psychic pain the patient is experiencing and be able to communicate this in a way that it becomes a shared analytic experience." He is opposed to early interpretation, especially with narcissistic and borderline patients, and instead suggests providing a holding environment of containment of the primitive

elements of the patient's experience. When the affect is returned to the patient it has to be detoxified. There appears to be less of a model of reciprocal interactions, characteristic of relational thinking, in that Ellman maintains that the patient needs a "one person field in the analytic situation." In addi-

tion, he suggests that with narcissistic patients, the initial stage of treatment is not likely to be characterized by enactments. When enactments occur it is more likely around negative and destructive tendencies within the patient. It would appear then that Ellman maintains a model

Continued on Next Page

Online Colloquium: ***A Fresh Look at Emmanuel Ghent's "Masochism, Submission, Surrender"***

Running Dates: Nov.1 through Nov.21

Panelists: Dodi Goldman, Adrienne Harris, Stuart Pizer, Tony Bass, Paul Williams, Jeremy Safran, Mark Epstein, and David Scharf.

Moderators: Peggy Crastnopol and Spyros Orfanos

Description:

The IARPP will post Ghent's original paper and recent brief commentaries by each of the panelists as a jumping off point for considering the widespread reverberations of Ghent's classic paper and other work. The discussion will highlight Ghent's influence on and interface with contemporary Winnicottian theory, dynamic systems theory, concepts of paradox and bridging, and Zen Buddhism, among other areas.

- Open to all current IARPP members***
- All current members will receive email notification about the colloquium***

Silverman, Continued from Page 10

of the analyst's conscious control of the interactions, at least in the early phase of treatment of the more disturbed patient.

In contrast Berman focuses on and is responsive to the relational pulls he experiences. For example, when the patient comments that he doesn't know his analyst, Berman reminds him that he saw the analyst and probably has impressions, Ellman understands this material differently. He suggests that the patient is trying to rid himself of a particular, unacceptable affect and he would begin to address that with the patient. Ellman also challenges the use of genetic rather than here and now transference interpretations. Like Winnicott, he believes that the patient needs to create the analyst that he needs and reconstructive comments minimize this possibility. Ellman's comments are not antithetical to a relational perspective. It is the exploration of the experience of the analyst's interventions and their meanings that is salient. It is also the problem of a brief slice of analytic work characteristic of presentations.

Ellman also warns about the treatment coalescing around the idea of the patient as a traumatized victim, thereby reducing the possibility of exploring the patient's transference as well as his grandiosity that is also in evidence.

Ellman, above all, appears to focus on the affective experience of the patient and how the analyst's task is to elucidate such experiences for the patient. This idea seems to be consistent with the view of some contemporary Kleinians', such as Betty Joseph who focus on the avoidance of psychic pain and the necessity of bringing it to conscious awareness.

Lively interactions among the panel members ensued, with discussions of differences in relation to motivational theory, views of transference versus reality, enactments, and the role of aggression in the process of treatment. Finally, there were continued elaborations of positions as questions were raised by the audience. ❖

www.iarpp.org

Members are encouraged to visit the IARPP website at www.iarpp.org. An online directory is in the works, and colloquium archives are available as well. All IARPP email announcements will be archived on the site at www.iarpp.org/html/resources/eannouncements.cfm in case any member wishes to check for messages missed or accidentally deleted.

SOLVING EMAIL PROBLEMS

Members are reminded that spam filters on Hotmail, America Online, and Yahoo may be deleting IARPP announcements as junk mail (this may be true for other internet providers as well). If you believe you are not receiving IARPP email announcements, you may wish to consider adding a filter to your email. You can create a filter to allow any email with '**IARPP**' in the "Subject" line, or '**IARPP-Announce**' in the "From" line to be sent to your inbox. You can also check your junk mail or spam preferences settings within your email account. It may be necessary to contact your internet service provider if you have continued difficulties. ❖