



From The Director...

August 2016

"Restoring humanity to life"



Many times I am left speechless at the ongoing spate of misleading media reports regarding "mental illness". It is frustrating to read these articles and see how a DSM diagnosis is held up as an explanation for unusual or eccentric behavior, the most recent example has been violence. It does nothing but stigmatize individuality, ignore important personal meaning, and confuse issues. Join us this October at our conference in Portland Oregon, where we will address this problem of how the mental health system has overlooked the value of individual people this way and instead turns the incredible variety of individuals into caricatures of disease. I hope to see you there!

Chuck Ruby, Ph.D.

Only a Few Weeks to Go!

There are only a few weeks to go before our 19th annual conference. Hurry and [register](#), and don't forget to [reserve your hotel room](#) and make travel arrangements. We have a stellar line up of speakers and breakout sessions all focused on the title, "Individuals Matter: Building a Better Science for Psychology and Psychiatry". You can read more about the conference by clicking on the "Conference 2016" link at the top left of www.psychintegrity.org.

Pre-Conference Membership Drive

There are special benefits to becoming an ISEPP member during these months leading up to our 19th Annual [October conference in Portland](#). In addition to the benefits listed at <http://psychintegrity.org/joinrenew/>, if you join us now, you will receive a reduced fee for the conference, in addition to 1) extended membership through the end of 2017; 2) all three issues of 2017 (Volume 19) of our peer-reviewed journal, *Ethical Human Psychology and Psychiatry (EHPP)*, published by Springer Publishers; and 3) immediate online

access to ALL current and past issues of *EHPP*. Join us now by going to <http://psychintegrity.org/joinrenew/>.

Requesting Ethical Guidance from the APAs on the DSM

As you all know, the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders (DSM – latest edition #5 published in 2013) is woefully invalid and unreliable. In fact, in 2013 the outgoing Director of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) and the Director who held office from 1996 to 2001 publicly denounced the manual as unscientific. The outgoing Director said it lacked validity and the previous Director said it was a "scientific nightmare." Consequently, NIMH stopped using DSM diagnoses in grant requests. Still, health insurance companies require a DSM diagnosis on all claims. This places practitioners in a difficult ethical dilemma. In order to provide services to people who use health insurance a DSM diagnosis must be given, yet using an invalid and unscientific diagnostic instrument is unethical.

I will be drafting a letter on behalf of ISEPP about this dilemma to the ethics offices of the American Psychological Association and the American Psychiatric Association, asking them for guidance. I don't expect any real guidance to be forthcoming. My intention is to press the issue about why we continue to use an unscientific instrument to diagnose people with fake diseases. If anyone knows of other organizations who would like to join ISEPP in this, let me know.

New Editor-in-Chief of *EHPP*

Brian Kean, Ph.D. and Leighton Whitaker, Ph.D. retired from their positions of Editor-in-Chief and Co-Editor, respectively, of our peer-reviewed journal [*Ethical Human Psychology and Psychiatry*](#). They both worked several years to make EHPP a premier outlet for professional and academic ideas outside the mainstream of psychology and psychiatry. They are leaving after working hard to publish issue 18(1), in which our ISEPP White Papers appear for the first time. There are three White Papers (another one is in the works). The topics are: Psychiatric Drugs and Violence; Brain Scan Research; and Efficacy of Psychiatric Drugs. This is a stellar issue!

On the heels of Brian's and Leighton's retirements, Co-Editor Jim Tucker, Ph.D., has taken the reigns to keep our journal operations on track. Further, I am please to announce that one of our newer editorial staff members, Jackie Sparks, Ph.D., has agreed to take over as our new Editor-in-Chief effective January 1, 2017! Jackie is an ideal candidate for the position and hails from the University of Rhode Island. In the meantime, Jackie and Jim are working together to ensure the publication of 18(2) and (3) before the end of the year and to reorganize the editorial staff. They are both doing a fantastic job!

I ask that you all share this newsletter and other ISEPP information through your social networking sites. Also, make sure to visit our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages. Feel free to contact me at docruby@me.com or 301-646-6022 if you have any questions or suggestions.

Best wishes,



Chuck



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