



From The Director...

November 2016

"Restoring humanity to life"



Chuck Ruby, Ph.D.
Executive Director

For those of you who are ISEPP members, you are well aware of the heated exchange we recently had on our listserv regarding the aftermath of the U.S. presidential election. I want to say a few words about this in order to clarify ISEPP's mission and hopefully avoid divisiveness that could damage ISEPP's effectiveness. Whereas I can easily understand how this happened because of the rancorous nature of the recent presidential campaign, we must remember our [mission statement](#) makes it clear that we are not affiliated with any political or religious group. This stipulation is necessary to maintain an inclusive membership and to focus our

Dear ISEPP members and friends,

2017 Membership Drive

I again encourage all ISEPP members to [renew](#) your membership for 2017 and for those of you who are not members to [join now](#). Please take the time to review the benefits of signing up now for 2017. In addition to the benefits listed at <http://psychintegrity.org/joinrenew/>, if you join us now, you will receive: 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/!](http://psychintegrity.org/joinrenew/)

In the News

You are all aware of our [In the News](#) section on ISEPP's webpage. It is intended to be a platform for sharing with the public ISEPP's comments and critiques of popular news items that present a misleading message about "mental illness". This was part of our efforts with the creation in 2015 of our Research and Public Education committee, but a big problem has been in finding the time

precious resources on the task at hand - a scientific critique of the conventional mental health system, regardless of politics. Turning our attention toward political disagreements among us, whether on the listserv or elsewhere, will only serve to dilute our strength in pursuing this mission. Let's instead join together to fight this authoritarian, inhumane, and harmful system.

to coordinate this effort so that we can maintain a consistent and timely posting of our ideas. Well, that problem has been resolved! One of our Board members, [Joanne Cacciatore](#), has generously agreed to be the coordinator of [In the News](#). The strategy is for Joanne to canvas social media, national and local news outlets, and professional journals with the idea of identifying articles that perpetuate the myth of mental illness. She will then contact one of the ISEPP people (6 so far) who have volunteered to write a response to the article. It will be published as a commentary on the original site, in addition to being posted at ISEPP's In the News and as a link on our Facebook/Twitter accounts. This should significantly expand our voice. If you are interested in volunteering as a writer, [let me know](#). Writers must be ISEPP members.

Mad in America CEUs

One of our sister organizations, [Mad in America](#) (Robert Whitaker's brainchild) has started a continuing education program that would be useful for some ISEPP members. The most recent course is by Adam Urato, an OB-GYN at Tufts Medical, entitled Antidepressants and Pregnancy. He will basically be addressing research on correlations between the mothers's antidepressant use and adverse outcomes for the fetus and newborn infant. If you are interested, [go here to read more about](#) this and other CEU opportunities.

Thanks to ISEPP

At this time of the year many of us pause and take inventory of our lives, and we try to notice the things we are thankful for. One of the things I am personally thankful for is ISEPP. I stumbled upon ISEPP at a time in my professional career when I was increasingly questioning the conventional medical model and receiving a lot of criticism from my colleagues. In ISEPP, I found a fresh home of like-minded rebels, and further, ISEPP's rebellion

was based on scientific inquiry. But ISEPP is not just a social community where we can share our common concerns, it is also protection for those of us who are professionals and subject to state and guild demands of practice. In the face of this, it is a wonderful thing to be able to point to many other respected and tenured professionals who reject the medical model too. These include such luminaries in the field as Bert Karon, David Cohen, Grace Jackson, Bruce Levine, Ty Colbert, Ron Leifer, and Tom Greening. But just as important as these seasoned ISEPP members, we also have brilliant newer members such as Mary Vieten, Noel Hunter, Joanne Cacciatore, Laura Delano, Michele Paiva, and Josef Witt-Doerring. They are the ones who will carry us into the future and ensure ISEPP remains a welcoming home for those who dare rebel.

As always, 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



psychintegrity@gmail.com
PO Box 15120 - Washington, DC - 20003

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