"Restoring humanity to life"

Dear ISEPP members and friends,

**Farewell David Jacobs**

It is with heavy heart that ISEPP mourns the loss of one of its best. David H. Jacobs, Ph.D., died November 29th. David was a great colleague and friend, and he truly knew what it meant to treat people like fellow human beings instead of patients. His approach in helping people in turmoil was to infuse his work with respect and humanity, the exact opposite of what happens in today's authoritarian and impersonal mental health system. In David's words, "We can only grasp how an individual's experience affected him by getting to know him. Individuals are affected by their experiences individualistically." Farewell David, you will be sorely missed.

**2017 Membership Drive**

We are just days away from the start of a new membership cycle. As a reminder, membership runs from January through December each year. I encourage all members to renew as soon as possible and for those of you who are not members to consider joining. As I've said...
before, our strength lies in our numbers. Please check out the benefits of membership at [http://psychintegrity.org/joinrenew/](http://psychintegrity.org/joinrenew/). Part of the benefits many do not realize is that as a member you will receive online access to all current and past editions of our peer-reviewed journal, *Ethical Human Psychology and Psychiatry (EHPP)*.

**ISEPP as Fiscal Sponsor of The Advance**

I mentioned in my last newsletter that our Director of Operation Speak Up, Mary Vieten, Ph.D., is spearheading the development of a new program to help war fighters suffering from the horrors of war outside the conventional medical and drug-driven model. It is called The Advance. In order to get the program off the ground immediately, ISEPP has agreed to be its fiscal sponsor so that it can start operating while still working toward incorporating as a non-profit organization itself. Look for more developments about The Advance at our [ISEPP website](http://psychintegrity.org).

**Science Tells Us How Much It Can't Tell Us**

At the October conference, I presented a short critique of the "gold standard" science regarding psychotherapy effectiveness and the so-called empirically supported treatments. From the outset, there were misunderstandings of what I was trying to express. Let me clarify. For several decades we have been pushed by a model that emphasizes science over humanism to the point of becoming an ideological scientism to "believe in", rather than a critical, skeptical endeavor, and the results of that science established laws of human nature that applied to everyone. But nothing is further from the truth. Science is important, but a humanistic approach to helping people is just as important. The conference highlighted this in its theme of "Individuals Matter". My critique was that all scientific psychological research,
even the best, is akin to stereotyping because the statistical analysis so crucial to its success is based on averages. There is no other way to compare groups or derive correlations than to compare and contrast the average of one group with the average of another (correlations are based on average deviations). So, the results only apply to the group average and not each and every individual. The actual study results confirm this with many people not reacting positively to the "better" treatment. Further, the variable being studied (e.g., a particular kind of therapy) explains only a small amount of the how people in the study react. This tells us how important it is to understand the individual we are working with and not treat them as if they were the average. Science is important in that it tells us how much it can't tell us. We have to find out the rest by getting to know the person.

**A Little Humor**

An appropriate holiday humor was shared recently on the ISEPP listserv that speaks to those of us trying to fight against a mega-profit-driven pharmaceutical industry. It came from the online satirical publication, *The Onion*. I'll just suggest you [take a look](https://www.theonion.com) yourself.

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](https://www.facebook.com) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com) pages. Feel free to contact me at [docruby@me.com](mailto:docruby@me.com) or 301-646-6022 if you have any questions or suggestions.

Best wishes and Happy New Year,