

[View this email in your browser](#)



Restoring Humanity To Life

# Bulletin

November 2018

## IN THIS ISSUE:

[Essays](#)

[Director's Column](#)

[Announcements:](#)

- ~Join Us!
- ~Psychiatry and Society - Lee Coleman
- ~Call for Papers: *EHPP*
- ~New Video Series - Parenting Today
- ~Global Mental Health Ministerial Summit
- ~Contagious Mental Disorders
- ~Comment, Like, Follow, Connect, & Review Us!

---

## ESSAYS:

[The Zombie Theory: Why Modern Day Psychiatry Should Be Ridiculed and Discarded \(Part 1\) - Randy Cima, Ph.D.](#)

[Students Claiming Mental Disabilities Should Not Be Granted Extra Time On Exams - Bruce Parady, Professor of Law](#)



#### **FROM THE DIRECTOR**

Chuck Ruby, Ph.D.

After many months of planning and dedicated efforts by members of our conference committee, ISEPP's 21st annual conference was held last month in Toronto. I want to thank our Conference Chair Mike Gilbert, along with committee members Trudi Jane Wyatt and Carolyn Kraker for doing such a superb job in making this event possible. I also want to thank Toby Watson for his audio video support, Jake Johnson and Al Galves for working the registration table and handling other on-the-spot critical needs, and Krystal Jansma for assisting in the video recording of several conference presentations.

The conference theme this year was "[Empowering Individuals and Communities: An Ethical and Holistic Approach to Wellbeing](#)." The idea was to pull together various disciplines in pointing out the power that people and communities have when dealing with the problems dubbed "mental illnesses." Also, we wanted to highlight the fact that when we approach those problems ethically, we must holistically include the person's context in order to determine the actual sources of distress, rather than relying on the threadbare idea that they are suffering from an internal dysfunction.

Over the course of three days, more than two dozen speakers presented a variety of topics ranging from how psychiatric drugs increase the risk of violent behavior like the mass shootings we are witnessing, to environmental medicine contributions in understanding problems wrongly diagnosed as mental illnesses, to the effects of family, interpersonal, and war trauma on emotional suffering. We will be posting videos of select presentations on our website soon. It is not possible to share all of the presentations here in this Bulletin, so I will mention only a few of the most notable ones below. You can see the rest of them listed in the [conference schedule](#).

The conference kicked off on Friday night during our Welcome Reception. One of our veterans of the good fight and author of "[Saving Psychiatry: Dr. Joe's Blog](#)," Joe Tarantolo, M.D., presented his ideas on the future of psychiatry, entitled "Saving Psychiatry. Saving Psychiatry?" He urged us to remember that psychological and

pharmacological research is unreliable. This leaves us with uncertainty and the humility of our biases, philosophy, and principles. He emphasized that science persuades, it does not dictate!

On Saturday morning, we were honored to hear from Jacob Blum, Fellow & Lecturer at York University, and co-chair of the York Collegium for Practical Ethics. Jacob shared his [experiences as a whistleblower in Ontario's Air Ambulance Service in 2012](#) and the effect it had on his life. Jacob's is a story of speaking truth to power, despite the potential personal and financial harm that can come from doing so. He serves as an example for all of us to emulate in our efforts at courageously speaking our truth to the power of the mental health industry.

Following Jacob was [Lisa Nagy, M.D., environmental medicine expert](#). Lisa presented her work in helping people heal from a variety of environmental toxins and allergens. Many of those people were inappropriately diagnosed with mental illnesses and later discovered to actually be suffering from real physiological reactions. Lisa's work reminds us about the importance of paying attention to the otherwise overlooked environmental context in which we live.

Sunday's kickoff plenary titled, "The Emperor's New Drugs: Antidepressants and the Placebo Effect," was by [Irving Kirsch, Ph.D.](#) Irving's strong presentation was about the powerful effects of placebo in mental health drug treatment. His research, and as he pointed out, even some research that had been hidden by the drug companies themselves, dismantles the conventional wisdom regarding psychiatric drug effectiveness and shows how much of the improvement reported by people taking the prescribed drugs is actually due to placebo. More problematically for the defenders of psychiatric drug treatment, he showed that even when people know they are taking a placebo, they can still get better!

Another notable part of the conference was our Awards Banquet Saturday night. During the banquet, we were treated to classical music by the [Odin String Quartet](#). What a wonderful performance! After a delectable meal, I presented three awards to recognize people who had made significant contributions in the battle against the medical model of human suffering. Dominick Riccio, Ph.D., our past Executive Director and Chairperson of the Board, was presented with the ISEPP Lifetime Achievement Award for his [years of dedication to the ISEPP mission](#). The ISEPP Special Achievement Award went to Wendy Dolin of [MISSD](#). We recognized her for the work she has done in [raising awareness about psychiatric drug-induced akathisia](#). Finally,

the Mary Karon Memorial Award for Humanitarian Concerns was presented to Anne McEvoy for her [work in the performing arts that has highlighted the problems of the conventional mental health industry](#). All three of these people deserve our highest respect for their work!

To conclude my column in this edition of the Bulletin, I wanted to announce that during our ISEPP Board of Directors meeting at the conference, the directors voted unanimously to fund two participants in the [Warfighter Advance program](#). One of our Board members, Mary Vieten, Ph.D., has done a phenomenal job in creating this non-medical, non-drug, non-clinical, alternative for military members and veterans who have suffered the horrible traumas of war. The program is held at the [Lion's Camp Merrick](#) on the Potomac River in Nanjemoy, Maryland, and is free to all participants. I have the honor during each gathering of these warfighters to speak about the myth of mental illness and how we are being fooled by its smoke and mirrors, suggesting to them a far more humane way to address the real problems they endure. ISEPP has supported this program in the past, to include serving as the fiscal sponsor while Warfighter was gearing up its nonprofit status, and we intend to fully support the program into the future.

### Follow Us!



Website



Twitter



Facebook



Instagram



LinkedIn



YouTube

## Announcements

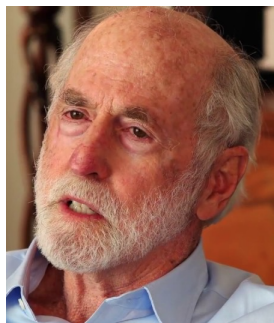
### ~Join Us!

ISEPP's success in challenging the medical model of human suffering depends on expanding our membership. We are especially interested in recruiting mental health professionals who are tired of the medical model's failed assumptions and inhumane ways of treating people who struggle with very real life problems. If you are a professional or know of any who would be interested in joining a group of like-minded people who want to continue helping those in need, but not within the medical model, [please consider joining us!](#)



## ~"Psychiatry and Society" YouTube Videos

One of ISEPP's members, Lee Coleman, M.D., produced a series of 24 YouTube

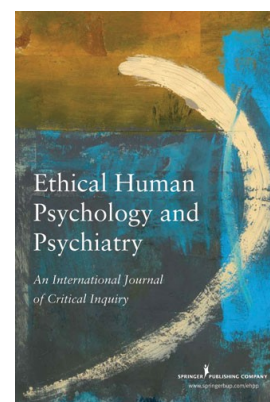


videos dealing with a variety of issues germane to our mission. Actually, Dr. Coleman has been around in the critical psychiatry movement for some time now, including being part of ISEPP's predecessor organization's birth in the 1990's. For those of you who attended our conference in Toronto, you may have had the opportunity to see his talk, "Dethroning Psychiatry: Strategies for Winning the War of the Words."

[You can see his videos here.](#)

## ~Call for Papers: *Ethical Human Psychology & Psychiatry*

Please consider submitting an article! *Ethical Human Psychology and Psychiatry (EHPP)* is ISEPP's peer reviewed journal that publishes original scholarship examining the ethical ramifications of unjust practices in psychiatry, psychology, and related disciplines. *EHPP* provides a space for high quality scholarship, ethical discourse, and the creation of new knowledge that contributes to a more just and humane society. For information on submitting, please see [Author Resources](#).



## ~Parenting Today Interviews

Another one of our members, Eric Maisel, Ph.D., along with Heather Juergensen, produced a [series of interviews](#) of experts in the field that address



what parents can do to help their children, despite the prevailing mental health myth that misbehavior and academic difficulties are the signs of defects in the child. The ideas and suggestions presented in these interviews are refreshing and will help parents navigate the difficult task of raising children. Our Executive Director, Chuck

Ruby, Ph.D., had the honor of [being interviewed about his ideas](#) as they apply to parenting.

## ~The Global Mental Health Movement - Cause for Concern



Read about the concerns of [mental health activists who are standing up in resistance](#) to a global mental health movement. On October 9th and 10th, 2018, World Mental Health Day, the UK government hosted a Global Mental Health Ministerial Summit with the intention of laying out a course of action to implement mental health policies globally. In the same week, The [Lancet Commission on Global Mental Health and Sustainable Development](#) published a report outlining a proposal for “scaling up” mental health care globally. Both of these initiatives are likely to expand the markets and influences of the inhumane medical model of human suffering, especially in third world areas.



### ~Mental Disorders are Contagious?

Another troublesome development that aims at solidifying the myth of mental illness is a recent *Lancet* article entitled, "[Curtailing the Communicability of Psychiatric Disorders](#)." It proposes the expansion of the medical model of human suffering by presenting it as something that can spread among people. According to the article, "By applying strategies from infectious disease and chronic illness prevention models within a socioecological framework, we posit a broad communicable chronic disease psychiatric illness control plan for effectively treating the patient with the psychiatric disorder (host) as early as possible, providing benefits to their family and the community, and preventing transmission to others." This will certainly result in the targeting of people who have not yet come to the attention of mental health authorities, but who are said to be at risk of "catching" the illness and becoming a "host" themselves. The metaphorical use of "communicability" will be forgotten, just as the metaphorical use of "mental illness" has been.



### ~Comment, Like, Follow, Connect, & Review Us!



One way to support ISEPP's mission is to frequently visit our social media pages (see the links above) and comment on our work. You can hit the "Like" button if you're happy with what you see and submit a review giving your ideas of how we're doing. The more likes, comments, and reviews we get on our website, Facebook, Twitter,

Instagram, YouTube, and LinkedIn pages, the more visibility we get as an organization and the better chance we have of spreading the news! It takes a community to support our efforts!

Copyright © 2018  
International Society for Ethical Psychology and Psychiatry, Inc.  
All rights reserved  
[www.psychintegrity.org](http://www.psychintegrity.org)  
[www.isepp.com](http://www.isepp.com)  
[psychintegrity@gmail.com](mailto:psychintegrity@gmail.com)  
PO Box 15120 ~ Washington, DC ~ 20003

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).