



## From The Director...

November 2017

### *"Restoring humanity to life"*



Chuck Ruby, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

For my newsletter column this month I want to repost an excerpt of my article that was just published in our *ISEPP Bulletin* (2017, Number 3). It addresses cohesion within our group and it is important enough to repeat it here.

*On the eve of our 2017 Annual Conference in Denver, the ISEPP Listserv erupted in conflict. This eruption was a repeat of a similar flare-up several months earlier when the topic of psychiatric drug withdrawal was raised. This time the issues included dissociation and psychiatric drug withdrawal. In both instances, though, the*

**Dear ISEPP members and friends:**

#### ISEPP Membership Drive



As we get ready to celebrate the arrival of a new year, it is also the time to [renew your ISEPP membership](#) for 2018! As a reminder, ISEPP membership runs from January through December of each year.

Your 2018 membership fee is due by January 1, 2018.

Please take the time now to [renew online](#) or fill out the [hard copy membership form](#) and mail it along with a check to Robert Sliclen, Ph.D., 450 Washington Ave., Twp of Washington, NJ 07676-4031.

Those of you who joined ISEPP as of our conference this past October in Denver, your membership is a 2018 membership and therefore you should NOT renew now. If you are in doubt about your membership status, please contact Robert Sliclen at [sliclen@optonline.net](mailto:sliclen@optonline.net) or 201-664-2566.

#### ISEPP at the MPA Convention



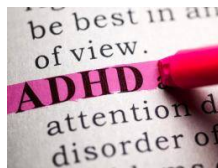
*increasingly polarized discussion was generally over whether personal experience or science is the best method of understanding these problems. Two camps emerged: the “survivors” and the “clinicians”. I want to address this issue in the hopes of reuniting us against our common foe, namely, the conventional mental health industry.*

*To lead off, I want to again encourage everyone to understand there aren't two discreet groups of ISEPP members. Dividing us into “survivors” and “clinicians” is a false dichotomy. There are many of those within the ranks of licensed professionals who have also survived psychiatric treatment. Creating this false distinction does nothing but exacerbate differences of opinion and alienates us from each other, leading to a kind of tribalism like we now see in national politics. This encourages a defensive righteousness that leads to personal attacks and insults.*

*We are a group that was created initially by and for mental health professionals who banded together in order to offer protection against attacks of ridicule and censure by the conventional mental health industry. Since then, ISEPP has evolved to include non-professionals who have been on the receiving end of that industry as “patients”. The consensus was that by including that population, we would have more legitimacy*

On November 3, 2017, Dr. Chuck Ruby and Dr. Mary Vieten represented ISEPP and the [Warfighter Advance program](#) at the 2017 Annual Convention of the [Maryland Psychological Association](#) in Baltimore. Besides thoroughly enjoying stirring up the hornet's nest of conventional psychology with our more conventional colleagues, we were able to broaden ISEPP's reach and found that many psychologists are receptive to our message. We hope to attend more events in the future in an attempt to connect directly with professional circles and stimulate interest in a more humane approach to human suffering. If there are any professionals out there interested in representing ISEPP at local professional conferences in your area, please let us know. ISEPP will pay for the registration fees.

### **Another Failed Attempt to Reify ADHD**



Take a look at ISEPP's [In The News blog about ADHD](#). It shows how a recent [JAMA Pediatrics study](#) uses loose language and misleading statistics to

give the impression of a newly found cause for ADHD and present a false justification to the idea that ADHD is a neurodevelopmental disease. The study overlooks a simpler explanation for why the offspring of mothers who take acetaminophen during pregnancy have higher risks of problems associated with hyperactivity. It also inflates risk by focusing on relative risk vs. absolute risk.

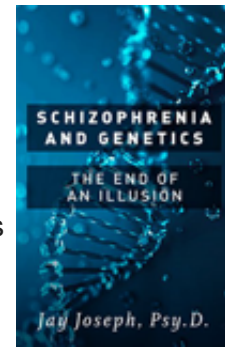
### **Schizophrenia and Genetics: The End of an Illusion**

Check out the [latest book by ISEPP psychologist Jay Joseph, Psy.D.](#), which details the charade of schizophrenia as a genetic disorder. From the Amazon summary: "Jay Joseph focuses on the methodological shortcomings and questionable assumptions of previous schizophrenia family, twin, and adoption studies. He shows that although genetic interpretations of schizophrenia twin studies are based on the assumption

*together as victims of the medical model and a far better understanding of the dangers posed by that model. I think such inclusion is valuable, but with it we must guard against internecine privileging of non-professional over professional or vice versa.*

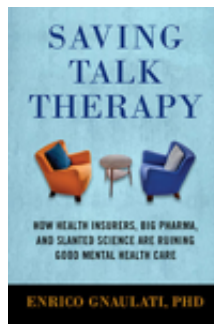
*ISEPP has a very difficult task of challenging the conventional way of dealing with personal distress. At the heart of our critique is the assertion that troublesome emotional and behavioral problems (called “mental illnesses”) are not really matters of medicine or health/illness. Instead, they are matters of existential struggle. That is what binds us together. How we carry on that mission and achieve our goals can vary among us because of our different experiences, training, and education. We can live with disagreement. We cannot survive with animosity.*

that reared-together monozygotic (MZ) and dizygotic (DZ) twin pairs grow up experiencing similar (“equal”) behavior-influencing environments, this assumption is clearly false. He concludes that schizophrenia twin studies, like schizophrenia family studies, are unable to disentangle the potential impact of genetic and environmental influences. In both types of studies, therefore, the results can be explained entirely by non-genetic factors." This book is a refreshing read!



### **Saving Talk Therapy**

Another one of ISEPP's members, [Enrico Gnaulati, Ph.D.](#), [has come out with an expose](#) of how the drug and health insurance industries have deceived the general public



about the value of psychotherapy, especially psychodynamic and humanistic forms. According to one reviewer, "Saving Talk Therapy is a compelling, meticulously researched, and accessible account of how the machinations of two very powerful

industries—health insurers and pharmaceutical companies—have undermined the viability of the practice of talk therapy and corrupted the research paradigms in use to evaluate the effects of all mental health treatments." This book is a must for those of us who know the benefits of helping people in a more humane way.

Please share this newsletter and other ISEPP information with your friends and family, and through your social networking sites. Also, make sure to visit our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages. Feel free to contact our Executive Director Chuck Ruby at [docruby@me.com](mailto:docruby@me.com) or 301-646-6022 if you have any questions or suggestions.



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