

Dear reader,

ISPS Slovenia has been founded in 2005 by a group of Slovene psychiatrists, psychotherapists, psychologists, occupational therapists, social workers and psychiatric nurses. Many of us have been attending the International ISPS meetings including the Dubrovnik School of Psychotherapy of psychosis for several years. The need for an organization that would give more opportunity to exchange thoughts and ideas became more and more obvious. There was also growing need for mutual support among team members and individuals treating individuals and families of patients with psychotic illness.

In Slovenia there is a long tradition, more than 40 years, of group analytic work with patients with schizophrenia. This was developed by Franc Peternel, a member of the Institute of Group Analysis (London) who practiced as a psychiatrist at the Ljubljana University Psychiatric Hospital.

The importance to maintain and develop the existing psychotherapeutic tradition has been recognized.

In 2005 ISPS Slovenia started a tradition of organizing meetings, most of them lasting two days. We have discussed different topics including early recognition and treatment, anxiety and psychosis, depression and psychosis, therapeutic approaches in patients with psychosis, gender and psychosis. A number of prominent experts participated and offered a unique opportunity to learn and exchange.

With some delay we have put together a publication that contains most papers that were presented at our meetings from 2005 until 2008. I am sorry that many case presentations are missing. There has not been enough time to include all this year's papers, the theme of our 2009 meeting is parenting and psychosis, but it can become one of the future challenges to publish all presented papers.

I would like to thank all the authors for coming to our meetings and sharing their knowledge, experience and optimism with all of us.

I would specially like to thank Dr. Mark Agius for his constant encouragement and help with the editing of this supplement.

Best wishes,

*Marjeta Blinc Pesek,
President of ISPS Slovenia*

Visiting my Slovene colleagues over the years has become a very pleasant experience for me. I have watched, from the first meeting at Portoroz as ISPS Slovenia has gone from strength to strength, and have taken part in all their discussions. ISPS worldwide employs an Integrative Approach to Psychosis, and ISPS Slovenia is no different. Thus, as will be seen in the following pages, their discussions have involved many national and international experts, and have ranged from Psychotherapy at one hand to clinical matters, delivery of services, new concepts, and even Neuroscience and Genetics on the other. This reflects ISPS internationally, as anyone attending the last ISPS Conference in Copenhagen this June will attest.

The consequence of the discussions within ISPS Slovenia has been a number of new friendships and collaborations which have in turn contributed to the development of psychiatry in Slovenia.

It has been a delight to contribute to the editing of this Supplement.

*Mark Agius
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