



## **To Member Organizations of the International Association of Individual Psychology (IAIP)**

July 20, 2021

Dear Colleagues:

It is an honor for me as a newly elected President to write to you shortly after the conclusion of the 28<sup>th</sup> Congress of the IAIP. In this, I am joined by a newly elected IAIP Board – Vice President Ursula Oberst (Spain), Secretary General Giansecondo Mazzoli (Italy), and Treasurer Michaela Stacher-Linhart (Austria).

As evidenced in a survey that was launched on the last day of the Congress, the educational program and the logistics of the Congress met and, on many parameters, exceeded our expectations. Our Ukrainian colleagues overcame more obstacles than one could have predicted - cancellation of the in-person 2020 congress, ongoing war, creating a never before virtual congress. This is all in addition to our common challenge, COVID-19. 230 participants from 24 countries and six continents took part in the delegate assembly and various congress events between July 10<sup>th</sup> and July 14<sup>th</sup>. We have enjoyed 12 keynote lectures, and 64 breakout sessions, a first of its kind honorary lecture (by Dr. Eva Dreikurs Ferguson), and a cultural video program prepared by the Ukrainian team. A WhatsApp group was created, with lively debates following up the official congress discussions. New friendships were made, and old professional contacts revisited.

The true success of this congress can also be measured in other ways. Two important democracies are now represented among member organizations – School of Individual Psychology and Counseling of Lviv Psychoanalytic Institute and Mental Health (Ukraine) and Taiwanese Society of Adlerian Psychology - TSAP (Taiwan). By accepting these organizations, the IAIP is making a strong statement in support of freedom and self-determination of Ukrainian and Taiwanese people. Association Institut Alfred Adler de Paris (France) is now a second French member organization. Slovak Association of Individual Psychology - SAIP (Slovakia) joined several other Eastern European member organizations. Korean Adlerian Psychology Association (Korea) is now one of the three member organizations in Southeast Asia. Finally, as a reflection of exponentially growing interest in Adlerian psychology in Spanish-language countries, Spanish Association of Adlerian Psychology - A.E.P.A (Spain) became a member of the IAIP.

One other important news shared during the Congress was an introduction of the Congress 2024. I am grateful (and I am sure you will be excited) for our German colleagues to invite us to Cologne in the summer of 2024 for the 29<sup>th</sup> Congress of the IAIP.

Now, what is next?

The Board has started working and we have already had our first Board meeting, outlining some of the most immediate tasks. We will be studying all the congress feedback and will be learning from that and sharing the lessons with you. We will be building ways of staying connected with you, supporting good fellowship among member organizations, and celebrating your activities aimed at further development and application of Individual Psychology. We already have a few ideas that we will shortly share with you, and we will be asking you for more ideas. We will be improving our accounting system, will be bringing life to a website, and will encourage regional collaboration. Some of these tasks will take more time than the others; but we have started building a solid list. In the spirit of *many voices – one theory*, we will be learning your language, while promoting fundamental studies in Individual Psychology that unite us and uniquely define us among other schools of psychology. In all the activities, we as a Board will be encouraging the dialogue and the building of common ground.

I want to conclude this letter with a quote that I have shared at the end of my speech during the Congress closing ceremony, on July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021. In 1986, in his interview with Walter Spiel, while discussing the past, present, and future of Individual Psychology, Horst Gruner noted, “Adler was the kind of person in whose garden everyone found a place.” Maintaining this garden, with hope, love and faith; through all seasons of life; in all tasks no matter how messy they are is what I see as a crucial task for myself, for the new Board, and for our entire organization.

Please stay in touch with us, talk to us, share with us, learn with us, move with us, work with us. Please share this letter with members of your organization too.



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On behalf of the IAIP Board

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General Health Psychologist (certified) and Adlerian Psychotherapist  
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