



Dear Members of the IIBA

Hopefully you had an opportunity to read my December letter wishing you all well for the New Year of 2017, and inviting you to attend the 24<sup>th</sup> IIBA Conference in Toronto in May this year. As I said in that letter, this Conference in particular, marking the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the IIBA and also coinciding with the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Wilhelm Reich, is vitally important in the re-visioning of modern Bioenergetic Analysis for the challenges that face us all around the world. We need all of you there.

At the more mundane level I know that most of us probably go about our daily lives without giving too much thought to the administrative side of the IIBA. However, we always seem to have a pool of dedicated members who are willing to volunteer considerable time and effort to support the work of the IIBA. And so it is now therefore my pleasure to introduce to you the new Board of the IIBA who will meet for the first time in Lisbon in March 2017.

From Europe we have Anja van de Schrieck from Germany, Maria Rosaria Filoni and Paolo Bacigalupo from Italy, and Josette van Luytelaar from Holland; from NANZIBA we have Scott Baum, Rick Spletter and Michael Brennan from the USA; from Latin America we have Ana Lúcia Faria, Jayme Panerai and Cristina Piauhy from Brazil; and representing the Faculty we have Diana Guest. The new Board will elect the office holders of the IIBA, including your new President, when they meet in Lisbon in March.

I want to thank, on your behalf, the other retiring members of the Board. For the past six years it has been stimulating to work with Patrizia Mozelli from Italy, whose belief in the democratic processes and passion for the spread of Bioenergetic Analysis has been both challenging and inspirational. And I have enjoyed the gentle and strongly principled approach of Eulina Ribeiro who has played a significant role in further integrating the richness of the Latin American Bioenergetic tradition into a global IIBA. Also for the past three years I have appreciated intellectual insights and professional support from Claudia Ucros, your Vice-President from Belgium, throughout a range of challenging situations. As well I have appreciated the attention to detail and the artistic verve of Jim Elniski who has courageously taken on responsibility for organising the Toronto Conference, and will stay on the Board as an ex-officio member until the Conference.

I have also enjoyed working with Rosaria, Josette, Lúcia, Cristina, Diana and Michael, all of whom will continue on the new Board. Important support also included the wisdom and creative insights of John Conger as Faculty Rep, when he was on the Board. And most importantly I need to acknowledge Pilar Llobregat, our Executive Administrator, whose competence and support have been of immeasurable help to the whole of our organisation and to myself in particular.

The privilege of being the President of the IIBA has been humbling. I have not been without the loving support of Pye Bowden my partner, whose passionate commitment to Bioenergetic Analysis well matches my own. And I have been uplifted and grounded in the good-will of my fellow Board members, Faculty members, and Directors and members of Societies all around the world. In my role as President I have been challenged to be more open-hearted, more administratively astute and more culturally aware. As I reflect on these things, it is clear this has been a deeply personal and professionally enriching experience. It has also made me proud to belong to such a vibrant organization as the IIBA.

Finally now, I wish the new President and incoming Board all the very best for their work in upholding the legacy of Dr Alexander Lowen and guiding the IIBA safely through into the future.

Warmest Regards

Garry Cockburn,  
Wellington, New Zealand.  
President IIBA Board of Trustees



Patrizia Moselli  
Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees has decided to establish three Awards, the winners of which will be announced at the upcoming 2017 Conference in Toronto. These IIBA Awards have been created to support clinical work, social work and research in the Bioenergetic community.

It is recognized that the timeframes are very tight, but the Board decided to proceed with this initiative rather than wait a further two years.

These awards are:

- Award for Research Proposal (€500 plus Conference Fees)
- Youth Award for Clinical Work (€500 plus Conference Fees)
- Award for Social Work (€500 plus Conference Fees)

The Award Winners will be announced at the Conference in Toronto.

The criteria for participation are:

- **Award for Research Proposal**  
Applicants must be an individual Member of IIBA **or** a collective of members of IIBA or local Society affiliated with IIBA
- **Youth Award for Clinical Work**  
Applicants must be a student or CBT for less than 5 years, and a Member of IIBA
- **Award for Social Work and/or Social proposal**  
Applicants can be an individual Member of IIBA **or** a collective of members of IIBA **or** a local Society affiliated with IIBA

An Application for the Award must include the category one is applying for and a written presentation of the work or proposal which should not exceed 6000 words (excluding bibliography). It **must** be submitted in Word format and in English. The content of the presentation must include the following elements depending on the category of Award.

### FOR THE RESEARCH PROPOSAL:

- if the applicant is a group or a local society, the name of the person applying must be a representative of the group (this research proposal concerning Bioenergetic Analysis may also be in collaboration with a university or other body)
- an abstract and summary
- the research hypothesis with which he/she/they will operate
- the methodology to be used for testing
- the sample proposed
- the tools to be used
- the timeframe proposed for the research project
- the expected results to be obtained
- bibliography

### FOR THE CLINICAL WORK CATEGORY:

- an abstract and summary
- diagnostic and psychotherapeutic processes for one or more clinical cases
- uniqueness of clinical experience
- demonstration of its applicability and validity for other clinicians by reference to the literature
- contribution to the development of clinical bioenergetics
- bibliography

### FOR THE SOCIAL WORK OR SOCIAL PROPOSAL:

- if an applicant is a group or a local society, the name of the person which will represent the group
- abstract and summary
- a statement of the social situation the project or proposal is addressing
- an explanation of why this project or proposal is important
- the methodology used or to be used
- the tools used or to be used
- the results obtained or expected
- timeframe of the project (ongoing or finished) or of the proposal
- bibliography



### IIBA AWARDS 2017 (continued)

The evaluation of the candidates' papers will be made by a small team of referees, or jury members, representing the 3 regions of the IIBA plus a member of the Conference Scientific Committee. There will be a separate jury panel for each Award. Only the Central Convenor will know the identity of the applicants and the jury members will be presented with anonymous applications so that they do not know who has presented the proposal. In other words, the judging will be 'blind'.

#### Convenors

Research Proposal Award :	Josette van Luytelaar	<josettevanluytelaar@hetnet.nl>
Youth Clinical Work Award :	Garry Cockburn	<garry.cockburn@paradise.net.nz>
Social Work Award :	Cristina Piauhy	<cristinapiauhy@gmail.com>

#### Central Convenor

The Central Convenor of the Awards is Patrizia Moselli. Finalists will be decided by **25 March 2017** and all applicants will be notified shortly thereafter whether they have been successful or not.

#### To participate in any one of these awards:

Candidates must email their application to the Central Convenor (Patrizia Moselli, [mail@siab-online.it](mailto:mail@siab-online.it)) no later than **February 15, 2017**.

## REPORT

### News from the 2017 Conference Organizing Committee



Jim Elniski

The countdown is on to the 24<sup>th</sup> IIBA Conference, "Reflecting Back, Looking Forward: Essence and Growth in Bioenergetic Analysis", to be held this May 24-28 in Toronto, Canada. We of the Organizing Committee and the Central Canada Society for Bioenergetic Analysis are looking forward to hosting you in Toronto.

The planning of the Conference is well under way. Our focus at this time is on creating community-building programs for the Opening Reception, the Closing Ceremony, and the Gala. The culinary theme of the opening reception of the Conference will be "The Streets of Toronto", highlighting the foods of a number of the diverse communities living in our city. We are still finalizing our plans for the Gala Dinner, but hope to include both "live" music and dancing, and, of course, the opportunity to relax and visit with your colleagues from afar. All in all, with renowned keynote speakers and stimulating workshops, this is a Conference not to be missed.

We hope that while you are here, you will enjoy not only the Conference but also our city. Toronto is home to people of many different cultures and ethnicities and Canada is celebrating it's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The Conference will be centrally located in downtown Toronto, offering you an opportunity to experience some of the many different sights and sounds of our world-famous city during your free time. All conferees will be provided a guide to experience the rich cultural diversity of this vibrant North American city. See you there!

### Professional Development Workshop - 2017



Helen Resneck-Sannes

This year the PDW was held at a retreat center outside of Toronto and was one of the most well attended in North America, with participants coming from all parts of the Bioenergetic community. The focus of the PDW was on the therapist, following Martha Stark's definition of a "Two Person Therapy". The atmosphere was one of support and caring and people felt that they learned a great deal from the leaders as well as their peers. Following are some comments from the participants.

PDW was very powerful. It was my third PDW. I find them extremely valuable in keeping my Bioenergetic skills up-to-date and in growing as a Bioenergetic therapist. Working with people from all over the world has given me so much insight into new ways of looking at our work and new ways of carrying it out.

I found our facilitator, Joerg, to be extremely highly-skilled. I found his insights spot-on and I was sometimes surprised by how he chose to work with us as "clients". I also learned so much from the others in the group: I got to see other bioenergetic therapists make choices in their work and how those choices played out. I learned from what "worked" as well as what didn't work so well.

I can't think of a better learning opportunity than the PDWs. I thank Diana Guest for turning me onto them years ago: you were right, Diana, they ARE amazing.



Diana Guest

**Michael Dale Kimmel**



*Professional Development Workshop – 2017 (continued)*

“The PDW was an excellent next-step learning experience for me as a CBT of 2 years. It provided a smooth transition from demonstrating my skills as a candidate inside a training group into me expanding myself as my own clinician. My facilitator gave me specific reflections about my style, strengths, and limitations of my approach to the work. There was a huge shift in my therapist self that I was able to bring into my private practice with my clients the day I returned to work. The small break out group I was in was safe and I learned a great deal from my colleagues, who were from opposite ends of the world. Discussions of theory and practice were meaty and stimulating. Working with each other was moving. We bonded in a way that we continue to talk in a private group through a social app, providing each other support and laughter. Myself and several others from the PDW outside my small group, who are in North America, have formed a peer consult group in which we present cases and give each other feedback. This formed as a direct result of meeting one another and observing each other’s skills at the PDW. In the PDW we didn’t just learn from veteran facilitators, we learned from peers, as we had different years/levels of experience. I really enjoyed the peer presentations--I both learned clinical material and got a sense of how I fit into this global community. I feel more than ever that I’m in good company in the special clinical niche of Bioenergetics.”

**Ann Coleman**



This was my first PDW so I didn’t know what to expect. My experience of bioenergetics has been one of being sought after, found, seen, wanted, loved and held. This experience has developed over a five-year training period. Experiencing it all in six days was totally unexpected. I planned on being reserved, professional. This was after all, a professional development workshop. That plan came crashing down within the first hour of group. I found myself talking, which is unusual. I was "punchy", engaged...whatever was inside came out. That continued to happen throughout the workshop. I believe the depth of the work that the participants at the PDW brought and the efforts it took to arrive in the Canadian woods together held the space for a deep sense of safety. I learned specifically about the importance of centering myself while in a session through modeling and encouragement. Since the PDW I have embodied the realization that there is no separation between me and "being a Clinician". Because of this I have been much more comfortable in my own skin, embracing my awkwardness and discovering that my clients really appreciate that about me.

**Nicolette Re**

INVITATIONS

*24th IIBA Conference in Toronto – May 23-28, 2017*



Scott Baum,  
on behalf of  
the Scientific Committee

As we enter the new year with all the turmoil and fear being stimulated by political events around the world, I am taken back to my experience of life in the US in the late 1950’s. I remember as a boy being very conscious of the pressure for conformity to attitudes and social norms that I later understood contained oppressive and suppressive intentions toward those who believed in openness about sexuality, race, and emotional expressiveness. I also remember a time when psychotherapists who worked directly with the physical body would not say so, and then be surprised to meet colleagues they knew who also worked that way at a conference or workshop on that theme.

In our conference this year the IIBA looks back to that time, and earlier, when the ideas and practices of Bioenergetic Analysis challenged those restrictive and prejudiced attitudes directly. Much has changed since those days. And much has stayed the same. Now we face a time, worldwide, when restrictive attitudes about freedom, self-expression, respect and acceptance of difference are again very prominent. In this conference we look at where we were in the essence of our work as it developed in those years, and where we are now, in theory, practice and application.

*24<sup>th</sup> IIBA Conference in Toronto – May 23-28, 2017 (continued)*

But even more important than this sharing of the substance of our work as bioenergetic therapists and its application to the world we live in, is the opportunity to be together. Now, more than I have experienced in recent times, the imperative to be with people of like heart and mind draws me to the conference. I think we need the support and the encouragement to keep working in the face of so much that daunts and threatens us.

In each of the areas we will focus on in the conference: sexuality, chronic relational trauma, and social conscience and action, we are dealing with the effects of destructive forces and behavior at the family and society level. We are looking at what can be done to ameliorate and even prevent these effects. And we are coming together to support and care for each other in the difficulty of working with these destructive elements in our patients and the society around us, and even in ourselves. We do this so that we can be more available to those we help, so that we can better understand what is happening to them and around us all, and so that we can get the help and care we ourselves need.

If you have been waiting to register, waiting to decide if this is the place to put your precious resources, decide now to come and be with your community, your colleagues, those who, despite our differences, stand firm in our belief in the values that undergird our work—self-expression; self-determination, emotional truth and freedom.

**I hope to see you there.**

## EDITORIAL CONCLUSION

Greetings to my fellow IIBA members,

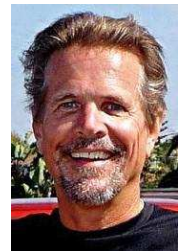
Firstly, I do hope your version of 2016 included many moments of pleasure, joy, delight, loving contact while also experiencing those moments that provoke vital sadness, anger, fear, anxiety and many of the organism's other experiential possibilities. Next, I wish each of you, your loved ones, associates, Institute/Society and Country an enriching 2017. Along with whatever you have in your "bag" of personal resources that you use to support and nourish yourself, I join with others in inviting you to attend another significant resource that only arrives but once every two years. I'm referring to The International IIBA Conference of 2017 to be held May 24-28 in Toronto, Canada. The Theme is REFLECTING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD: ESSENCE AND GROWTH IN BIOENERGETIC ANALYSIS. I expect that this Conference will be vitalizing, energizing and rich with many opportunities to co-create moments of deep organismic connection, nourishment, enrichment and plenty of cognitive and somatic experience! These Bi-annual Conferences always do! I have felt the benefit of every one that I have attended for months after the event.

With the events that are taking place around the world, including the U.S.A., there is civil and uncivil restlessness. There is so much to experience, consider and manage around us and inside us. There can be an even greater need to pursue true human support that we feel connected to, protected by, grounded by, strengthened by and energized by. Restlessness, unrest, disturbance, agitation are all natural organismic activities. If nothing else, they disrupt the status quo of our armoring, causing more feeling, sensation and energetic activity than we are familiar with. Without sufficient internal and external vital resources, we tighten to restrict the greater energetic, emotional movement and we entrap our vital life more so. With sufficient resources we have a chance to dare to surrender to the flow of our untrapped energy and feelings, freed by the impact of the disturbing events taking place around us. We have a chance, with others, to become less armored and more functional. Options that we could not perceive or conceive of become perceivable and conceivable. This is just some of what can happen at these International Bioenergetic Conferences. One's sense of connection with more vital humans expands. One feels less alone.....for as long as one organismically can. My wish for each of us is that we can find a way to get to Toronto in May and feel the force of our collected energies!

My congratulations to all the most recently Certified Bioenergetic Therapists: David Ben David (Israel-ISBA), Nuria Mauri Suarez (Spain-SAAB), Gerald Perlman (New York- NYSBA), Anne Holleron (New Zealand-NZSBA), Jeff Stmad (California-BSNC), Burkhard Gruhagen (Germany-NIBA), Nicolette Re (California-SCIBA).

My sincere gratitude to the BOT members who have served on and are now leaving the BOT, i.e., Garry, Claudia, Eulina, Patrizia and Jim. And I welcome those who are coming on "board" the BOT for the first time or are returning, i.e., Anja, Josette, Rosaria, Paolo, Ana Lucia, Christina, Jayme, Diana, Rick, Scott and myself.

Finally, a very large portion of gratitude goes to Pilar Llobregat, IIBA Executive Administrator, who has done far more than, I bet, anyone anticipated during her many years of service to the membership and functioning of the IIBA! Thank You, Pilar. I am glad I'll get to work with you at least one more time during the BOT meetings at the beginning of next month!



Michael Brennan,  
IIBA Newsletter Editor