



Editor's Perspective

From observing babies and parents to therapists' self-observations

I remember the epoch, not a very long time ago, where what happened in the psychotherapy room was considered to be the property of the patient as well as of the therapist, "for the sake of the transference and countertransference processes". It is therefore not by chance that the very first target of video use was baby observation, mostly with the aim of showing the baby's competencies (which were disregarded by at the time by most of the theoreticians and clinicians). Then, came the idea of observing the parent and infant in interaction, again with the aim of studying the infant's relational capacities and worries about the relationship. The third phase was to use these videotaped interactions in the presence of the parent, this time, with the purpose of treating the relationship. Many models of video-based intervention have been

implemented since then, as Antoine and Nicole Guedeny have reviewed for us in this issue of *The Signal*.

Last to come, not so surprisingly, was the videorecording of a therapeutic session, where the therapist is observed as well as the patient. Different from the use of the video for intervention, its use is for observing the therapist in interaction with the patient (or parent and infant). This video technique is much less widely used. Its use is mainly in the context of supervising a trainee and in conducting intervention outcome studies. To me, it seems that senior clinicians, especially those with a psychoanalytical training, tend to agree to be videotaped during assessment interviews and much less during therapeutic sessions. This is not very surprising if we view it as a "mini revolution", as a kind of

demystification of the psychoanalytic room. Through the use of videotape, the non-verbal and unconscious therapist's movements are revealed to the observer's eyes. For some, it may be threatening their role or position as therapists.

In my clinical experience while working with a multidisciplinary team, we found that team cohesion, or positive alliance, as Elisabeth Fivaz has taught us, or trust, is the ground for mutual recognition. This, in turn, enables us to videotape our therapeutic encounters and expose ourselves to positive and negative feedback. It takes time to build trust and courage to be videotaped, but the professional gain can be considerable.

Miri Keren
Editor of the *Signal*

President's Perspective

Welcome to Leipzig!



With 1400 registrations so far, this Leipzig congress already appears as one of the major successes among all WAIMH congresses. This is the double result of the hard work of the LOC, headed by Kai von Klitzing, and of an attractive program made up by the PC headed by Neil Boris. This success is also due to the activity of the widely extended GAIMH association, established in three different German speaking countries (Germany, Austria and Switzerland). GAIMH has very wisely planned for having its annual meeting in accordance with WAIMH world congress. In addition, Leipzig is a particularly attractive site for a world congress, with its long tradition of fairs, and exceptional scientific, artistic, and political background.

This meeting will also be a turning point on the organisational level

of WAIMH, as we will elect two representative members of the Affiliates and they will join our Board. A gathering of the Affiliate presidents or their representatives will be held on the first day of the congress, so that people get to know each other better and start getting organized as a group.

On the scientific level, the DC 0-3R symposium will raise the key issue of the impact we can/should have on the DSM V. The Massachusetts IMHA has written to the DSM Task Force making suggestions and I urge all our Affiliates to take a look at this letter (enter the WAIMH site) and to discuss it with members. At the end of the road, we should have sound suggestions to offer the DSM Task Force.

Two days before the congress, the EC will meet and discuss several issues. One of the major ones is how

to establish Training Institute within WAIMH that would make use of the exceptional expertise WAIMH members all around the world have accumulated. In addition, this would be an important source of funds that would allow the organization to be less dependent on membership and congress registration fees. We definitely need to make our world association more firmly anchored financially, especially in these times of instability. The second major task of the EC meeting will be to finalize the planning for our next congress, in 2012, for the very first time in Africa.

Finally, we will all meet and catch up, share and learn, applaud to Awards, and look forward meeting again...in Cape Town, 2012.

Antoine Guedeny
President of WAIMH