

**ISPS-US 17th Annual Meeting**  
***Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Wholeness in Extreme States***  
**November 9-11, 2018**  
Philadelphia, PA  
**PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES**

**Joseph I. Abrahams, MD**, born in Dallas in 1916, received his M.D. in 1939. He worked with the severely disordered in institutional and private practice in Washington D.C. and San Diego.

**Ronald Abramson, MD** is in the Full-Time Private Practice of Psychiatry, on the Executive Board of ISPS-US, a Psychoanalyst, and the author of a book on the need for progressive innovations in the scientific and clinical practice of psychiatry.

**Jeannie Bass** now works in the same public mental health system she once received services in as a Certified Peer Specialist for the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health at a state-run psychiatric inpatient hospital.

**Aaron T. Beck, MD** founded Cognitive Therapy. He is University Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry at Penn, President Emeritus of the Beck Institute, and Director of the Aaron T. Beck Psychopathology Research Center.

**Claire L. Bien, MEd** is a writer, grant writer, mental health advocate/educator/speaker, and survivor. Her memoir, *Hearing Voices, Living Fully: Living with the Voices in My Head* was published in 2016.

**Karen Blass, MEd** is a Program Coordinator for the National Empowerment Center. Formerly, Karen was Executive Director of Connections Peer Support and Extension Educator at the University of New Hampshire.

**Gary L. Borkowski, DVM, MS** is a veterinarian with lived experience supporting a family member during psychosis for a decade.

**Katie Bourque** is Soteria Services Manager at Pathways Vermont. She/her, they/them. Peer support and advocate. Lives in Burlington, Vermont.

**Pavan S. Brar, MA** is a doctoral student at Duquesne University. His current research interests include the application of phenomenology and hermeneutics to understanding psychosis, and the therapeutic implications of such inquiry.

**Berta Britz, CPS, MSW, ACSW** offers consultation and training through Berta Britz Consulting. Recipient of the 2016 Intervoice Inspiration Award, Berta is on the board of HVN-USA. Her ministry, "Hearing Voices and Healing" is under the care of Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting. Berta uses the liberation she experienced in the International Hearing Voices community and in Montgomery County Hearing Voices Network Taking Back Our Power Hearing Voices Groups to inform her collaboration for understanding the experience of living and working with anomalous beliefs and voices and growing compassionate communities. Her deepest passion is for creating spaces that welcome young people growing into their fullest selves.

**Marie Brown, MA** is a doctoral candidate in Clinical Psychology at LIU Brooklyn. She is interested in integrative psychotherapies for distressing psychosis, trauma-informed practices, peer support, and meaning-making in the context of mental health recovery. [www.mariecbrown.com](http://www.mariecbrown.com)

**Nancy Burke, PhD** is a psychoanalyst, teacher and writer from Chicago. She is currently Vice-President of ISPS-US, Secretary of CCP, and a Board member of EMHS-NFP.

**Bill Cahalan, PhD** is a clinical psychologist who brings a psychosocial perspective to understanding and working therapeutically with serious breakdown. He has worked with such individuals in psychiatric hospitals and outpatient settings.

**J. Tyler Carpenter, PhD** is a clinical-forensic psychologist in private practice, an in-house medical consultant to SSA, a member of a forensic think tank, and a writer and lecturer/teacher on integrating psychotherapy techniques and theory.

**Marilyn Charles, PhD, ABPP** is a psychologist and psychoanalyst at the Austen Riggs Center. Interests include trauma, resilience, and creativity. Books include: *Working with Trauma*; *Psychoanalysis and Literature*; *Introduction to Contemporary Psychoanalysis*.

**Elan Cohen** is a peer specialist and has worked with the Parachute Program since its inception, first at the Manhattan Crisis Respite Center and later on the Queens Mobile Team.

**Oryx Cohen, MPA** is the Chief Operating Officer of the National Empowerment Center, a board member of Empatiko, and an Emotional CPR trainer. Oryx co-produced the award-winning documentary film HEALING VOICES.

**Mara Conan, PhD's** therapeutic focus for decades is with people who experience psychotic symptoms. She was an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, NY.

**John Thor Cornelius, MD** is a psychoanalyst practicing in Sacramento, California. He is faculty at the University of California, Davis and adjunct faculty at the San Francisco Center for Psychoanalysis.

**Martin A. Cosgro, PhD** has worked with individuals struggling with psychosis since 1984, in in-patient, out-patient, residential, and prison settings.

**Françoise Davoine, PhD** Faculty in the Institute of Social Science, EHESS, Paris where she led a weekly seminar with Jean Max Gaudillière, for 40 Years until his death in 2015. Psychoanalyst in psychiatric hospitals and outside consultations for 30 years. Private practice.

**Laura Delano** is the Executive Director of Inner Compass Initiative, a 501(c)(3) providing information to facilitate more informed choices regarding the mental health system and resources for safer psychiatric drug withdrawal.

**Gogo Ekhaya Esima** is an initiated Sangoma Traditional Healer in the Zulu culture of South Africa. She is a certified Peer Recovery Specialist in mental health, a trauma survivor, and a spiritual teacher. Her shamanic journey of healing and recovery is featured in *CRAZYWISE*.

**Bret J. Fimiani, PsyD** is a psychoanalyst and psychologist working in a public clinic setting and private practice in the San Francisco Bay Area. He is working to develop a multidisciplinary treatment model for psychosis in an urban public clinic setting.

**Grazyna Frackiewicz** is a theater practitioner, philosopher and workshop facilitator that combines acting exercises with developmental psychology and improv techniques. She applies acting training methodologies as tools to create community.

**Danielle Frank, MSW** is an early career clinical social worker with experience in college counseling, hospital and community settings. Her professional interests include trauma, mourning, gender/sexuality, and the psychic implications of sociopolitical subjecthood.

**Phoebe Friesen, PhD** is trained as a philosopher and now works as a Post Doctoral Fellow at the University of Oxford on issues in research ethics, philosophy of psychiatry, and bioethics.

**James E. Gorney, PhD** is in independent practice in Knoxville, TN. He is a member of the William Alanson White Psychoanalytic Society and has published in the area of extending psychoanalytic technique in the treatment of seriously disturbed individuals.

**Paul Grant, PhD** On the Faculty at the Aaron T. Beck Psychopathology Research Center, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Grant is the co-developer of Recovery-Oriented Cognitive Therapy (CT-R).

**Ann Green, Psych NP** is a psychiatric nurse practitioner and social therapist in private practice in NYC. She is the East Side Institute's director of professional outreach and produces the Institute's Conversations with Practitioners.

**Monique Greveling, M.Phil.** studied philosophy and has lived experience. She fully recovered in 2001 and has been working independently mainly as a practical philosopher, course facilitator and writer.

**Swapnil Gupta, MD's** practice is focused on reducing psychotropic usage in public mental health settings. This interest emerges from a critical need for this intervention, her experience working in limited-resource settings and a personal inclination toward parsimonious use of medications.

**Marty Hadge**, after years of hearing voices and having visions, is creating a life he finds worth living as a National Trainer for the USA Hearing Voices Network.

**Jennifer Hanley, DNP, F/PMHNP-BC** is an assistant professor in the School of Nursing of Methodist University. She founded an outpatient mental health clinic and has strong leadership skills.

**Kevin Healey** is okay if you want to put him in a box but please know that before long it will break because it doesn't fit him. It is, after all, your box.

**Elahe Hessamfar, PhD**, a former business executive, has a PhD from the University of Aberdeen in Scotland. She is the author of *In the Fellowship of His Suffering: A Theological Interpretation of Mental Illness—A Focus on "Schizophrenia."*

**Jane Holloway, MA** is a doctoral student at the Institute for Graduate Clinical Psychology at Widener University.

**Noël Hunter, PsyD** is a licensed clinical psychologist working in private practice in New York City. She is the author of the book *Trauma and Madness in Mental Health Services*. [www.noelrhunter.com](http://www.noelrhunter.com)

**Irene Hurford, MD** is an assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry at U. Penn., and the clinical director for the Psychosis Education, Assessment, Care, and Empowerment (PEACE) program at Horizon House. She is the Director of the Pennsylvania Early Intervention Center (PEIC).

**Carina A. Iati, PsyD** is a clinical psychologist at Tewksbury Hospital specializing in the treatment of psychosis and young adult mental health services. Dr. Iati provides individual and group therapy, consultation and assessment services.

**Ellen Inverso, PsyD** is a licensed psychologist and the Director of Clinical Training and Education for Recovery-Oriented Cognitive Therapy programs at the Aaron T. Beck Psychopathology Research Center.

**Charlotte Jevons, PsyD** is a Clinical Psychologist experienced working with patients with psychosis since 2010 and specializing in this population since 2016. Lead Psychologist for Kaiser Permanente's Thought Disorder Program for patients struggling with psychosis.

**Deborah Jordan, RN, M.Ed.** is a mediator and organizer. She has a long-time interest in healing and knows there are different paths to wholeness. Community, spirituality, and yoga have all been important to her.

**Bertram P. Karon, PhD, ABPP** Professor Emeritus (2010), Psychology, Michigan State University; Former President, Division of Psychoanalysis, APA.

**Joe Keifer, PsyD, BSN, RN** is a postdoctoral fellow at the Aaron T. Beck Psychopathology Research Center and works as a Registered Nurse. Joseph is a CT-R trainer in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

**Toshiko Kobayashi, MA** was a former Trauma Program for Staff Coordinator at Bronx Psychiatric Center. Currently promoting Expressive Origami Therapy (EOT), which she formulated as an art therapist, lectured about and presented on internationally.

**Brian Koehler, PhD** is a Professor at NYU and Columbia University; supervisor/faculty member in the NYU Postdoc Program in Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis; Assistant Editor of the ISPS journal *Psychosis*, past president of ISPS-US executive board member of ISPS. Private practice: Manhattan.

**Gillian Stephens Langdon, MA, MT-BC, LCAT**, retired from Bronx Psychiatric Center, teaches at NYU and is author of publications including in *Music Therapy and Trauma: Bridging Theory and Clinical Practice*.

**Tamar Lavy, MD** endeavors to practice humble psychiatry focusing on collaborative person-directed drug withdrawal, tapering, and psychotherapy. She has additional specialization in Integrative and Holistic Medicine.

**Joseph Lesko PsyD** is a 2018 graduate of the Institute for Graduate Clinical Psychology at Widener University. He is a postdoctoral fellow at the Residential Treatment Center in Delaware DOC.

**Krista MacKinnon** is the Director of Families Healing Together, an online resource for families struggling with emotional distress. After working in the mental health system for fifteen years Krista, who was also a patient herself, understands deeply that families deserve access to a community that supports a recovery mindset. Deeply fascinated by exploring the intersection of wisdom and technology, Krista leverages tools of the internet age to create an online community that both supports and inspires. Krista is a mom of three, a Canadian expatriate to Costa Rica and California, and a lifelong student of yoga and breathwork.

**Faye Margolis, PhD** is an Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Bronx Psychiatric Center faculty member who supervises psychology interns and has initiated a trauma rotation. She works with the Trauma Team at BPC developing integrative trauma treatments. She is also in private practice.

**Casadi "Khaki" Marino, PhD, LCSW** is an individual with lived experience of madness who currently works as a psychiatric social worker in an ER. She has facilitated Hearing Voices groups.

**Meg Mateer, MBA, CPA**, founder of Empatiko, studied social psychology and her own and her family's experience of extreme states has inspired her to explore fostering more authentic open human connection.

**Rebecca Miller, PhD** is a clinical psychologist working at Connecticut Mental Health Center, where she directs peer support, trains psychology interns, and draws on her lived experience in her work.

**Kristina Muenzenmaier, MD** is Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. She completed residency training at AECOM and a fellowship in Psychiatric Epidemiology at Columbia University.

**Michael Nelson, CPS**, Certified Peer Specialist and Advance Level WRAP Facilitator, upholds a trauma-informed perspective and has experience working with forensic populations. He works at Increased Connections, RHD.

**Hilik (Yechiel) Peri, MA** is a Supervising Clinical Psychologist, State psychiatric hospital "Shahar Menashe", Israel. In his Private Practice he is also a Child Psychotherapist.

**Narsimha R. Pinninti, MD** is professor of Psychiatry, Rowan School of Osteopathic Medicine and Medical Director of CCBHC at Oaks Integrated Care. He is a clinician, administrator, educator and researcher working at the interface of clinical practice and research into psychosocial treatments for trauma and Psychosis.

**Basant Pradhan, MD** Having an extensive background in monastic traditions and in psychiatry and cognitive neuroscience, Dr. Pradhan applies the Yoga and meditation modules alone or with medications and neuro-modulation interventions (TMS, Ketamine, ECT).

**Jim Probert, PhD** has been a full-time professional for 23 years—regularly engaging individuals experiencing extreme states. He reclaimed his own life after experiencing extreme states diagnosed as serious mental illness.

**David “Tad” Randall** After being diagnosed as Bipolar 2 with ADHD at age 50, he transitioned from three decades in the business world to family support and advocacy in the nonprofit mental health community.

**Mark Richardson, PsyD** is a licensed psychologist, employed as Director for Residential Treatment for Connections Community Support Programs, in the Delaware Department of Correction. He is also chair of the Philadelphia branch of ISPS-US.

**Adam Rifkin, MA** is an LPC candidate and lead trainer in CT-R at the Aaron T. Beck Psychopathology Research Center. He has trained extensively in hospitals and residences throughout Pennsylvania.

**Sally E. Riggs, DClinPsy, ACT** is a licensed psychologist and expert in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for psychosis with 17 years' experience working in this field in both the UK and US.

**Paul S. Saks, PhD** is a licensed psychologist and supervisor at the Manhattan Psychiatric Center. He is a lecturer at Teachers College, has a private practice, and is an analytic candidate at New York University.

**Mark Salzer, PhD** is a Professor of the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences at Temple University and the Principal Investigator and Director of the Temple University Collaborative on Community Inclusion of Individuals with Psychiatric Disabilities.

**Burton N. Seitler, PhD** is a Clinical Psychologist/Psychoanalyst, and Founding Editor-in-Chief of *JASPER*, who has presented and published papers internationally on psychosis, neuroscience, suicide, ADHD, resilience and other important topics.

**Michael Selzer, MD** ran the schizophrenia division at Cornell, authored books and articles on the subject as well as working for 15 years with Dr. Otto Kernberg researching psychotherapy.

**Michael A. Siglag, PhD** is a Clinical Psychologist who has served for more than 30 years in treatment and leadership positions in public psychiatric hospital and forensic settings in New Jersey.

**David Son, MS Ed, CPS** is Director of Creating Increased Connections, promoting recovery through peer support and education. David is a member of the Montgomery County Hearing Voices Network and the HVM. He is a CPS.

**Erin Soros, PhD** is a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Toronto's Jackman Humanities Institute. She has published internationally and her stories have been produced for the CBC and BBC.

**David L. Stark, MS, CPS** was an early client of Windhorse Associates in Northampton, MA, and then became Peer Coordinator and, more recently, Peer Educator at Windhorse. He is also a certified practitioner of Psychosynthesis.

**April Stein, PhD** Director of Psychological Services at Bennington College and founder of PATH at Stone Summit, Dr. Stein is interested in the use of mentalizing and self-exploration in treating the transitional adult.

**Sandra Steingard, MD** is Chief Medical Officer, Howard Center, chair of the Board of the Foundation for Excellence in Mental Health Care, and board member of MIA Continuing Education.

**Ira Steinman, MD** Fifty + years doing Intensive Psychotherapy of Profoundly Disturbed States. Worked with Laing, National Academy of Sciences, Chestnut Lodge, Mt Zion. Author 1/ *TREATING the 'UNTREATABLE'*, 2/ *SELF PSYCHOLOGY and PSYCHOSIS*.

**Robin Timme, PsyD, ABPP** is a board-certified forensic psychologist, employed as Chief Psychologist for Connections Community Support Programs, overseeing clinical implementation of behavioral healthcare in the Delaware Department of Correction.

**Meidan Turel, MA** is an Israeli licensed clinical psychologist, licensed supervisor in psychotherapy and psychodiagnosis. Mr. Turel is Director of Psychological Services in the Ministry of Health Shaar Menasheh Mental Health Center.

**Ron Unger, LCSW** is a therapist and educator specializing in CBT for psychosis, with a focus on relationships between trauma, dissociation, spirituality, and psychosis. Find out more at <http://recoveryfromschizophrenia.org/>

**Sarah Winchester, MSW** is a clinical social worker with a background in college counseling, residential, and community settings. Interests include integrating Contemporary Kleinian, Relational, and anti-oppression approaches to clinical practice.

**Pat Wright, M.Ed.** works as a Parent Educator and as an advocate for families touched by psychosis. She is chair of the family committee within ISPS and this is her 3rd ISPS-US plenary.

**Christina Wusinich, MS** is an interdisciplinary researcher based in New York. Her projects aim to capture a multiplicity of perspectives on topics including community mental health, unsheltered homelessness, and emotion regulation.

**Philip T. Yanos, PhD** is a Professor in the Psychology Department at John Jay College, Director of Clinical Training for the Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program at John Jay, and Associate Editor of the journal *Stigma and Health*.

**Jason Young** began his work in Therapeutic communities ten years ago, gaining experience in four different communities around Vermont. He is now a Team Leader at Soteria Vermont.