

American Balint Society Virtual Annual Meeting 2010 President's Report

June 30, 2010

Greetings to our Balint community. The past year has been a busy one. Here are a few highlights.

Educational activities:

- We held two **Balint Leadership Training Intensives** during the past year: in Charleston, South Carolina in November 2009, and in Santa Rosa, California, in March 2010. We will host our next Intensive on Long Beach Island, on the New Jersey Shore, from October 21-24 of this year. *Please visit our web site for details, (<http://americanbalintsociety.org/>), and consider joining us.*
- We successfully inaugurated a **Credentialed Leaders' Weekend** last October in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Twenty-four ABS-credentialed leaders participated. The weekend included ongoing Balint groups in which the presented "cases" were leader-group relationships, rather than clinician-patient ones. We also included discussions of Balint "parameters", and videotaped a two-hour discussion on the history of the Balint movement in the United States. The second Weekend will be held in August of this year. *All ABS-credentialed Balint leaders are welcome.*
- We continue to work on broadening Balint exposure in the United States. Last fall, we had an opportunity to present Balint work to practicing attorneys at the **New York City Bar Association**. This spring, a group of ABS members offered a workshop on "The Reflective Balint Experience" to medical educators at the annual meeting of the **Society of Teachers of Family Medicine**.
- Last fall, we were honored to receive one of four "Impact" awards presented at the annual **Behavioral Sciences Forum** in Chicago, recognizing our 2008 Balint presentation (which we do annually). Conference attendees and the program committee selected the four awards from 50 entries

Member development

- We are proud to announce three more **ABS-credentialed Balint leaders** this year, who have fulfilled all credentialing requirement and have been approved by the ABS Council. We have many more in the credentialing pathway, at the time of writing.
- We have begun the third year of our **American Balint Society Fellowship**, a program that gives a senior resident a year's position on the ABS governing council, and expense-paid trips to two annual Council planning retreats. This year's fellow is Dr. Arun Raghunath, from Pittsburgh. *This fall, Jeff Sternlieb will send out a call for nominations for next year's fellow. Watch for it.*

New programs

- We started a new program of issuing **certificates that recognize graduates of educational programs that offer Balint work** led by one or more ABS-credentialed leader. The benefits include a one-year ABS membership with appropriate discounts to educational events, and a certification of completion of their Balint training. The first certificates are being distributed to this year's graduates (2010).

International activities

- Ten American Balint Society members attended the **16th International Congress in Romania** last September. Five participated by making presentations, moderating sessions, and/or co-leading Balint groups. All of us who were there welcomed the opportunities to meet new and old friends from other countries, and to build our Society's international involvement.
- And finally, we are well underway in planning the **17th International Congress, to be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in the fall of 2011**. *Our Congress co-chairs, Jeff Sternlieb and Don Nease, are working hard with their committees and welcome help from any interested ABS members. There are many things to do. Please consider helping out!*

Looking ahead

- At its annual planning retreat in May, the Council discussed and prepared many new activities for the coming year – as well as maintenance of our ongoing programs. We hope to have our **2010-11 Strategic Plan** completed by the end of July. You will find the link on our Wiki site.

Of course, all of these activities are made possible by the support (personal, financial and moral) of the members of the American Balint Society. Thank you!

Ann Sinclair, MS, LCSW
President
American Balint Society