

**Abstract Form  
for**

**20th WADP congress / XXXIII International Symposium of the German Academy  
for Psychoanalysis (DAP) e.V., 16.04.2024 to 20.04.2024, Marrakech, Morocco  
"Social Challenges - Shared Responsibility in Psychiatry and Psychotherapy"**

Symposium

Male  / Female  / Diverse

Chair Person:           Name: **Alfonso**           First Name: **César**  
Title / Position:       MD, President World Federation for Psychotherapy  
Country:                USA

Symposium title:       **Improving Training, Treatment, and Personal Wellbeing in a Rapidly  
Changing World** – Symposium Cosponsored by the American Psychiatric  
Association Psychotherapy Caucus and the World Federation for  
Psychotherapy

Co-Chair:              **Jeffery Smith (USA)**  
  
MD, President-Elect, Society for the Exploration of Psychotherapy Integration  
and Leader of the American Psychiatric Association Psychotherapy Caucus

Speaker 1:           Name, First Name: **Smith, Jeffery (USA)**  
  
Presentation title: *A Modern Conceptual Framework Eases Training and Sharpens  
Practice*

Speaker 2:           Name, First Name: **Plakun, Eric (USA)**  
MD, Medical Director/CEO of the Austen Riggs Center  
  
Presentation title: *Transdyadic Elements of Treatment for the Difficult Patient*

Speaker 3:           Name, First Name: **Sullivan, Timothy (USA)**  
MD, Chair and Director of Residency Training, Department of Psychiatry and  
Behavioral Sciences, Northwell Health at Staten Island University Hospital  
  
Presentation title: *Teaching Therapeutic Posture in a Climate of Social Injustice*

Speaker 4: Name, First Name: **Summers, Richard (USA)**  
MD, Clinical Professor of Psychiatry | Senior Residency Advisor, Department of  
Psychiatry, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

Presentation title: *Physician Wellbeing, Crisis, and System Change*

Overall Abstract Symposium up to 40 lines in English:

One of the greatest social challenges to our field is the explosive growth of middle-income populations in the developing world. As families' primary concern changes from survival to quality of life, the need for well-trained therapists and quality treatment is increasing exponentially. This symposium focuses on solutions to some of the most difficult problems facing trainers, program directors, and practitioners. Moderated by César Alfonso, President of the World Federation for Psychotherapy, component presentations will feature Leaders from the American Psychiatric Association's Psychotherapy Caucus and SEPI, the Society for the Exploration of Psychotherapy Integration. Dr. Smith will begin with a proposal for increasing the efficiency of therapist training by introducing a trans-theoretical clinical framework focused on mechanisms of change in a way that bridges across competing therapies and supports flexible matching of technique to patients and cultures by emphasizing process rather than set methods. Dr. Plakun will introduce techniques for taking therapy beyond the dyad to the group and community, based on long experience with the most difficult patients in an open setting. Dr. Sullivan will return to the subject of training with a thoughtful presentation on teaching trainees to understand and maintain a therapeutic stance appropriate for psychodynamic work, regardless of the setting and circumstances. In the final presentation, Dr. Summers addresses the problem of physician burnout at a time when demands are constantly increasing, resources diminishing, and we all find ourselves caught in the middle.