

From the Editor

The presentations at our seventh annual meeting, held on May 20-21 in Miami and organized around the theme—"Recovered Memories of Abuse or False Memory Syndrome: Clinical, Scientific, and Philosophical Approaches"—were more focused than at any previous annual meeting. This was clearly related to the particular theme of this meeting, and it was a very satisfying experience for the audience.

The meeting began on Saturday morning with Keynote Addresses by Bessel van der Kolk and Paul McHugh, each presenting a point of view on the topic of the meeting. van der Kolk covered a lot of ground in his presentation, beginning with a historical overview and then moving into his and others' research in PTSD and dissociative disorders. He emphasized Janet's historical role as the first psychiatrist seriously to study trauma and dissociation. Janet made a critical distinction between ordinary, narrative memory, in which events are integrated into already existing narrative schemata, and traumatic memory, in which traumatic events are not integrated in the usual manner but are split off or dissociated, to appear later in a pathologic manner. van der Kolk then described the eclipse of Janet and the virtual disappearance of trauma and dissociation from the psychiatric literature until they were 'rediscovered' by Kardiner in the context of traumatic war neuroses in the second world war. The connection of early sexual abuse and dissociation was not made until the 1980s. van der Kolk followed his historical survey with a description of current empirical research, both clinical and neuroscientific, in trauma, PTSD, and dissociative disorders.

Paul McHugh introduced his presentation by invoking Max Weber's distinction between the ethics of responsibility and the ethics of conviction as a framework for understanding the polarization of attitudes in the false memory debate. While the ethics of responsibility emphasizes standards of veracity, the ethics of

President's Column

The past six months have been a rather busy time for our Association. In April a session organized by AAPP was held at the Annual Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association in Chicago. G. Lynn Stephens presented a paper co-authored with George Graham entitled "The Cognitive Architecture of Multiple Personality Disorder." The discussion which followed proved to be lively and characteristic of the interest in philosophy of psychiatry that was evident elsewhere in the meeting. George Graham and Jennifer Radden participated in a well-attended APA Symposium on Philosophy and Psychiatry. Clearly, there is interest among philosophers in this subject and our Association is attempting to recruit those active in the field into our fold. In this regard, Melvin Woody, who is serving as liaison to philosophical societies, has organized a session for the Annual Eastern Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association. (See the notice for information.)

This year's annual program was held in Miami Beach, Florida, May 20-21, 1995 on the theme "Recovered Memories of Abuse or False Memory Syndrome: Clinical, Scientific, and Philosophical Approaches." The call for papers brought a wide range of submissions that again presented the Program Committee with the difficulty of eliminating potentially interesting and important papers. The papers accepted for presentation conveyed a rather rich view of the issues associated with the program theme. Elsewhere in the Newsletter, Jim Phillips gives a fuller report on this meeting.

The big news is that planning for the First International Conference on Philosophy and Mental Health has proceeded with most details now worked through. The meeting is scheduled to occur February 28 - March 2, 1996 at the Hotel Triton, Benalmadena, Spain. Registration materials, if you have not received or mislaid your copy, can be requested through Linda Muncy. The meeting was arranged as a cooperative project by AAPP and the Royal College of Psychiatrists Philosophy Group in order to allow both of our organizations to interact in a face to face fashion. We thought that the opportunity to discuss subjects in philosophy of psychiatry and our experiences in promoting this field would be invaluable. We also decided that this meeting would afford an opportunity to extend our reach to colleagues working in philosophy and psychiatry elsewhere in the world. AAPP has many members outside the United States, including Canada, various European countries, and New Zealand and Australia. This meeting will afford an opportunity to get to know these members better and to hear of their interests and concerns first hand. Doing so in the south of Spain at the end of February will hardly matter to most devotees of this field, but I am told that the cuisine is good and the sun always shines. Spouses and families will surely have things to do, in case you wondered!

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conviction emphasizes ideals and conduct. Thus while a clinician working under the rubric of the first will feel a need to assess the truth value of reported memories, a clinician leaning toward the second will forego the responsibility to verify in the service of working as the patient's advocate. McHugh then presented a four-compartment frame to describe the four possible relationships among recovered memories (present or not) and factual history of early abuse (true or not). The challenge for the clinician is to distinguish, for the person moving from the "no memory" row to the "recovered memories" row, whether that person is ascending the column, memories and factual history, or the column, memories and no factual history. He then described some of the characteristics of pseudo-memories, as well as some of the techniques, e.g. hypnosis, that are often responsible for

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Other meetings are in the planning stage. The Yale/New Haven Group has accepted the invitation of the Executive Council to host a regional meeting in January, 1997. They have chosen a theme focusing broadly on theme of Imagination and its Pathologies. Announcements for this conference will be forthcoming in a future issue of the Newsletter. Interested parties should feel free to contact James Morley, 203-232-4571 (ext 372) or David Pettigrew, 203-392-6805. Jerry Kroli has agreed to serve as Chairperson for the annual meeting which will be held in New York in early May. The theme of the annual meeting is "Weakness of Will," which we hope will be explored fully in terms of its clinical, philosophical, and ethical ramifications.

Interest in the field of philosophy and psychiatry continues to grow and our efforts to develop this interest continues apace. Suggestions from the members are always welcome regarding future programs and projects. We want to know if AAPP is meeting your needs or could do things differently to accommodate your interests. This is an exciting time for AAPP as we venture into a first international meeting, continue to develop collaborative work with parallel organizations, and initiate regional meetings. I hope that you share my enthusiasm for these developments, and I look forward to seeing you in Spain early next year.

George Agich, Ph.D.

UK UPDATE

Consolidation and growth were the corporate-language hallmarks of 1994. Research and development have been the corresponding hallmarks of 1995. In addition to our usual programme of workshops and conferences, there have been a number of important research meetings (both here and in continental Europe) and some major initiatives in teaching, including the establishment at Warwick University of what we believe is the first professorial chair of its kind in the world in *Philosophy and Mental Health*.

These exciting developments have been a result of increasingly productive contact between philosophers and psychiatrists at both local and national levels. Among many successful local meetings, Sean Spence, working at the Cyclotron

Unit at The Hammersmith Hospital in London, organised a particularly successful half-day meeting on free will, personal identity and neuropsychiatry. This brought together philosophers and brain imagining experts to examine the significance of recent research linking specific changes in brain activity with higher level subjective phenomena such as willed action and second-order thinking.

The closer working relationship between philosophers and psychiatrists was also evident at our Annual Meeting. This was organised at Keele University in the West Midlands by a philosopher, Bobbie Farsides, and a psychiatrist, David Forman. Each session of the programme, which covered a number of closely related themes in the areas of personal identity, the unconscious and the social construction of meaning, brought together a philosopher and psychiatrist working together. This produced a particularly rich set of papers and lively interdisciplinary discussions.

A more specialised research workshop was hosted in March by the Ciba Foundation in London on *Connectionism and Schizophrenia*. The Ciba workshops are designed to bring together researchers from different fields in areas identified as having potential for future growth. They are prestigious occasions and it was therefore particularly encouraging that we were invited to hold a workshop at this early stage in the development of the subject. Key contributors included, from the USA, Ralph Hoffman (Yale) and Johnathan Cohen (Pittsburgh), both of whom have developed important neural net models of schizophrenia; from continental Europe, Bernard Pachoud (Paris) and Manfred Spitzer (Heidelberg); and, from the UK, a wide range of computer scientists, AI experts, psychologists and psychiatrists. These included the new Oxford Professor of Schizophrenia, Tim Crow, the Cambridge animal psychologist, Trevor Robbins; also Professors Aaron Sloman and Margaret Boden, working on AI models of emotion; and Karl Friston, a mathematician working at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School in London on non-linear models of the results of dynamic brain imagining. Although an exploratory meeting, the event attracted considerable interest, and the widely-read science magazine, *The New Scientist*, published a Forum discussion article on the whole topic of schizophrenia and work in Artificial Intelligence.

Important as all these meetings have been, they will only be significant in the long term if we have vehicles for carrying forward and sustaining the research inter-

est they generate. Our new journal, *PPP*, is one such vehicle. Many papers presented at academic meetings are of course not suitable for publication - of the twenty or so (high quality) papers from the above three meetings, only two are likely to be accepted for publication more or less in the form in which they were presented. But John Sadler and I are actively seeking first-class papers in areas of current philosophical and psychiatric interest, and with our system of cross-disciplinary commentaries we believe that *PPP* itself could make a significant contribution to the research process. The *News and Notes* section could also be important here. Among other functions, this offers groups or individuals the opportunity to advertise their research interests. John and I hope that it will increasingly be used for "networking" in this way.

Supporting research will be one of the functions of the new Chair in *Philosophy and Mental Health* set up this year in the Department of Philosophy at Warwick University. As the first holder of the chair, my overall brief is to develop a full graduate programme of teaching and research. So far as research is concerned, the Ciba meeting on artificial intelligence has got us off to a flying start! But we will be keen to give academic support to initiatives in any relevant area. We already have two

ADVANCE NOTICE

THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PHILOSOPHY AND MENTAL HEALTH

Benalmadena - Southern Spain
Wednesday, February 28 -
Saturday, March 2, 1996

Keynote Speakers:

Jonathan Glover	Kenneth Schaffner
U. of Oxford	G. Washington U.
UK	USA

The conference will be jointly organized by The Royal College of Psychiatrists Philosophy Group (UK) and The Association for the Advancement of Philosophy and Psychiatry (USA) and will aim to bring together all those international groups and individuals working in philosophy and mental health.

Further details may be obtained from Linda Muncy, Administrative Coordinator, AAPP.