June 21, 2024

Dear Drs. Twersky and Press,

This year we have been overwhelmed by the death on March 15, 2024 of Bernard Maskit, our eminent colleague, dear friend, and lifelong spouse and partner of Wilma.

Understandably, we are now beginning to regroup our staff and colleagues to resume our scientific work. We will outline some of our important accomplishments.

The work on Multiple Code Theory and the Referential Process continues to focus on the integration of psychoanalytic theory with psychotherapy research and the development of new methods for this research, centering on the computer program DAAP (Discourse Attributes Analysis Program) . We have the converging goals of making research more accessible and useful for clinicians in their work with patients, and also making psychoanalytic theory more accessible to researchers as a basis for empirical investigations.

To further these goals, the first Referential Process Symposium was held at NYPSI for two weeks in July 2023. The hybrid in person and on-line format enabled participation by researchers and clinicians, including colleagues and students from Europe and Israel as well as Canada and the U.S. The seminar was organized by Wilma Bucci and Bernard Maskit, and focused on advances in development of the DAAP as well as new clinical applications. Presenters included Dr. Charles Jaffe of the Chicago Psychoanalytic Institute, Dr. Chris Christian of IPTAR and Yale University, as well as Drs. Rachele Mariani from Rome and Attà Negri from Milan, and Drs. Hoffman., Bucci and Maskit and others. Drs. Mariani and Negri, who have developed and applied Italian versions of our measures, participated in person for the two weeks of the meeting. The Symposium was also attended via Zoom by our Israeli colleague Dr. Galit Harel, at the Ashkelon College, School of Social Work in Tel Aviv, who is working with colleagues to develop and apply Hebrew versions of the DAAP program and its measures. Michael Peral, our Pacella Research Assistant is working with Dr. Harel and her group.

Our work with the Italian versions of our measures and applications in other languages is advancing. Drs. Mariani and Negri have been appointed as Visiting Scholars at Pacella; Dr. Mariani is in the Department of Dynamic and Clinical Psychology at Sapienza University in Rome, Dr. Negri is in the department of Dynamic Psychology, at the University of Bergamo. We have provided financial support for Dr. Negri's continuing work facilating the development and application of the DAAP program in Spanish as well as Italian and English. Dr. Mariani is collaborating with us in several projects including research based on analysis of notes as well as verbatim transcriptions.

A major goal of the Research Center has been increasing our collaboration with clinical doctoral programs and including students in our projects. The Symposium included presentations by two students who have completed their dissertations applying computerized measures in psychoanalytic and psychotherapy research. Jinny Hong presented her dissertation at the University of Toronto using computerized measures to compare the language of emotion focused and cognitive behavioral treatments. Karen Tocatly presented her dissertation at the City College of New York (CUNY), which characterized the nature of more or less effective therapist language in psychoanalytic treatments; this was given the award for best dissertation by the graduate faculty in psychology at CUNY.

Henry Peterson, who is a Pacella Research Fellow and a second year student at CUNY presented a study comparing speech rhythms and language style between in-person and remote treatments; he also presented this paper at the annual conference of the North American Society for

Psychotherapy Research (NASPR) and received honors for the paper at CUNY. Another CUNY student, Oded Hadar has also completed his Masters' level project with our group.

The proceedings of the Referential Process Symposium will be published in a special issue of the *Journal of Psycholinguistic Research*, scheduled for early 2025. Elena Petrovska, who is a doctoral student at the Derner Institute of Adelphi University and a Research Fellow at Pacella will serve as Associate Editor of the special issue. We are dedicating this special issue to the memory of Bernie.

For additional information on these and other projects please consult our new website, www.referential process.org with its connection to NYPSI research. The website has been designed to provide theory and research concerning the role of the referential process in the therapy context, as well as to enable direct user-friendly access to the computerized measures for use by researchers.

The work of Leon Hoffman and colleagues on Regulation Focused Psychotherapy for Children (RFP-C) (https://www.rfp-c.com/) , supported in part by the Pacella Research fund, continues to be very successful. Tracy Prout, the Principal Investigator of the Randomized Control Trial of Regulation Focused Psychotherapy for Children with Externalizing Behaviors, was awarded for the prize for best Scientific Paper of the year at the American Psychoanalytic Association February 2024 meeting. This paper was published in Psychotherapy Research, the prestigious journal of the Society for Psychotherapy Research. We are very pleased that our work has been recognized by The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. RFP-C was discussed at a fully subscribed workshop and was included in a symposium on the treatment of irritable children at the October 2023 meeting in New York. In addition, a Randomized Control Trial of RFP-C has begun in Turkey. Sibel Halfon is the Principal Investigator. Can Buyukasik, a candidate at NYPSI and a member of the Center for Regulation Focused Psychotherapy team (and fluent in Turkish), is participating as a supervisor. Outreach to a variety of institutions and individuals on the implementation of RFP-C is actively underway. This includes the participation of graduate students rotating through NYPSI who are utilizing RFP-C in Public Schools. Leon Hoffman has also taught and supervised the implementation of RFP-C conducted by psychology externs and interns in public schools as part of their rotation at NYPSI. One paper has thus far been published regarding this work.

We have also developed a manual to assess defense mechanisms utilized by young children. The development of the manual was published and the manual is available at https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/suppl/10.1080/15289168.2018.1565005/suppl_file/hicp_a_1565005_sm2717.pdf.

Sincerely,

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