

American Balint Society
Virtual Annual Meeting 2011
President's Report

October 12, 2011

Greetings to our Balint community. The past year has continued a torrid pace of activity including our usual training programs, attention to the operations of our society, discussions about advanced levels of training, and especially the planning of the International congress in Philadelphia in September 7-11, 2011. Here are details summarizing highlights of the past year:

Educational activities:

- We held two successful **Balint Leadership Training Intensives** during the past year - one on Long Beach Island, NJ in October 2010, and one in Seattle WA, in April 2011. The ABS Council voted to not hold our usual Fall Intensive in 2011 because of our plans to host this year's International Balint Congress in Philadelphia, PA. We will return to our twice a year pattern of hosting leadership trainings in 2012. Our next Intensive will be held in Portland, OR in the Spring of 2012. Please visit our web site for details, (<http://americanbalintsociety.org/>), and consider joining us.
- We continue to have a fruitful collaboration with the Forum for Behavioral Sciences meeting that is held annually in the Fall in Chicago, IL. Not only do we have three (3) experiential sessions to conduct and explain the Balint process to an audience of Behavioral Scientists, but we are now included in a pre-conference orientation for a group of Behavioral Science Fellows. A number of participants in these programs join the society and some attend Intensives.
- ABS members continue to make opportunities to present programs demonstrating Balint group process at various state and national programs. Among these are the PA Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers and a meeting of psychoanalytically oriented medical educators.
- A second Credentialed Leaders' Weekend was scheduled, but unfortunately was postponed because of the small number of registrants. The idea of continuing education for credentialed leaders continues to be on the agenda of our council and credentialing coordinating committee, and more information will be shared as plans are developed.
- Two Balint weekend events were held - in Santa Rosa CA and Providence R.I. Both sponsors have held Balint weekends before, and we are encouraging other communities to plan Balint weekends.
- For at least the third consecutive year, members of the American Balint Society have contributed articles to the Journal of the Balint Society, a once a year publication of the British Balint Society. Copies are available by contacting The Balint Society (U.K.) - please feel free to contact the editor, John Salinsky. John will be retiring soon and is in the process of turning over the reins to a new editor.

Member Development

- We are proud to announce one more **ABS-credentialed Balint leader** this year, who has fulfilled all credentialing requirements and has been approved by the ABS Council. We

continue to have several more leaders in the credentialing pathway, and we have had additional interest from newer leaders who have begun this process.

- In addition to continued interest in credentialing, we have added an additional leader to the list of **approved supervisors**.
- 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. Unfortunately, this year there were no nominations for this Fellowship position for the year 2011 - 2012. We plan to examine the nature of this position to decide how to proceed in the future.

New programs

- During the last year, the council approved establishing the new officer position of **Assistant Treasurer** in order to facilitate the orderly transfer of the treasurer's responsibilities. In addition, an ad hoc committee established a process for the selection and approval of a nominee for this position. Details of this process are posted on our web site through the Society Admin link.
- We continued a new program started last year 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 were distributed to last year's graduates (2010), and this program has expanded with additional programs adopting this practice in the current year.
- The Weekend Committee has developed a compendium designed to detail the entire process to plan and conduct a Balint Weekend. This is a parallel document to the Intensive's compendium which has made this process totally systematic. You can access this document on the Society Admin link on the ABS web site.

International activities

- We will be the host of the 17th International Balint Congress in Philadelphia, PA on September 7 - 11, 2011. This is a rare opportunity for the International Balint community to gather in the United States - it is the first time a Congress has been held here since 1994 when it was held in Charleston, SC. There are over 100 people registered for this Congress, with a full schedule of scientific papers, a plenary, a fish bowl demonstration, balint groups meeting each day and a panel discussion. We look forward to seeing many of our current members and many potential new members in Philadelphia.
- We continue to have an active presence at International Balint meetings including the Oxford (U.K.) weekend in the Fall of 2010, a meeting conducted by the Israel Balint Society in the Spring of 2011, and a first Leadership Development meeting sponsored by the IBF and held in Copenhagen, DK in April 2011. In addition to Don Nease who is the Vice President of the International Balint Federation, Ann Sinclair, Jeff Sternlieb and Mary Wassink attended the Oxford weekend in the Fall of 2010. Ann and Jeff along with Don attended the Copenhagen Leaders Weekend.
- Finally, ABS representatives continue to support developing Balint societies in Australia and New Zealand by functioning as faculty or consultants to their leader training programs. Thank you to Ann Sinclair, Don Nease and Albert Lichtenstein.

Looking ahead

- At its annual planning retreat in May, the Council welcomed a new President, President-Elect, Secretary and Assistant Treasurer along with five (5) new council members, including our first member from Canada. Once again we were able to save considerable money for the second year in a row by taking advantage of home hospitality of our host (**Thank You, Janet Walker!**) and her neighbors. We were able to invest some of this time in important team building, discussion of issues important to the society (like continuing education for credentialed leaders), and do major planning for the International congress. We hope to have our **2011-12 Strategic Plan** completed by the end of this month - October. You will find the link on the Society Admin link of our web site.

Of course, all of these activities are made possible by the leadership of our immediate past president, **Ann Sinclair (thank you Ann!)**, and the support (personal, financial and moral) of the members of the American Balint Society. Thank you!

Jeffrey L. Sternlieb, Ph.D.
President