

Report from the Association Internationale du Psychodrame Balint (AIPB)

Since our last report our association (we count 51 members) has continued with its regular activities in France, Switzerland and Canada.

Our 2008 annual symposium took place in Paris, on October 18th, on the theme “Body, language, memory and Balint-Psychodrama”. The latest issue of our review “Les Quatre Temps” has been published recently with the contributions of this symposium.

We now have 16 regular groups, most of them in different parts of France, but also three in the French speaking part of Switzerland, and one in Canada. A new group opened in Lille (France), but on the whole the recruitment of new participants remains difficult. In spite of our presence in Italy and the organization of our annual symposium in 2007 in Genova, our Italian leaders did not succeed in opening a new group.

Some of our regular activities take place during the training of young doctors or are part of the training of specialists, as it is the case in the postgraduate training in sexology in Paris.

Our close and long collaboration with the French association AREFFS, (an association devoted to the research and training in the domain of the relationship between health professionals and patients) manifests itself each year in the “Journées Franco-Suisses d’Annecy”, as well as in the organisation of CME’s (continuing medical education) workshops, and in an annual meeting of all the group leaders involved in all these activities. Our last reunion of leaders was dedicated to the discussion of the psychotherapeutic work of general practitioners.

The yearly four-days symposium in Annecy that has occurred regularly for more than 40 years is strictly devoted to Balint group work and is opened to all members of the health professions. This year we counted around 50 participants.

The regular CME’s two-days workshops take place in different cities throughout France. These workshops are mainly open to GPs; less frequently to specialists. They meet with considerable success, fulfilling the needs of many regular and faithful participants. Some of the participants are newcomers who discover Balint work for the first time. Next year there will be a significant increase in the number of workshops throughout France. These workshops seem very promising for the future of Balint work in France.

A constant concern for us remains the recruitment and the training of new group leaders, as well as the modalities of our continuing training. We hope that some of the psychiatrists and psychotherapists who already are participants in some regular groups will be interested in joining the training process and will work in co-leadership roles with leaders coming from different fields. Whatever the difficulties, it seems to us very important to maintain a psychoanalytical dimension in the training in Balint work.

During these last two years, on the occasion of congresses and in some institutions, we have met with some difficulty in having our method of Balint psychodrama accepted. We have had to confront some prejudices and have had to challenge some preconceptions concerning our work. We hope that a fruitful collaboration with our colleagues of other societies may develop.

We are looking forward to participating at the next congress in Brasov.

Our next symposium will take place in Nîmes on the 26th of September.

For more information please visit our website: <http://www.psychodrame-balint.com>

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