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1GM in Sofia

The Board wishes to thank the Bulgarian Association for the memorable hospitality and excellent organization of the 1GM in Sofia last March. We are



also thankful to all the representatives who attended the meeting for contributing into a fruitful discussion. We look forward to seeing you all in September. The 2GM will take place on Friday afternoon, September 7th.

Important: Date change for the 1GM 2019 in BERLIN.

The WCBCT2019 Organising Committee (OC) has recently updated the Board on the arrangements for the 1GM next year. Initially, the OC started to arrange the meeting for 9th March 2019, which would have been the traditional date for the meeting, but discovered that the World's Leading Travel Trade Show takes place in Berlin from the 6th–10th March and during that time the prices for hotel rooms were extremely high and the availability was already low. Even budget hotels were expensive that week and many were already booked. Travel costs could also be more expensive. The OC checked the cost for the following weekend, 16th March, and accommodation was much cheaper and available. The Board considered the request by the OC and decided to change the date to **16th March 2019**. We believe that all Member Associations will benefit from this change.

Representatives' registration at the World Congress in Berlin

The issue of free EABCT representative registration was discussed at the 1GM. The organisation hopes to be able to provide free registrations as soon as the income allows it. Representatives are asked to **NOT** register until after the 1GM in Berlin. By that time it should be clear if the congress has reached the break-even point and free registrations will be affordable. This will depend on the number of registrations, so

representatives are asked again to promote the congress as much as possible.

Promoting Sofia 2018

As Irina Lazarova and Paul Salkovskis mentioned at the 1GM, the scientific committee would welcome submissions for Psychosis and behavioural medicine, and Health. Also the committee would like the involvement of people with personal experience. The representatives are asked for their help for submissions on these topics and to disseminate information about the congress. A special request was also made to the Associations if they could sponsor an *expert by experience* from their Association, to attend the congress.

Congress finances

Following the 1GM in Sofia, the Board discussed some of the issues raised around the decision to support the Turkish Association with the **relocation** costs of the 1GM to Ljubljana. While the Board reserve the right to make decisions around such financial matters, as the elected governing body of the EABCT, we also recognise the need to proactively and transparently involve the representatives in such difficult decisions. The Board therefore have decided that if such a situation arises in the future, then the financial support proposals will be brought to the representatives usually via a general meeting. The representatives can help the board devise the principles on which such decisions can be based, so please send your suggestions to Kristoffer Månsson. The principles used to make past decisions have been: (a) that the conference levy remains, (b) requests for financial support are considered in extra-ordinary circumstances, (c) EABCT do not wish Associations to be damaged by holding an EABCT congress and (d) congress budgets should be realistic and Associations should seek the advice of the Scientific Coordinator and experienced congress organisers in order to set an appropriate budget in the first place.

In memoriam: Giovanni Liotti

We would like to express our heartfelt condolences to our colleagues from SITCC for the loss of Giovanni Liotti. Here follows a message from **Michele Procacci**:

"On 9th April 2018, 73-year-old psychiatrist and therapist Giovanni Liotti passed away. He founded the Società Italiana di Terapia Comportamentale Cognitiva (SITCC – Italian Society of Behavioural-Cognitive

Therapy) with Vittorio Guidano on 30th December 1972; at the beginning it was called Società Italiana della terapia del comportamento. He was also a founder member of the Association for the Research on Psychopathology of Attachment and Development.

Giovanni Liotti, called Gianni, was a master for many of us, a father, a friend, a supervisor and a teacher. His attention to the relationship between the cognitive approach, the research on emotions and the mental disorders treatments is visible right from his first works with Guidano (*Cognitive processes and emotional disorders: a structural approach to psychotherapy*, Guilford 1983). A book that is the result of the cooperation of the fathers of Italian Cognitive Therapy, who later went on exploring different trajectories. Liotti continued his studies on an evolutionist perspective,



that is how primary affective figures create mental representations complex, by studying the theory of attachment and other motivational systems which rule interpersonal relationships. He was a meticulous and interested in different aspects, he made cognitivism roots get closer to other disciplines: ethology, evolutionist psychopathology and neurosciences. In psychopathology his work about dissociative disorders and the importance of traumatic relationships, starting from that of disorganized attachment between mother and child, became a classic. In treatment he dealt with the problem of therapeutic alliance, starting from the ability of both therapist and patient to activate and understand different motivational systems, being also able to create a task group of colleagues to assess them during a therapy (AIMIT), whose results were published in researches and books. He taught in Italian and foreign universities, but above all he trained many therapists, helping some to become his co-workers and write articles, books, essays and conduct empirical researches with him.

Gianni was President of our Society (from 2000 to 2006) and most important he was also able to say the right word, advise and suggest a book to everyone. Last but not least he was a man who had lived his family, happiness and pain, and the recent disease with great humanity and ability to be close and comforting to others as much as possible.

We are crying for his loss and will try being worthy of what he left behind both under a human and cultural aspect.

Short bibliography

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- Liotti, G., & Monticelli, F. (2014). *Teoria e clinica dell'alleanza terapeutica. Una prospettiva cognitivo-evoluzionista*. Milano: Raffaello Cortina editore.
- Liotti, G., Fassone G., Monticelli F. (2017) *L'evoluzione delle emozioni e dei sistemi motivazionali. Teoria, Ricerca, Clinica*. Milano, Raffaello Cortina editore."

CBT Conference in Moscow

Congratulations to the organisers of a successful conference with more than 200 participants from Russia and other countries that took place in Moscow



last April. Apart from the memorable hospitality, the scientific program was rich, presenting CBT in its modern form, second, third, and even fourth (technological) waves. Invited foreign speakers included Thomas Kalpakoglou, Tullio Scrimali, Oana and Daniel Davies, Ilona Krone and Christian Stierle.

Warm regards,
Thomas Kalpakoglou