

SATIR INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL

About This Issue

The recent conference, *Becoming More Fully Human: The Evolution* presented in Vancouver, B.C. served as an apt marker for Virginia Satir's 100th birthday. The Satir Institute of the Pacific along with the title sponsor, the Virginia Satir Global Network, and with other sponsors, mounted a three-day event that was rich in content and smooth in its process. What better way is there to celebrate and honor Virginia Satir and her contributions to the field of psychotherapy, business, health, pastoral and other organizations than with an international conference with representation from 21 countries around the world? A huge undertaking, the conference planning committee, led by Corinna Douglas, orchestrated the conference with aplomb.

The conference, including three pre-conference day-long workshops, three keynote speakers, and some 61 concurrent sessions of varying length, was well received by the 213 participants. I was delighted to discover that so many newcomers to the Satir Model resonate with the Satir Model as this bodes well for the continuation of the Satir approach far into the future. The mix of old and young, practioners with little exposure to the Satir model to people with extensive knowledge and experience, the mix of ethnic and cultural backgrounds, and the variety of disciplines represented among participants and presenters added a welcome mix of spices to the proceedings.

Speaking of spice, the food (unlike the ordinary “rubber chicken” found at most conferences) that punctuated the conference at breaks and lunch and dinner was delightfully nutritious, delicious, moist and plentiful. Meals and breaks allowed time for participants to mix and mingle and network, opening further avenues for connection. The two evening events complete with great live music inspired many people to rise up and dance, laugh and enjoy each other in lighter ways (especially with the surprise “Can Can” dancers!), a welcome counterpoint to the packed conference agenda.

As Dr. John Banmen pointed out in his plenary talk the first day of the conference, the world has awakened to the Satir Model which is now practiced in almost every continent and continues to spread. In addition to the established pockets of Satir training throughout the world mentioned by Dr. Banmen, we learned later in informal conversations and formal sessions that there appear to be new institutes ready to sprout in the Yukon, Macedonia and the Middle East, among other places. Virginia Satir would be delighted to see how her approach has mushroomed around the world. Dr. Banmen also noted that the theory itself is developing as practitioners continue to flesh out the “third birth” as Virginia called it, and are now, moving forward in elaborating the “fourth birth” of universal connections.

Conference sessions spanned a broad array of topics covering the various elements of the Satir model (e.g., congruence, triads, hope, stances, energy, use of self, yearnings, meditation, self-compassion, sand tray therapy, trauma, self-care, leadership, family medicine and family therapy, group process, and addictions, to name a few). There were also options to learn about training programs in various parts of the world as well as a number of programs that centered on movement, music and dance interventions.

A highlight of the conference for me was learning about one of the few controlled studies conducted on the Satir Model through the University of Hong Kong. The study is funded by the Hong Kong Institute. Dr. Catherine (Cat) Chung leads that project. The project studies the effectiveness of a personal growth workshop on participants. We are hoping that other individuals elect to follow suit with controlled research studies as well. In addition to publishing papers on theory, practice, ethics, qualitative research, case studies, photo essays,

and the like, we are eager to publish well-designed research in order to assist the Satir approach in meeting the evidence-based criteria expected of contemporary approaches.

Generated from the conference are three lead articles that we hope will launch a dialogue about energy elements of the Satir Model. Mary Leslie begins a much-needed articulation of the energetic framework of Satir's therapeutic approach, an often controversial but essential aspect of her work. Wendy Lum, in the second article introduces a new concept into the Satir lexicon that she coins, Zero Infinity, a concept she uses to further explain what happens in a moment of transformational change. Both papers are exciting contributions that expand the development and articulation of current advancements in the Satir Model. A third article, by Walter Zahnd introduces the concept of the kaleidoscope to conceptualize the process of transformation within the Satir Model. We encourage readers to consider submitting your thoughts and reactions to these theoretical contributions to the Satir International Journal for consideration in the 2017 issue.

In this issue we launch an expanded section of the journal, *Satir Around the Globe*. In this section we include 10 reports authored by presenters at the recent conference. These papers represent work being done in such countries as the United States, Canada, Spain, China, Hong Kong, and the Czech Republic. We are hoping that by reading this material, readers will be encouraged to network with each other about their work and that these snippets and lengthier descriptions will be generative, spawning more quality manuscripts for this new section as well as the peer reviewed section of the journal.

In the Insights section, you will find an article by Eva Wieprecht which is an edited transcript of an interview I conducted with her. In our interview, Eva describes her movement and body-focused approach to the Satir Model. Eva is from Germany but conducts trainings in many parts of the world. Also in this section is a timely and thoughtful article by Laura Dodson, *What is the World Trying to Do*, where she discusses the world's movement from a Hero archetypal energy to an integration of feminine energy within all levels of system.

Also included in this issue, Regina Ragan reviews the recently published book by Madeline DeLittle entitled, *Where Words Cannot Reach*, Neuroscience and the Satir Model in the Sand Tray, a welcome addition to the Satir literature on children and adults.

Not everyone can afford to attend conferences held far away from their homes where so much energy is exchanged and the creative juices can begin to flow. If people are willing to write about their work, others around the world can catch on to some of that energy and build upon it wherever they live in the world. I invite people around the world to write about your work. Allow yourself and your work to shine.

All the best,
Jesse Carlock, Ph.D.
Editor