

EDITORIAL:
CATCHING UP
WITH OURSELVES

Richard P. Kluff, M.D.

DISSOCIATION has been experiencing a difficult and embarrassing series of production delays. We owe you, our readers and our contributors, an apology for any frustration and inconvenience this may have caused you. We value you and your support of *DISSOCIATION* as a scientific and clinical forum for the advancement of knowledge about dissociation and about all aspects of the dissociative disorders, and plan to catch up with ourselves very rapidly. We have a large number of manuscripts already processed, and still more manuscripts are being processed for publication. The 1995 Amsterdam Papers will be published shortly. We are optimistic about the future of *DISSOCIATION* and we are looking forward to presenting a number of very interesting issues.

In the next few issues of *DISSOCIATION* you will be able to read many of the major presentations from the Amsterdam conference. You will receive further review articles on crucial issues such as memory, studies concerning working with traumatic materials, and observations of dissociative phenomena and disorders in previously unstudied populations. You will have the opportunity to explore new theories, models, and conceptualizations.

Turning to the contents of the current issue, many subjects of considerable importance are addressed. Chu, Matthews, Frey, and Ganzel provide a scholarly review of the nature of traumatic memories of childhood abuse. Swirsky and Mitchell explore dissociative aspects of the binge-purge cycle and Katz and Gleaves study the relationship between the frequently co-occurring phenomena of dissociative disorders and eating disorders. Katz offers clinical observations on autohypnotic phenomena in eating disordered patients and describes their clinical management. Goodwin discusses Katz' observations. Beere continues his study of switching within the framework of experimental phenomenology, and explains the theoretical implications of his findings. Price offers an explanation of what has been called "inner child work," and his observations are discussed by Olson, O'Neill, and Kluff. van der Hart presents a critique of Hackings remarks on Pierre Janet and his work, and Cardena reviews Spiegel's book, *Dissociation: Culture, Mind and Body*.

One of the more interesting aspects of the growth and development of any area of scientific or clinical inquiry is the changing "cast of characters" among the major contributors to its literature. The dissociative disorders field was nur-

tured initially by a relatively small group of pioneer contributors. While some remain active participants in the pursuit of further knowledge and continue to develop additional therapeutic approaches, others have been silenced by death or retirement, have directed their energies elsewhere, or feel that they have already said what they have to say.

A crucial aspect of "catching up with ourselves" will be the encouraging of the emergence of new voices, with new ideas and novel perspectives. Many of these new voices have yet to communicate their ideas or to begin to share their contributions. It is our earnest hope that *DISSOCIATION* will soon be publishing the work of many new contributors, some of whom, no doubt, will in time become towering figures in our field. We will be checking our mail with eager anticipation.

We invite your suggestions and proposals for special issues, discussion topics, and new features. Those with specific questions or concerns may feel free to write to me at The Center for the Study of Dissociative States, P.O. Box 1185, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004.

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