



South Carolina Association for Play Therapy

President's Letter

When was the last time that you imagined yourself as a superhero? For some of us, it was in March of this year. Dr. Larry Rubin began our annual spring conference in Columbia, South Carolina with a projective technique designed to do just that. Many of us who enjoyed the two days of dynamic professional development with Larry, began that experience by revisiting our early memories, experiences and relationships with superheroes. So, what were your experiences with superheroes? Who are your current superheroes? What benefits do you realize from having superheroes? Maybe, in general terms, you gain some resilience that gets you through troubling times. Or, maybe, your favorite superheroes serve, in some manner, as mystical role models. Dr. Rubin gave us a better understanding of how superheroes can function as metaphors that serve to identify and understand our vulnerabilities as well as our strengths. How refreshing it feels to recognize that even superheroes have their weaknesses; making it easier to talk about, explore and ultimately address in a developmentally relevant manner our own vulnerabilities with positive therapeutic outcomes.

The South Carolina Association of Play Therapy (SCAPT) strives to be mission-driven. One of our primary objectives is to offer our constituents and other professionals constructive and meaningful opportunities for professional development. On behalf of the SCAPT board of directors, I would like to say that we are happy to do this work and proud of our track record as well as our plans for upcoming training events. We were most successful with keeping trainings constructive and meaningful on day two of our annual spring conference. For the first time, we programmed an innovative half-day day training where participants were led through a series of well-planned didactic and experiential activities that required the application of specific conference content. Dr. Sandi Frick Helms (founding president of SCAPT) expertly facilitated a sequence of steps that kept us grounded in theory and therapeutic goal-setting, incorporated a case study from one of Larry's books and ultimately led us to uncover salient insights applicable in our work with clients.

In addition to the more obvious rationale of trainings, I wish to celebrate the subtle and intrinsic value of peer support and networking that occurs in tandem with published conference objectives. When we gather together as colleagues, we realize gains that are not intended objectives of the training per se, but beneficial none-the-less. The support that we offer one another impacts our practices and the quality of services that we offer. Frequently, our unscripted and unstructured time together can re-invigorate our drive to be the best play therapist, supervisor, trainer and clinician that we can be; so that we can be, in some ways, superheroes to our clients who find themselves in worlds that all too often have too many villains and too few superheroes.



South Carolina Association for Play Therapy

Thanks for all that you do to support play therapy, the mental health profession and SCAPT.

Membership

Help! As you may know, our state branch was recognized for meeting all of the criteria to reach Gold Branch for 2010. The requirements are extensive and much of the credit for meeting the criteria can be attributed to members of the board of directors and officers who are unyielding in their commitment and dedication to SCAPT. One criterion that we were awfully close on is membership. APT asks state branches to show an annual increase in membership to be eligible for Gold Branch status. Please help us maintain our current members and increase our new membership as best as you can. Any of your efforts to this end will strengthen our organization and profession.

Fall Conference

Before I close, I would like to extend an invitation for you to join us for our fall conference in **Greenville, South Carolina**. We are very excited about the offerings and the location. Dr. Deb Hickey, our immediate past president has helped us secure the **Children's Museum** in downtown Greenville as our venue for our fall conference to be held on **Saturday, September 10, 2011**. The day-long training will earn participants seven (7) CEs and will include a 3-hour training on "**Child-Centered Play Therapy: A Comprehensive Introductory Workshop**" by Cynthia Crawford, PhD, a one-hour lunch session on **APT Multicultural Competencies** and a second 3-hour session by Sandra Frick-Helms, PhD on "**Cognitive-Behavioral Play Therapy.**" We are thrilled to have these seasoned presenters offering their expertise at a hard-to-beat price of \$50 (APT Members); \$70 (non-members) and \$28 (Full-time graduate students). Lunch is included. Please visit our web site at www.sca4pt.com for more information on the conference program, presenters or for registration information.

Please let us know how we can continue to best serve you. The directors' e-mails can be found on our website.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Horak Jr., PhD
President, SCAPT