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The American Family Therapy Academy is hosting its 34th Annual Meeting, accompanied by an open conference for family therapists and other mental health professionals from around the world.

FAMILY RESILIENCE

SAN FRANCISCO | MAY 16-19, 2012

REGISTER NOW

The American Family Therapy Academy (AFTA) welcomes senior family therapists, researchers of family processes, students, and early career professionals interested in an opportunity to learn about and discuss the most innovative work in family therapy practice, theory, and research.

AFTA will convene a one-day (1) Annual Meeting for its members and their invited guests, followed by a two and one-half (2.5) day open conference which AFTA will host for the wider community, bringing together presenters and attendees from around the world. Together we will explore the theme of Family Resilience.

To ensure the event provides an intimate atmosphere for participation and dialogue, registration has been limited to 350 attendees. Attendees will hear presentations and be given the chance to reflect on innovations in therapeutic practice by those who are actively advancing our understanding of family therapy and family processes across cultures and contexts.

KEYNOTE 1:

Positive Deviance, Social Complexity, and Generative Relationships



SPEAKER:
Arvind Singhal, Ph.D.

Bio: Dr. Arvind Singhal is the Samuel Shirley and Edna Holt Marston Endowed Professor of Communication and Director of the Social Justice Initiative in UTEP's Department of Communication.

KEYNOTE 2:

In The Realm of Hungry Ghosts: A Biopsychosocial View of Addictions, from Heroin to Workaholism



SPEAKER:
Gabor Maté, M.D.

Bio: Gabor Maté M.D. is a physician and author. His four books are all Canadian bestsellers, published internationally in nearly twenty languages.

KEYNOTE 3:

Family Roots: An Investigation of the Effects of Upheaval on Family Systems



SPEAKER:
Mindy Thompson Fullilove, M.D.

Bio: Mindy Thompson Fullilove, M.D., is a research psychiatrist at New York State Psychiatric Institute and a professor of clinical psychiatry and public health at Columbia University.

PLENARY I:

Resilience in Couples Up Against Personal and Political Stressors

This plenary will examine, from various perspectives, how couples use existing resources to develop new strategies when up against personal dilemmas and constraining political narratives. Resilience in this discussion will include responses within individuals and between couples that help them withstand wider social and cultural pressures.

Moderator:

Ellen Pulleyblank Coffey, Ph.D.

Speakers:

Thandiwe Dee Watts-Jones, LMFT
Carmen Knudson-Martin, Ph.D.
Robert-Jay Green, Ph.D.

PLENARY II:

The Crocodile Lives in Water Yet Breathes the Air: Adaptations of Families Across Cultures and Contexts

This plenary will focus on the ways in which individuals and families of varying cultural contexts evolve and shift to survive and overcome challenging, life-threatening circumstances such as war, terror, poverty, and historical and contemporary oppression. The plenary will also illuminate the ways in which clinicians, advocates, and other service providers need to acculturate to the survival adaptations of families to expand and augment the families' capacity to heal and thrive, while also countering unjust circumstances.

Moderator:

Deidre Ashton, MSSW, LCSW

Speakers:

Andrae Brown, Ph.D.
Michal Shamai, Ph.D.
Michelle Contreras, MA

PLENARY III:

Family Resilience: Advancing Systemic Theory, Research, and Practice

The concept of family resilience brings a systemic lens to our understanding of the human capacity for healing and positive growth out of adversity. This plenary highlights the ways that strong relationships are lifelines for resilience and how resilience can be forged in families and communities by strengthening key interactional processes and relational resources. Presentations will share valuable applications of this approach in a clinical model with family abuse and relational trauma; research to foster military family resilience; work with indigenous practices; healing from political violence; and the benefits of "vicarious resilience" for therapists in resilience-oriented practice.

Moderator:

Froma Walsh, Ph.D.

Speakers:

Mary Jo Barrett, MSW
Shelley MacDermid Wadsworth, Ph.D.
Pilar Hernández-Wolfe, Ph.D.
CharlesEtta Sutton, LCSW

American Family Therapy Academy



Theory • Research • Practice
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TO REGISTER FOR THE MAY 2012 ANNUAL MEETING OR SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT FOR A BRIEF PRESENTATION, INTEREST GROUP OR POSTER PRESENTATION CLICK ON WWW.AFTA.ORG