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Dear OPC Members and Friends,

Fall is upon us — the cool weather and rain are returning — and OPC's educational programs are in full swing. We are excited to welcome five new candidates to our analytic training program (OPI) and are hopeful to begin a new cohort in 2026 if we have enough accepted candidates. Our new Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Program (PPP) cohort is full at ten students, and our Continuing Education (CE) courses and special programs are thriving with strong registration numbers. Also, this year, we are thrilled to be continuing our partnership with the Artists Repertory Theater (ART).

The OPC Board recently held a retreat filled with energy and creative thinking as we discussed issues related to ongoing sustainability. Experiences like this, along with those within our educational programs, highlight the tremendous resource we have in one another as we gather to learn and work together. Those fortunate enough to participate often describe the excitement that arises when a community unites around a shared passion for advancing psychoanalytic education and clinical work, enriched by diverse perspectives.

This collaborative spirit is our most important resource and is key to OPC's success. We are always eager to welcome those who want to join, learn, and create with us.

We deeply value all the ways our community supports OPC!

**Duane Dale, MD**

**President, OPC Board of Directors**



## Upcoming Events

### October

- 4 – Bruce Reis, PhD  
CE Special Program
- 5 – Arts on the Couch ([see p.5](#))
- 30 – Early Career Case Conference  
Free Association begins

### November

- 1 – Aisha Abbasi, PhD  
CE Special Program
- 7 – Clinical Moments
- 21 – Fundraising Cocktail Party
- 27 & 28 – Thanksgiving Holiday  
Office Closed

### December

- 24-1/2/26 – Winter Break  
Office Closed

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION ON OUR PROGRAMS AND EVENTS!

## Message from Oregon Psychoanalytic Institute (OPI) Director

At OPI, we are delighted to welcome our five new candidates: **Aaron Garner, MSW, LCSW; Zheng Liang, LPC; Olivia Torres Sprauer, PsyD; Scott Vignola, LCSW; and Reid Zweifel, MD.** They've started their fall classes, thanks to the hard work of **J Powers, MD,** and his Curriculum Committee. They're beginning at the beginning with Freud I, taught by **Brent Frazee, MD;** Becoming an Analyst, taught by **Kassy Zerbe, MD,** and **Cody Evans, MD;** and a Continuous Case Conference, led by **Steve Purcell, MD.** Meanwhile, in addition to Steve's case conference, the fourth-year candidates are furthering their studies with Cody Evans (also) teaching Neuropsychanalysis and **Duane Dale, MD's** The Soul in Psychoanalysis. A big thanks to our faculty for their gift of teaching, and to J Powers and his committee for organizing a complex, coherent, and rich array of courses.

We're also very pleased to welcome **Chelsea Wagner, LCSW,** to our faculty. She comes to us from the Chicago Center for Psychoanalysis and brings, among her other interests and talents, a background in and love for writing.

In addition to other Executive Committee projects, **Duane Dale, MD's** TA/SA (Training Analyst/Supervising Analyst) Committee is hard at work changing our TA and SA evaluation process, and **Sara Gardiner, MD's** Progression Committee is developing a clearer, more collaborative and transparent assessment of candidates' analytic development, as well as a system of assessing the suitability of control cases, all with the goal of supporting the candidate's education as an analyst.

Our faculty meetings this year will, among other things, focus on revisiting what happened to our program during the Covid-19 pandemic — **Cindi Palman, MD,** will present the chapter she had published in the book Dear Institute, reflecting on the challenges facing her candidate class during that strange time (October 27) and I'm hoping to review a couple of recent papers from the International Journal of Psychoanalysis on remote treatments between training analysts and candidates that happened during this period (May 25).

We will devote two other faculty meetings to discussions led by Sara Gardiner about a second opinion clinic for assessments of control cases (February 23) and analytic competencies we hope to help candidates develop during their training (April 27).

Mark your calendars! Our Conversations in Contemporary Psychoanalysis series this year — open to all in the community — will include visits from **Alice Jones, LCSW** (December 11), **Professor David Tuckett** (January 22), and **Abbot Bronstein, PhD** (April 23).

If you are interested in becoming a psychoanalyst or know anyone who fits that description, we hope to start a new class in the Fall of 2026. You read that correctly — a year from now! Please get in touch with **Lindsey Stevens** or **Richard Alden, MD,** if you'd like to find out more. We would be delighted to receive and review your application.

*Cynthia Gray, OPI Director*

## OPC Program Updates



### Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Program (PPP)

As I sit down to write my first newsletter contribution as PPP Chair, I have only been in the role for a few weeks. What strikes me most so far is a renewed appreciation for **Rachael Berkeley, LCSW,** and the magnificent job she has done as PPP Chair over the last four years – juggling a million and one details, welcoming students, faculty, and committee members with warmth and wisdom, deepening the PPP's commitment to sociocultural awareness, and so much more. On behalf of the whole PPP community, thank you again, Rachael, for all that you have given to the PPP.

In addition to Rachael, my new role has also led me to appreciate at an even deeper level how much **Tess Keith** is the heart and soul of the PPP as OPC's Program Administrator. She has helped me so much to settle into my new responsibilities. I owe her so much gratitude already.

A lot of welcoming has been happening recently in the PPP. We have welcomed new faculty – **Deborah Kass, LCSW; Adam Rodriguez, PsyD; Adrian Sanchez, PsyD; and Carlos Taloyo, PhD.** A new cohort has been welcomed and started classes – **Julie Berman, LPC; Jessica Carlin, LCSW; Andrew Conner, LMFT; Bethany Haug, LPC; Josiah Laughlin, PMHNP; Alena Lauritsen, LCSW; Lauren Merrell, PMHNP; Jazmyn Price, PMHNP; Libby Schwartz, LPC; and James Terhune, PsyD.** All of these new folks were present at our beginning-of-the-year orientation on September 7th. We enjoyed the late summer sun with yummy temperatures in the 70s. First, faculty and students all sat in a circle and brought forth memories of their favorite teachers as part of our introductions. Students then went with Rachael and Tess to learn about PPP procedures and ask questions, and faculty gathered to discuss the sociocultural self-reflection tool that I will talk about below.

Our PPP Committee capped the size of the cohort at ten, and so we have an additional pre-matriculation student who has been admitted but will not start PPP classes until 2027: **Madeleine Potter, PMHNP.** She is in a once-per-month case consultation group generously facilitated by **Merrill Weyerhaeuser, PhD.**

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### **Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Program (PPP) *continued ...***

The PPP Committee has also welcomed two new members: **Brent Belford, LCSW**, and **Paula Leningrad, LCSW**, both recent graduates of our program. As well as all the new additions, we also have the transition of five members of the prior cohort into our Advanced PPP program, facilitated by **Peter Crabtree, PsyD**. They are **Graham Borgman, LPC**; **Rebecca Davis, LCSW**; **Tim Hanson, MD**; **Kim Hyam, LCSW**; and **Stephen Njoroge, MD**. As you can read, there is a lot going on in the PPP!

The PPP has done another annual assessment of the sociocultural content in its 2025-2026 syllabi. Out of eight classes (not including case conferences), 62.5% had at least one diversity reading, 37.5% listed a learning objective that was diversity-related, and 25% mentioned diversity in their class description. For comparison, in the 2023-2024 academic year, with seven out of eight courses being taught, only 25% had a diversity reading, 12.5% had a learning objective that was diversity-related, and 12.5% mentioned diversity in their class description. It is exciting to see the continued positive movement..

Moving beyond analyzing syllabi for sociocultural content and disseminating the results, another new beginning has been the introduction of a sociocultural self-reflection tool for PPP faculty to use at the beginning and end of each content class, case conference, or individual supervision. We hope it will serve as a place for faculty to see where, "Oh yes, I already do that, or feel very comfortable doing more!" to "I need more support to do that skillfully" to "I hadn't even thought of that!".

The PPP committee hopes that, through the adoption of this tool, it will highlight for faculty the power of intention and thereby further increase the integration of sociocultural issues into the process and content of many aspects of the PPP. A few examples from the tool are: "How could I make sure to listen carefully when students, supervisees, and colleagues bring up sociocultural context and track my ability to listen and elicit a fuller discussion?", "Could I include clinical vignettes from patients who identify as BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, and other non-dominant social groups?", and "Could I help students think about cultural context even when clients are from dominant social groups and/or clinician shares context?" We see this iteration of the tool as a first effort and will be gathering feedback from faculty this year about how it is to use and whether it has been helpful.

All of us at the PPP wish you a great Fall as we embark on another academic year.

**Redmond Reams, PhD, PPP Committee Chair**



### **Continuing Education (CE)**

Fall is my favorite season. I always associate the change of the light and temperature in September with the exciting, busy start of the academic year. This year, the CE Committee welcomes four new members **Aisha Abbasi, MD**; **Anne-Marie Basso, LMFT**; **Mary Theodore, MD**; and **Chelsea Wagner, LCSW**, in addition to our veteran crew of yours truly, **Francoise Eipper, MD**; **Cody Evans, MD**; **Michael Weiner, LCSW**, and the irreplaceable **Lindsey Stevens** and **Tess Keith**.

We have a rigorous year of Saturday special programs: **Bruce Reis, PhD**; **Aisha Abbasi, MD**; **Jack Novick, PhD & Kerry Novick, FIPA**; and **Sarah Ackerman**. We are trying out a new 3-hour format for these Saturday seminars, and some of them may have options for additional learning open to members and trainees. The topics cover the breadth of psychoanalysis, from clinical to sociocultural, to child work, to academic--something for everyone, I hope!

We are also excited to offer a few new ways to learn. A group of clinicians is putting together a study group called "Decentering Psychoanalysis" aimed at broadening and querying existing psychoanalytic assumptions in creating new discourses. This may pair well with the year-long course led by **Duane Dale, MD**, called "Creating Spaces to Explore Biases and Polarizations". A third offering in this sphere will be **Aisha Abbasi, MD's** special program on November 1st, entitled "Working Therapeutically Across the Boundaries of Ethnic, Political, and Religious Differences," which is paired with an optional case conference series.

Starting in October, we are piloting a 4-part case conference for early-career clinicians with the dual function of deepening case discussions while creating clinical networks for clinicians new to the community. These can be taken separately or as a continuous year-long offering, and some of our best analysts are leading the groups.

Please continue to join us for our quarterly Clinical Moments, which are free and open to all levels, to get a taste of psychoanalysis and meet like-minded folks at OPC. Francoise Eipper and I will also be continuing our collab of film and psychoanalysis with Hollywood Theatre, with classes plus screenings at Movie Madness on 11/6/25 (*The Babadook*), 12/4/25 (*Point Break*), 1/6/26 (*Decision to Leave*), and 2/3/26 (*Mad Max: Fury Road*), followed by a 3-week virtual course in April 2026. The links to register for the Movie Madness screenings will be separate from the course, so be sure to sign up early!

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### Continuing Education (CE) *continued ...*

As always, I love to hear ideas for courses, special programs, or even something we haven't thought of, in addition to feedback about what we're doing right, how we can be doing better, or if we are doing something very wrong. Please don't hesitate to email me at [alice.huang.md@gmail.com](mailto:alice.huang.md@gmail.com).

Yours truly,

**Alice Huang, MD, CE Committee Chair**



## Newly Accepted OPI Candidates *(in alphabetical order)*

### Zheng Liang, LPC

Zheng is a psychotherapist licensed in both Oregon and Florida. She currently lives in Portland, where she provides individual therapy at a community clinic and maintains a private telehealth practice. Her interest in psychoanalysis began in high school, sparked by a deep engagement with political and philosophical literature. Born and raised in Shenzhen, China, Ms. Liang later moved to the American South. She earned a B.A. in Psychology with a minor in Music from Agnes Scott College, followed by a master's degree in Counseling with a specialization in Marriage and Family Therapy from the University of Miami. She began her clinical career at a nonprofit agency in South Miami, serving unhoused Hispanic and African American individuals with co-occurring mental health and substance use challenges. She later established a private practice focused on serving Florida's Asian community through telehealth. Earlier this year, Ms. Liang spent time living in Micronesia, drawn by her love of aquatic pursuits. She writes that through her work and independent study, she has "come to hope that psychoanalysis might illuminate life's quiet coincidences — those dreamlike, unfathomable turns of fate that lie beyond the reach of consciousness. Not to seize answers, but to ask finer questions."

### Scott Vignola, LCSW

Scott is a psychotherapist and clinical social worker in private practice in SW Portland. Originally from Massachusetts, he received his undergraduate degree at University of Massachusetts - Amherst, where he majored in English & American Literature and developed an interest in psychology and in fostering and facilitating the process of writing. After graduation, he worked for several years in a range of business environments before volunteering with the Peace Corps in Morocco. Upon returning, he launched, owned, and operated a small community-focused business in downtown New Haven, Connecticut before moving to Seattle to attend the University of Washington School of Social Work, where he obtained his Master's in Social Work. Following graduation, Mr. Vignola started a private practice in Seattle focusing on adult psychotherapy and worked with a psychodynamic consultant, experiences that sparked and deepened his engagement with psychoanalytic theory and practice. Three years ago, he and his family moved to Portland, where he continued his private practice and began taking continuing education classes at OPC. Last year, he completed the Online Intensive Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy program through the William Alanson White Institute. His involvement with OPC has expanded to include co-teaching Fundamentals and serving on OPC's Board of Directors. His decision to enter psychoanalytic training reflects his passion for psychoanalytic thinking and his strong desire to be part of our vibrant professional community.

Please join us in extending a warm OPI welcome to Zheng and Scott!



## Recent Member Accomplishments *(in alphabetical order)*

**April Crofut, MD, and Alice Huang, MD,** will each be presenting individual papers as part of the Fourteenth International Evolving British Object Relations (EBOR) Conference, "Live from Seattle: The Music of Psychoanalysis", hosted by the Northwestern Psychoanalytic Society & Institute (NPSI) and Seattle Psychoanalytic Society and Institute (SPSI) - October 17-19, 2025.

**Cynthia Ellis Gray, MD, had a book review published:**

Gray, C. E. (2025). London Kleinians in Los Angeles: Laying the Foundations of Object Relations Theory and Practice, edited by Jennifer Langham, 2023, Phoenix Publishing House Ltd, Oxfordshire, UK, ISBN: 9781800131651. International Journal of Psychoanalysis 106:450-454.

**William Nunley, MD, MPH,** was recently elected as Dean of Faculty for the China American Psychoanalytic Alliance (<https://www.capachina.org.cn/>). If you are interested in teaching, supervision, or clinical service with CAPA. Please contact Bill at [nunley.md.mph@gmail.com](mailto:nunley.md.mph@gmail.com).

**Molly Pfister, LPC,** is graduating from the National Training Program at the National Institute for the Psychotherapies in NYC with a certificate in psychoanalysis. She is particularly interested in working with gender nonconforming individuals and addictions.

**Maura Sullivan, PsyD,** will graduate from the Psychodynamic Supervision Training Program through The Psychotherapy Institute in Berkeley, CA, in October. She has been accepted into the cohort for the Relational Psychodynamic Psychotherapy Certificate Program through the Contemporary Psychodynamic Institute in Seattle, which began on September 6th.

**Nancy Winters, MD,** has concluded her term as North America Co-Chair of the IPA Program Committee for the Lisbon Congress.

At the IPA Congress in Lisbon, she presented the following papers on two panels:

- "The Liar and the Truth-Teller: An Analytic Dialogue"
- "The Interpolation of AI and the Question of Techno-subjunctivity"

## Arts on the Couch Event



Oregon Psychoanalytic Center Outreach is delighted to announce our 2025-2026 collaboration with the Artists Repertory Theater (ART). As in past years, an OPC member will facilitate a dialogue with the audience (and maybe actors and crew) with the aim of thinking aloud about what was heard and felt via the performance and also highlighting important psychoanalytic ideas such as the power of being seen, listened to, and feeling understood.

We invite you to join us on **Sunday, October 5, at ART – 1515 SW Morrison in Portland** – following the matinee of "THE BED TRICK," where **Duane Dale, MD,** will lead this first post-play conversation of 2025-26.

This thoughtfully and beautifully written play is rich with Shakespearean references and, simultaneously, is particularly relevant to contemporary life. "THE BED TRICK" is a multi-layered, sassy, and serious exploration of human desires and of some of the challenges to keeping space for alternative points of view versus conscious and unconscious defensive foreclosure. This curious examination of our minds and hearts invites us to consider how listening to ourselves and each other is sometimes more difficult than keeping secrets buried or holding fiercely to beliefs that perpetuate an element of familiarity, however unpleasant. What we can learn about ourselves and each other opens up possibilities for peaceful and lasting conflict resolution, and for compassion and forgiveness with ourselves and one another. Please join us for this first OPC-ART collaboration.

OPC Outreach welcomes feedback and hearing from others interested in the possibility of joining us in efforts to bring psychoanalytic ideas into conversation with the larger community. Reach out to **Kelly Reams, LCSW, BCD**, [kellyreamsmsw@gmail.com](mailto:kellyreamsmsw@gmail.com), or **Susan Gendein-Marshall, PhD**, [susgnd@mac.com](mailto:susgnd@mac.com).

# ART

