



Balint Bulletin No. 3

April, 2005

Balint groups are a well established and unique approach to training GPs in psychological aspects of general practice. This is an electronic newsletter circulated by the Balint Society of Australia. Its purpose is to disseminate information and news about Balint work to interested people in Australia. Contributions are welcome. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please let us know and we will remove you from the mailing list. To contact us, email Dr Marion Lustig<mlustig@optusnet.com.au>

Attachments

There are three articles attached to this Email:

1. Henry Jablonski. What Makes a Balint Group a Balint Group?
2. Colin Campbell and Gill McGauley. Doctor-Patient Relationships in Chronic Illness: Insights from Forensic Psychiatry.
3. John Salinsky. Balint Groups and the Balint Method.

Balint Society of Australia

A working group in Melbourne is meeting regularly to develop a structure for this newly formed organization. We have commenced working on a website. We have established a national mailing list to which we send Balint Bulletin. We have some contacts with some interstate Balint groups, leaders and people interested in starting or joining groups. We have a clinical group for Balint group leaders and prospective leaders.

Scientific Meeting

Our first scientific meeting was held on March 23 in Melbourne with visiting guest speaker from Sweden, Dr Henry Jablonski, speaking on the topic "What Makes a Balint Group a Balint Group?" Henry's address was based on a paper he presented at the International Balint Federation Congress in 2003 which is attached. Henry also included some fascinating information about Balint work in Sweden. Those attending included GPs, psychiatrists and psychotherapists and there was a lively discussion.

International Balint Federation Congress

The next International Balint Federation Congress will be held in Stockholm on August 24-27. There may be subsidies available for registration for participants from new societies and/or non EU countries. For further information about the congress, see the IBF website.

Balint Group opportunities

Opportunities in Melbourne include:

A new group is about to commence in the western suburbs, sponsored by the Western Division of General Practice (contact the Division). There are vacancies in groups sponsored by the Inner Eastern Division of General Practice in Melbourne (contact the Division), the Greater South-Eastern and Dandenong Divisions

of General Practice (contact Greater South-Eastern Division) and a private group in Heidelberg (contact Dr Marion Lustig, 95715111).

There have been a number of enquiries from people in Sydney interested in running or participating in Balint groups. We don't know of any existing Balint groups in Sydney.

We would be very interested in hearing of other existing groups, particularly interstate, and whether they have spaces for new members. We would also be interested in hearing from people interesting in running or participating in Balint groups.

American Balint Society Leadership Intensives

Two Melbourne GPs attended the latest of these intensives in Santa Rosa, California, and reported very positively on their experiences. The next intensive will be in Jonesborough, Tennessee from November 10-13, 2005.

RACGP Annual Convention

This year's convention in Darwin will include keynote addresses from leading international Balint expert, Dr John Salinsky from the U.K., a four-session Balint workshop (September 29-October 2) and a workshop about Balint leadership (September 28). The Balint workshop will consist of small group discussions about clinical material from participants' practices, facilitated by experienced Australian and overseas Balint group leaders. The Balint leadership workshop will be facilitated by John Salinsky (U.K.) and Albert Lichtenstein (U.S.A.). For further information about the convention, see the RACGP website.

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