



## **Balint Bulletin No. 4**

**July, 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](mailto:mlustig@optusnet.com.au)>*

### **Balint Society of Australia organizational structure**

A meeting to be held in Melbourne on August 31, for the purposes of accepting the constitution and model rules and authorising a representative to apply for incorporation as an association in the state of Victoria. The meeting will be at 90 Eskdale Rd., Caulfield North at 7.30 p.m. and any interested person may attend. Please R.S.V.P. to [mlustig@optusnet.com.au](mailto:mlustig@optusnet.com.au).

### **RACGP Annual Convention Darwin 2005**

This meeting promises to be a feast for people interested in Balint work.

Planned activities include:

- 0. 4 session Balint workshop. An opportunity to participate in a Balint group. Suitable for any GP, including people with and without Balint group experience. People interested in leading Balint groups who are not GPs are also invited to participate.
- 0. Balint leaders workshop.
- 0. Keynote speaker John Salinsky, leading Balint expert from the U.K.
- 0. Opportunities to meet experienced Balint group leaders from Melbourne, Sydney, Darwin, and U.S.A.
- 0. As well as Melbourne stalwarts, so far we have delegates interested in developing Balint work in Hobart, Sydney, Lismore, Brisbane and Townsville.

Details on the RACGP website

<http://www.racgp.org.au/document.asp?id=15589>

### **Scientific Meeting in Melbourne**

We are delighted that Albert Lichtenstein has agreed to be our guest speaker on Saturday morning, October 15, at 18 Erin St., Richmond (in Melbourne). Albert will be in Australia for the RACGP Convention. He is an experienced Balint leader from the U.S.A., where he has had a prominent role in the American Balint Society. He will be speaking about the impact of Balint work on medical decision making. Further details will be notified - meanwhile, keep the date free!

### **American Balint Society Leadership Intensive**

The next of these workshops, held twice yearly, will be in historic

Jonesborough, Tennessee from November 10-November 13. These workshops are invaluable for anyone leading or interested in leading Balint groups. Further information is available on the ABS website: <http://famed.musc.edu/balint>

### **International Balint Federation Congress**

The next International Balint Federation Congress (held every two years) will be held in Stockholm on August 24-27. We will be sending a report of Balint activities in Australia for their Council meeting. These are friendly, enjoyable and informative meetings. Details on the IBF website <http://www.balintinternational.com/>

### **Publication**

An article entitled "Compassion fatigue and burnout - the role of Balint groups" by Jill Benson and Karen Magraith appeared in the June edition of Australian Family Physician.

### **4th National Doctors' Dentists' and Vets' Health Conference**

This conference will be held in Melbourne from November 3-5. Larry Osborne and Marion Lustig will present a paper entitled: "Balint groups can enhance doctors' satisfaction in treating complex patients". Details are on the AMA website <http://www.amavic.com.au/4thNDHC.pdf>

### **Marion Lustig**

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