CANDIDATE SESSIONS

Below are sessions geared for Psychoanalysts-in-Training/Academics-in-Training and Psychotherapists-in-Training. See the Preliminary Program for more information including faculty and educational objectives.

Monday, February 1, 2027
6:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
SOCIAL EVENT:
FIRST TIME ATTENDEE PARTY

For those attending the meeting for the very first time, we invite you to join APsA leadership, staff, and other first timers at this cocktail party. At this event you will have the opportunity to meet leadership, staff, and other attendees, so you'll recognize familiar faces throughout the rest of the National Meeting week!

Tuesday, February 2, 2027
9:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.
PLENARY ADDRESS: "SAVING PSYCHOANALYSIS" AND PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Chair: Bonnie J. Buchele, Ph.D., APsA President (Kansas City, MO)
Introducer: Jane G. Tillman, Ph.D., ABPP (Stockbridge, MA)
Speaker: Nancy McWilliams, Ph.D., ABPP (Lambertville, NJ)

Psychoanalysis and psychoanalytic therapies are facing devaluation from corporate interests, from mistaken assumptions that there is no evidence supporting psychoanalytic treatments, from the characterization of Sigmund Freud as a cocaine-addled misogynist, and from political and generational stresses within psychoanalytic organizations. As analytic supervisors age out of medical schools and graduate programs, students are losing access to psychoanalytic ways to think about patients. Yet there is a growing interest in psychoanalysis and psychodynamic psychotherapy among clinicians trained in other perspectives and among scholars of sociocultural privilege, power, and trauma – areas that neither biological psychiatry nor cognitive psychology illuminates adequately. Dr. McWilliams will focus on factors that have undermined the standing of psychoanalysis and will suggest ways to preserve and expand psychoanalytic thought and practice in the contemporary environment.

Tuesday, February 2, 2027
2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.
PANEL 3: THE FATE OF A FROZEN CASE: ANALYTIC PROCESS DELAYED

Chair: Richard Tuch, M.D. (Los Angeles, CA)
Presenter: Matt Shatzman, MA, LPC* (St. Louis, MO)
Discussant: Howard B. Levine, M.D. (Cambridge, MA)

What happens when a candidate's case is deemed to lack analytic process? This panel examines the case of a now-graduated candidate whose stalled treatment was officially determined not to demonstrate analytic process, meaning he would receive no clinical credit. Seeking another perspective, the candidate entered consultation hoping to uncover evidence that had been overlooked. The consultation revealed an embryonic analytic process within the candidate's previously unconsidered countertransference reactions. Through this case, the panel challenges traditional understandings of analytic process and considers whether it can occur primarily within the analyst's mind rather than solely through a back-and-forth exchange between analyst and analysand. This session will be of interest to candidates, institutes evaluating clinical work, psychoanalysts, and psychotherapists seeking a deeper understanding of analytic process.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2027
7:45 A.M. - 8:15 A.M.
SOCIAL EVENT:
BREAKFAST GATHERING FOR CANDIDATE MEMBERS

Join colleagues from around the country for breakfast. All are welcome to stay for the Candidates' Department meeting following breakfast.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2027
8:15 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.
ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING: CANDIDATES' DEPARTMENT (FORMALLY CANDIDATES' COUNCIL)

Note: Candidates and trainees participating in the Travel Scholarship are required to attend this meeting.

Candidates' Department leadership, committee chairs, and delegates from APsA institutes welcome all APsA candidates to attend this meeting. Our friends from IPSO, psychoanalytic psychotherapy trainees, and any trainees who are not in analytic training, are also warmly welcomed. The meeting is open to anyone who is in training except when there is a need for the department to be in Executive Session. You will learn about our committee work, participate in roundtable discussions of issues most relevant to candidates, have opportunities to compare notes with colleagues from around the world, gain an orientation to the greater APsA community, learn about exciting opportunities available exclusively to in-training members, deepen your psychoanalytic identity, broaden your connection to the profession, explore resources for building your practice, and forge lifelong friendships with fellow in-training professionals.

Wednesday, February 3, 2027
11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
DISCUSSION GROUP 29: TEACHING ABOUT ANALYTIC AND THERAPY CASE WRITING

Chair:	Stephen B. Bernstein, M.D. (Chestnut Hill, MA)
Co-chairs:	Mark Moore, Ph.D. (Philadelphia, PA)
	Jennifer Stuart, Ph.D. (New York, NY)
Presenter:	Mary J. Landy, M.D. (Indianapolis, IN)

This discussion group is related to Discussion Group 11: "Writing About Your Analytic or Therapeutic Work in a Case Report", Tuesday at 2 p.m.

This discussion group provides a forum for teachers of case writing, supervisors, writing mentors, progression and curriculum committee members, clinicians, and trainees interested in case writing. Presenters will describe and illustrate methods for teaching case writing, its place in the curriculum, and strategies to increase trainees' comfort and writing skills. Mary Landy will discuss the value of involving supervisors in the case writing process and how supervisor-encouraged self-reflection on the writing can deepen a trainee's understanding of the patient and analytic process. The session brings together those involved in teaching, supervising, and learning case writing to consider how they can create a more comfortable and effective writing environment.

Wednesday, February 3, 2027
11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
DISCUSSION GROUP 32: CONTEMPORARY DEVELOPMENTS IN PSYCHOANALYTIC EDUCATION OF ANALYSTS AND PSYCHOTHERAPISTS

Chair: Jill Savage Scharff, M.D., FABP (Chevy Chase, MD)
Presenter: Tatiana Onikova, Ph.D. (Prague, Czech Republic), Monica Valencia de Castro, Ph.D.* (San Francisco, Panama), Daniela Walder, Psy.D. (McLean, VA), Janine Wanlass, Ph.D. (Salt Lake City, UT)
Discussants: David E. Scharff, M.D., FABP (Chevy Chase, MD),
Karen Sherwood, LCSW-C (Gaithersburg, MD)

This session for candidates, trainees, and teachers creates an experience of lecture content, process, and community that embodies contemporary developments in psychoanalytic education. It offers practical strategies using the Group Affective Model, contemporary teaching techniques—such as QuickWrite, mosaic reading and two-page writing tasks—for teaching complex psychoanalytic material including unrepresented states-to international trainees some of whom are living in or displaced from war-torn countries. It aims to strengthen teaching analysts' effectiveness, support trainees' integration of clinical knowledge, and deepen understanding of psychodynamics in online/onsite classrooms and treatment settings. Its interactive, participatory learning experience model is validated by research on adult learning, which highlights the importance of relevance, application, lived experience, and engagement (Brieger, Arghode, & McLean, 2020).

Wednesday, February 3, 2027
11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
THE WENDY JACOBSON CANDIDATES' DEPARTMENT MASTER TEACHER AWARD

Co-chairs: Amanda Exman, Psy.D., LP (Andover, MN)
Konstantinos Taliouridis, Ph.D., Psy.D., MBA (Dedham, MA)
Presenters: Claire Basescu, Ph.D.* (New York, NY)
Nancy C. Winters, MD, FIPA, ABPsa (Portland, OR)
Discussant: Wendy Jacobson, M.D., DF-APA, FABP (Atlanta, GA)

This session is designed for psychoanalysts and psychoanalytic psychotherapists, candidates and trainees, and the faculty who teach them at institutes and centers. Drawing on award-winning approaches to teaching psychoanalytic/psychotherapy candidates and trainees, the presenters examine how reflective writing, creative and experiential methods, and individualized feedback deepen learner engagement and help candidates and trainees translate classroom learning into clinical practice. The session highlights concrete strategies for cultivating clinical voice, tolerating uncertainty, and attending to the sociocultural surroundings of clinical work, with illustrations drawn from actual courses. Its purpose is to equip educators with practical, transferable methods that make demanding material rigorous, engaging, and clinically alive, strengthening how candidates and trainees develop their professional identity and commitment to lifelong learning.

Wednesday, February 3, 2027
4:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.
DISCUSSION GROUP 45: IPSO INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES: CANDIDATES' CHOICE SUPERVISION SESSION

Co-chairs: Xiaofeng Wang Koswatta, LCSW (New York, NY)
Elinor R. Kotchen, LCSW (New Haven, CT)
Presenters: Jan Borowicz, Ph.D., MA* (Warsaw, Poland)
Xi Cecilia Wu, MA (Beijing, China)
Discussant: Arlene Kramer Richards, Ed.D. (Palm Beach, FL)

This session is ideal for psychoanalysts-in-training, psychotherapists, and newer clinicians who want to learn with peers in an environment free from the pressures often felt in the larger analytic community groups. Potential attendees were surveyed, and a favorite supervising analyst was selected to work with the detailed clinical material provided by an analyst-in-training. Learners will experience the process and techniques of psychoanalysis as they are applied in different ways, reflecting the diverse backgrounds and theoretical orientations of the senior analyst and other trainees in attendance. Participants will have the opportunity to be part of an intimate work group to strengthen their ability to tolerate uncertainty, increase reflective listening capacity, and explore divergent perspectives.

Wednesday, February 3, 2027
4:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.
DISCUSSION GROUP 46: EXPLORING SUFFERING AND DESIRE:
A PERSPECTIVE ON PSYCHOANALYTIC TRAINING CROSS-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES-BEING A CANDIDATE IN CHAOTIC TIMES

Chair/Presenter: Konstantinos Taliouridis, Ph.D., Psy.D., MBA (Dedham, MA)
Presenters: Eric André Chalet, M.D. (Le Pont, Switzerland)
Amanda Exman, Psy.D., LP (Andover, MN)
Erica Lepiavka, MS* (Mexico City, Mexico)
Discussant: Paula Christian-Kliger, Ph.D., ABPP (New York, NY)

This discussion group explores psychoanalytic and psychotherapy education during times of global upheaval. The session focuses on the unique experiences and challenges faced by candidates and trainees navigating psychoanalytic and psychotherapy training amid political instability, pandemics, wars, and social crises. Panelists from three IPA regions, including the developing Asian Pacific region, will share perspectives on how chaotic times impact their training experiences, work with analysands, patients, and clients, and professional development. Through diverse voices and experiences, the presentation explores strategies for maintaining training integrity while addressing unprecedented external pressures. This session aims to foster dialogue about supporting the next generation of psychoanalysts and psychotherapists during turbulent times.

Thursday, February 3, 2027
8:30 A.M. - 10:30 A.M.

DISCUSSION GROUP 49: CANDIDATES' FORUM: THE "SAFE ENOUGH" INSTITUTE: NAVIGATING DIFFERENCE AND POWER AS PSYCHOANALYTIC CANDIDATES AND TRAINEES

Co-chairs:	Carrie Atikune, Psy.D. (Portland, OR)
	Elisa K. Cheng, M.D. (Cambridge, MA)
Presenters:	Elinor R. Kotchen, LCSW (New Haven, CT)
	Belinda J. Torres, Ph.D. (Kirtland, OH)
	Maritza Rodriguez, LCSW-R (Brooklyn, NY)
Discussant:	Felecia R. Powell-Williams, Ed.D., LPC-S, RPT/S, FABP (Houston, TX)

This session is designed for psychoanalysts, psychotherapists, candidates, trainees, and faculty interested in the challenges candidates and trainees face within their training institutes, particularly for those with minoritized identities and/or those treating patients with minoritized identities. These challenges include issues around power and authority, barriers to progression and graduation, unconscious systemic racism/othering, and difficulty with dialogue around difference and otherness. In facilitated small-and large-group discussion, real and composite trainee experiences will be used to understand better why training programs and psychoanalytic spaces are not always experienced as "safe enough" to address these challenges and the kinds of structures, processes, and resources needed to create a "safe enough" institute in order to help trainees and faculty navigate these challenges.

Thursday, February 4, 2027
11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

DISCUSSION GROUP 51: THE CANDIDATE AT WORK: CLINICAL CASE CONSULTATION WITH PROFESSOR JAN ABRAM: WHEN WORDS AREN'T ENOUGH: WINNICOTT'S WAY WITH CHALLENGING PATIENTS

Chair/Discussant:	Konstantinos Taliouridis, Ph.D., Psy.D., MBA (Dedham, MA)
Presenter/Discussant:	Jan Abram, Ph.D.* (London, England)
Presenter:	Amanda Exman, Psy.D., LP (Andover, MN)

This clinical case consultation, part of The Candidate at Work series, explores the application of D.W. Winnicott's theoretical concepts when traditional interpretive approaches fall short with challenging patients/clients. Designed for candidates and trainees, psychoanalysts, and psychotherapists at all levels of experience, Professor Jan Abram will present a clinical case that illustrates common therapeutic impasses and demonstrate how Winnicott's ideas about the holding environment, true and false self, and the use of the object provide essential tools for navigating treatment stalemates. The session examines how clinicians can move beyond words alone, utilizing Winnicott's relational framework to create conditions for psychological growth with difficult-to-reach patients. Participants will gain practical understanding of recognizing and working with regression, managing countertransference responses, and maintaining therapeutic presence when conventional analytic and psychotherapeutic techniques prove insufficient. This presentation aims to deepen clinicians' capacity to work effectively with patients/clients who challenge established treatment frames.

Thursday, February 4, 2027
7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
SOCIAL EVENT:
JOINT CANDIDATES' DEPARTMENT/IPSO WINTER PARTY

Please note: This event is for current APsA/IPSO Psychoanalytic Candidates only.

Venue: City Tap House
1250 Connecticut Ave NW
Washington, DC

Current APsA/IPSO Psychoanalytic Candidates are invited to the annual Joint Candidates' Department/IPSO Winter Party! Join us for an evening of great food, drinks, music, and the opportunity to make new connections or catch up with friends and colleagues from across the country and around the world. **There is no cost to attend.** However, registration is required, and space is limited, so be sure to reserve your spot! Questions? Email Iraira Butcher, Psy.D. at irairabutcher@gmail.com

Friday, February 5, 2027
8:30 A.M. - 10:30 A.M.
THE 2027 LEE JAFFE CANDIDATES' COUNCIL PAPER PRIZE: COMPULSIVE TRANSLATION AND THE DEFENSIVE PRODUCTION OF CERTAINTY

Chair: Konstantinos Taliouridis, Ph.D., Psy.D., MBA (Dedham, MA)
Presenter/Prize Winner: Xiaomeng Qiao, Psy.D.* (Oxford, England)
Discussant: R. Dennis Shelby, Ph.D. (Chesterton, IN)

This session is designed for psychoanalysts, psychotherapists, candidates, and trainees interested in the clinical dimensions of meaning-making, enigma, and the defensive production of certainty in therapeutic relationships. Drawing on Laplanche's theory of generalized seduction, the presenter will introduce compulsive translation as a clinically significant phenomenon: the urgent, defensive conversion of the other's enigmatic messages into fixed knowledge about intention or self-defectiveness. Through two extended case illustrations, attendees will examine how power asymmetry, vulnerability, and analytic field dynamics intensify translational pressure. The session will address technical implications, including how analytic interpretations are themselves re-translated by patients' defensive systems, and why modifying the relational conditions producing translational pressure is often more effective than directly challenging the translation. Clinicians will leave with a refined framework for tolerating and working with affective indeterminacy in clinical practice.

Friday, February 5, 2027
2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
COFFEE AND REFRESHMENTS WITH A DISTINGUISHED ANALYST: MARK SOLMS, PH.D.

Chair/Discussant: Konstantinos Taliouridis, Ph.D., Psy.D., MBA (Dedham, MA)
Presenter: Mark Solms, Ph.D. (Cape Town, South Africa)

This presentation addresses accessing Freud's work through a new translation. Dr. Solms will discuss his thirty-year undertaking of the *Revised Standard Edition* of Freud's complete writings, explaining his decision to revise rather than completely replace James Strachey's *Standard Edition*. He will examine the widespread criticism that Strachey "falsely scientized" Freud's language and demonstrate how the *Revised Standard*

Edition corrects translation errors and misinterpretations while providing a flexible glossary of technical terms. Dr. Solms will also highlight newly included papers that illuminate the continuity between Freud's neuroscientific work and his development of psychoanalysis/psychotherapy. This session offers clinicians, analysts, therapists, candidates, trainees, and scholars essential insights into accessing Freud's revolutionary contributions with greater accuracy and contextual understanding for twenty-first-century practice and research.

Friday, February 5, 2027
4:30 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.
PLENARY ADDRESS: "GHOSTS IN THE INSTITUTIONS: PSYCHOANALYTIC EDUCATION IN A RACED WORLD" AND PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Chair: Bonnie J. Buchele, Ph.D., APsA President (Kansas City, MO)
Introducers: Dorothy Evans Holmes, PhD, ABPP, FABP (Bluffton, SC),
Catherine Rising Kimble, M.D. (Lexington, MA)
Speaker: Dionne R. Powell, M.D. (New York, NY)

A critical gap exists in psychoanalytic education regarding how systemic racism, institutional structures, and unconscious resistances impede the field's transmission and evolution. Educators often conflate diverse training standards with a deflation of clinical rigor, reinforcing exclusionary practices illuminated by the Holmes Commission. Furthermore, a lack of non-hierarchical, culturally humble approaches leaves training systems ill-equipped to integrate the diversities of current psychoanalytic/psychotherapy candidates/trainees with the modernity of AI and virtual treatments. Of particular educational and clinical interest is to return to the origin story of psychoanalysis, founded in the biopsychosocial model, as a discursive enterprise that disrupts the frame by confronting internal resistances to exploring our raced selves, securing an immersive, rigorous, and sustainable structure for the future of psychoanalytic education, analytic identity and the profession.