Message from the President
Karen Cooper Haber, PhD, LMFT, LSMFT, LSPC

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to work with a super team of SCAMFT board members to lead this organization. Let me tell you some of what I hope and wish for our organization. First, I am passionate about the next generation of family therapists. I want to get them involved, support their development, and provide opportunities for their leadership in the future. I think that process has begun as evidenced by the energy displayed by the recent graduates from MFT programs. They are working in the field and recognize the importance of gaining licensure as MFTs rather than or in addition to as LPCs. (See the separate article on their fantastic accomplishments). Now, it is up to us to mentor and include them in our organization, in our training, and in our work places. There is a need for placements for students from the training programs and a desire on their part to see family therapy in action. My hope is that all of us can find ways to include them in the work we do, be it a public or private site.

Apprentice co-therapy is one very good way of mentoring these young therapists; as well as inclusion on organization committees or personally sponsoring them at trainings or conferences. We need to think about what we can do to make sure they have the opportunity to attend conferences (increase the number of scholarships or partial scholarships for both interns and unemployed externs) and participate in the LMFT prep course.

Secondly, I am working to make the case wherever I can for inclusion of family therapists in the schools. In my program alone we have trained over 40 MFT interns and externs to work with families in schools. What a difference they could make if there were more opportunities for them to be utilized in school systems around the state/country. When I attended the leadership conference in DC two years ago, I was very excited about the possibility of MFT’s being included in the reauthorization of ESEA (No Child Left Behind) as professionals providing school based mental health services. Up to now, only psychologists, social workers, and school counselors have been included. Our own Congressman Joe Wilson was a co-sponsor of legislation that would include MFT’s in ESEA, but that effort has waned with the struggles and disparate positions related to NCLB. Even though that might not be the vehicle that provides for that opportunity and service, the points made in this paper hold true as a basis for any other legislative action. The original fact sheet related to this effort (Family Therapists in the Schools) is included on our SCAMFT’s sister blog MFT Matters (mftmatters.wordpress.com) for members to read and, hopefully, support when and where you can.

Recently, Danielle Allen and I visited with Congressman Wilson to remind him of this issue and to try to enlist his aid again in our efforts to be recognized as an important part of the school based mental health service delivery team. As a result, his aide in Washington, Melissa Chandler and I are working to figure out what other legislation might provide the vehicle for inclusion of MFT’s in the schools. In my email forwarded to Melissa, I wrote: “Hopefully, Congressman Wilson will find some way to utilize the information on our efforts in Richland Two to support family therapists in the schools across the country. It’s not just about jobs for family therapists; but about the efficacy of their work in this context that is important.” It’s a conversation, by the way, for which I need help from someone who can understand the legislative process and the in’s and out’s of the political world. If anyone interested, please let me know.

This leads to another goal and that is to increase our representation and voice on the LLR Board as well as in the Legislative process. Is there someone out there who feels passionate and...
equipped to take our message into these arenas? Send me an email at: kcooperhaber@bellsouth.net or call me at 803-920-9200 to volunteer or to make suggestions.

I know that I can only work toward these goals if I am a part of an energetic and motivated team with a shared vision. It’s not a solo act. It will take the combined efforts of those of us with longevity in the profession and the organization and those who will step up with youthful excitement and desire to contribute to an organization (and profession) that truly welcomes and appreciates them. I look forward to the next two years and to all the possibilities that exist for us to grow our organization and our profession.

Message from the President-Elect

Lorilei Swanson, LMFT, LPC

As President-Elect of SCAMFT, I am responsible for overseeing conference planning for SCAMFT over the next two years. I am excited about our upcoming Spoleto conference in Charleston, May 31-June 2, 2012. Our keynote speaker is Al Pesso who co-developed Pesso-Boyden Systems Psychomotor Therapy with his wife Diane Boyden-Pesso. Pesso will also offer a supervision workshop at the Spoleto conference. Please see Ed Thomas’ interview with him to find out more about Pesso-Boyden Systems Psychomotor Therapy.

SCAMFT members and Converse College graduates, Genevieve Strickland and Gabrielle Leopard, have a successful private practice in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Using unique marketing techniques, Genevieve and Gabrielle began their practice when they were LMFT interns, and their practice continued to grow after becoming licensed MFTs. Genevieve and Gabrielle will present a preconference session on successfully marketing your own private practice business.

I am pleased to announce that our fall conference will be held in Greenville, South Carolina on November 9-10, 2012. John Lee, bestselling author, will present on The Anger Solution, a proven method for achieving calm and developing healthy, long-lasting relationships. John Lee will also present on the Half-Lived Life: Overcoming Passivity and Rediscovering Your Authentic Self.

Our fall conference will also feature a preconference session and clinical supervision session. Dr. Monte Knight, D.Min. will present a clinical supervision workshop focusing on Systems Theory. Sallie Campbell, SCAMFT member, AAMFT ethics committee member, and clinical social worker will present a preconference workshop on ethics.

My goal over the next two years is to develop regularly scheduled CEU opportunities in each region of the state. These regional workshops will allow SCAMFT members to obtain CEUs at an affordable rate and without having to travel long distances. Regional workshops will be announced soon and will be advertised via email, on the SCAMFT web site, and in future SCAMFT newsletters.

I hope you will join us for our SCAMFT 2012 conferences in Charleston and Greenville. Remember to look for new CEU opportunities in your area of the state soon.
2012 SCAMFT Spoleto Conference Preview

Interview: Albert Pesso

Ed Thomas, Converse College

The 2012 SCAMFT Spoleto Conference, being held May 31-June 2 in Charleston, South Carolina will feature supervision and featured conference workshops by Mr. Albert Pesso, who co-developed Pesso Boyden Systems Psychomotor Therapy with his wife Diane Boyden-Pesso. Mr. Pesso integrated a background in dance and fitness with training in psychology to develop a pioneering model that integrated mind and body concepts.

PBSP is described as a natural process that heals past emotional deficits. The PBSP therapist utilizes symbolic reenactment procedures that use the resources of the body, mind and soul to fulfill the innate needs so that clients may identify emotional deficits and create ‘new memories’. These ‘new memories’ provide clients with symbolic fulfillment of their basic developmental needs such as place, nurturance, support, protection and limits, and results in clients having happier, healthier, more productive and hope-filled lives. In this way, PBSP is a therapeutic system designed to facilitate ‘emotional re-education’.

On Friday and Saturday, Mr. Pesso will present Filling the Holes-in-Roles of the Past: A New Way to Help Your Clients Open the Door to Happiness in the Present. Holes-in-Roles refers to gap(s) within the network of familial roles and relationships. These gaps create a perception of incompletion in the individual and a desire to fill these gaps in order to achieve “wholeness”. The Holes-in-Roles session digs deep into this concept and explores not only the family unit, but the origins of human behavior, one’s desires, and one’s perception of reality based on past experiences and multigenerational narratives. Psychomotor therapy works with these marred past experiences to transform them into positive ones.

Mr. Pesso was kind enough to take time out of his rigorous schedule to talk to SCAMFT from Munich, Germany and help illuminate what we can look forward to in Charleston.

Q: What led you to devote your life to the ongoing development of PBSP?
A: It’s interesting; I’m reading V. S. Ramachandran’s book, The Tell-Tale Brain; he talks so much about beauty, aesthetics, and art. I think I came into this (field) from a different direction, as a body trainer and dancer. I embrace the combination of science and aesthetics; if I approached therapy strictly as a scientist, I don’t think I would have found some of the ritual, artistic, aesthetic, and emotional elements that have been at the center of my work.

So I think the intersection of art and science helped (contour) my journey. There is both a science and an art form to the way humans interact. There’s mutuality in it. Our interactions are more than intellectual, they involve emotion and body and rhythm. (PBSP) deals centrally with the interaction of these forces.

Q: Explain the concept of the “mind’s body”?
A: When he have new experiences, we see not only what is in front of us, but awaken previous scenes in the brain. Whenever we see something, there is a motor response to what we are processing emotionally and cognitively. There is a part of our brain that also inhibits motor reaction to these experiences or sensory inputs. Consider when we are dreaming; we may be running furiously in our dream as a result of sensory input, but something in the dream state inhibits the motor activity, otherwise we’d all be sleepwalking. Certain motor actions may be inhibited, but physiological responses occur anyway, such as body temperature, perspiration, muscle tension etc. (A key tenet) in PBSP is that we not only have the capacity to inhibit motor reactions, but also to awaken it through interaction.

Q: Some of the core tenets of Pesso Boyden Psychomotor Therapy are increasing supported by emerging findings in neuroscience. What meaning do you derive from this?
A: It’s encouraging because it supports so much of what we have found in the laboratory of doing the work. Initially we learned it not by looking at the brain, because we had no practical way of doing that, but by following how people reacted emotionally with their body at a very fundamental level. But I’ve also learned a great deal from these newer scientific, it shifted some of my viewpoints regarding the need to express some of the older; embedded feelings locked in the body due to trauma, for instance. Our focus (PBSP) has been in creating new memory and the neuroscience field has highlighted mechanisms that aid in that; for example the notion that repetition reinforces memory. Neuroscience is both confirming some of our long held beliefs and shaping new directions. First, our biological brain is really shaped by culture, by caring for the other. That was heartening to me based on my decades of work and (theory development) Secondly, I am fascinated by findings concerning the ways language contributes to images in the brain via the mirror neurons, which help us express empathy. You not only feel what the other is doing, but you can feel what they feel as they are doing it, or in some cases how they feel when they can’t complete what they’re doing. As a result, instead of using role plays to explore deficits in relationship, we now move directly towards creating a new memory or experience as an antidote or reversal and we offer the first glimmer of an ideal figure in one’s life.

Q: What can attendees of the upcoming SCAMFT conference look forward to?
A: The Holes in Roles concept highlights that we seek the roots of justice in the body and it’s so nice to find when they perform brain studies that there are parts of the brain having to do with morality and ethics that are not culturally founded, but are culturally developed. The Holes in Roles presentation for SCAMFT focuses on some key questions. What happens to children as they see the incompletions of their parent’s lives? How are these children experiencing this incompleteness through not only emotions and feelings, but through seeing a world as presented in part by their parents (narratives)? Genetically we are made to interact together; we are born to cooperate. When there’s been an injustice to our family or to our tribe, it tends to shrink our notions of the scope of justice and (compassion). We might say, ‘justice will only be for me and my kind and the others can burn in hell’ I call that exclusive justice and that occurs when children hear accounts of injustices to family or tribe at too early an age. When we haven’t polarized the world into us vs. them, then there can be justice for everybody. We’re seeing both in the world right now; fundamentalists tend in their cultures to overemphasize stories of injustice and it becomes an internalized narrative. Children are born not seeing the inclusiveness and compassion that’s inherent within them. When children are exposed to these stories too early, more destructive energies are less able to be contained by otherwise loving families.

Q: How should attendees best prepare for the conference?
A: First, I encourage people to read some...
of the preparatory materials that can be found on the website www.pbsp.com. After reading preparatory materials and understanding the human impact of hearing stories of incompletions, gaps in the family network, and injustices to one’s family, tribe, or nation, they should then look at their own empathic, compassionate reaction to childhood memories such as their mother or fathering suffering or hearing of their longstanding family narratives around things like suppression, trauma, slavery, the Holocaust etc... What memories or stories trigger strong affective responses? Without even knowing it, the internal “movies” have you made with yourself as healer in these instances can lead to enormous shifts to the psyche and body. A family therapist is uniquely able to explore a client’s own recollections of stories or cultural mal-histories; (I maintain) that children shouldn’t hear these stories of injustice too young because they are then more likely to split to them vs. us thinking and may not be as collaborative in the future.

Q: Are you describing a multigenerational process?
A: Exactly! The Holes in Roles seminar will show a whole other way in which events and stories we pass down to from (one generation to another) can profoundly affect us somatically, emotionally, and psychologically. For the conference I hope to awaken our recognition of processes that may occur when children hear too soon about the travails of their parents of future generations and how we can help them create new memories and internal states.

In Session: Voice of Reason: A Neurobiologically Inspired Couple Therapy Technique

Ed Thomas, Converse College

A couple in their mid-thirties presented at a community-based MFT clinic for marital counseling. The male reported a history of depression since teen years and the female presented with mild learning disorders, family of origin conflict, and anxiety symptoms. She described times when a family member would make a seemingly innocuous comment and that she would feel a rush of shame and anger all balled up in one and she would launch a vicious verbal assault at whoever was in proximity. When she and her husband argued in therapy, we were able to soften automatic responses through a process where each partner adopted a curious rather than angry stance. This produced insight and greater respect for each other’s perspectives. The challenge came, the couple reported, when they were at home for one or two weeks between therapy sessions and these emotionally reactive incidents would hijack the relationship anew. I remembered Brent Atkinson’s article, Rewiring Neural States in Couples Therapy: Advances from Affective Neuroscience, where he described a technique using audio recordings whereby clients could interrupt self-defeating narratives and emotional reactivity between sessions.

Research in neuroscience suggests that when environmental cues are threatening, emotive circuits in the brain can derail cognitive processes of reasoning and self-awareness (Atkinson et al., 2005; Cozolino, 2010). In contrast, when emotionally neutral or “healthy” stimuli are introduced, the prefrontal cortex (thought to be responsible for self-awareness and mindfulness) is returned to the neural “driver’s seat” and in time create new rewired emotional responses. Atkinson et al. (2005) describe how this theoretical frame-work changed the way they practiced couple’s therapy:

“Up to this point, our goals had been to help partners develop new narratives, trade in their problem-saturated stories for new, empowering ones, drop their critical and defensive attitudes and adopt tolerance and understanding for each other. But we came to realize that problem narratives, critical and defensive attitudes, intolerance and lack of understanding were driven by powerful brain states that our clients didn’t volunteer to have. Rather than trying to help clients think and act differently, we started trying to help clients shift the automatically activated mood states that blocked new thinking and interaction from flowing naturally (p.4).”

In Atkinson’s technique, the therapist records a calm and reassuring message on the client’s personal video recorder that:

1. Validates a partner’s anger at the actions or words of the other
2. Encourages the reactive partner to realize that the other partner will most assuredly not act in a kinder way if the recipient of an escalated verbal attack
3. Suggest that the reacting partner create some space for reflection — this may be as simple as counting to ten or taking a walk.
4. Reinforces that the perceived slight needs to be addressed, but at a time when both partners can respect the perspective(s) of the other

Atkinson’s recorded message technique is highly adaptable: For instance, sometimes I offer to record a similar message on partners’ recorders and/or cell phones, but suggest that their own calm, in-control voices can be even more powerful. I usually incorporate humor, bantering that the idea is a “little corny” but can be remarkably effective. I work with the client to develop the full message and instruct them to listen to it whenever those fleeting feelings of conflict arise.

In the case of the thirty-something couple I referenced earlier, the reports I’ve received are encouraging. To paraphrase the female client, “You were right; it is a little strange, but when I hear my own voice coaching me to keep my head, it usually works. I’ll sometimes take a walk outside and when I’m back, the comment or criticism I felt so strongly seems like nothing.” I’ve expanded this technique to several clients including an adolescent who struggles with emotion regulation in instances of peer conflict; her self-created message simply says “chill girl.” This particular client says that she can rarely access the phone message quickly enough during stressful moments, but instead ‘plays the message in her mind’. This technique is neither model dependent nor intended as a core component of the multi-faceted approaches we often use with couples, but can help to nullify some of the toxic partner exchanges that can derail client progress.

(Client biographical details have been altered in order to ensure privacy)

References
Schedule:
Thursday, May 31, 10:00 am – Noon
Preconference Workshop: Personal Packaging: Unwrapping the Challenges of a Successful Practice in Today’s Market
What does it take to open and grow a private practice in today’s connected world? We’ll teach you the basics of opening and growing a private or non-profit counseling practice while utilizing current marketing tools to increase your online presence and attract your ideal client base.
Join founders of Magnolia Counseling Associates Genevieve Strickland and Gabriel Leopard for this session where you will learn how to:
• Arrange your practice right from the start
• Project an image that will attract your ideal client
• Learn how to network even when you hate it
• Look important on paper and online
• Create your growth plan that will take you into the future
Thursday, May 31, 1:30 – 4:30 pm
Supervision Workshop
Al Pesso will demonstrate to participating supervisors how psychomotor principles can be valuable resources in amplifying the supervision process. He will help participants to recognize the body’s importance in understanding the internal constructions of both the supervisee and the supervisor.
Friday, June 1 & Saturday, June 2, 9:00 am – 4:30 pm
Filling the Holes-in-Roles of the Past: A new way to help your clients open the door to happiness in the present
Holes-In-Roles refers to gap(s) within the network of familial roles and relationships. These gaps create a perception of incompleteness in the individual and a desire to fill these gaps in order to achieve “wholeness”. The Holes-In-Roles session digs deep into this concept and explores not only the family unit and the gaps, but the origins of human behavior, one’s desires, and one’s perception of reality based on past experiences. Psychomotor therapy works with these marred past experiences to transform them into positive ones to increase what we, as humans, desire: Happiness.
Session Objectives:
• To describe and bring understanding of the Pesso Boyden System Psychomotor (PBSP) and its procedure known as “Working with Holes-In-Roles.”
• To bring understanding of the past experiences that build the human psyche and how they relate to one’s perception of the present, and how the PBSP psychotherapy can ameliorate broken past experiences.
• To delve into what it is (basic motivators) that makes a person act/behave in the manner one does in the first place.
• To release clients from the burdensome roles that unconsciously organize their function in the family.
• To reopen their receptivity to the good that is available to them; thus enabling them to live more satisfying lives in their partnerships and within their actual families.

ABOUT THE PRESENTERS:
Albert Pesso,
co-founder with his wife, Diane Boyden-Pesso, of PBSP, Pesso Boyden System Psychomotor and President of the Psychomotor Institute, Inc., was formerly Supervisor of Psychomotor Therapy at McLean Hospital in Massachusetts and Consultant in Psychiatric Research at the Boston VA Hospital. He has conducted extensive training in his unique approach to psychotherapy on five continents. Most recently he has led a project in the Congo that helps therapists to deal with the traumas experienced by many of its people. He has presented his work at the Evolution of Psychotherapy Conference and is known as one of the leaders in approaches that work with the body. In addition, there have been two books with chapters on Pesso’s psychotherapy approach (Gus Napier in The Fragile Bond and Maggie Scarf in Secrets, Lies, Betrayals). He is the author of two books, co-editor of two books, and has written dozens of papers about Psychomotor Therapy. Al conducted a training group in Columbia, SC that lasted for 25 years. Even after spending two days with Pesso you will elevate your consciousness about the intricate relationship of individuals, family, and the body. SCAMFT is very excited to host Al Pesso at its Spoleto conference in Charleston.
Genevieve Strickland Ed.S., LMFT is a co-founder of Magnolia Counseling Associates, a private practice in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Before establishing her own practice, Genevieve worked with adolescents in residential care and financially disadvantaged families in a clinic setting. Her expertise is in Art Therapy and couples in relationship crisis. She is currently serving on the Board of SCAMFT and the Spartanburg Mental Wellness Partnership. She graduated from the Converse College Marriage and Family Therapy Graduate Program.

Gabrielle Leopard, Ed.S., LMFT, RPT is a co-founder of Magnolia Counseling Associates, a private practice in Spartanburg, South Carolina. She is an Adjunct Professor at Converse College and is working toward her Supervisor’s License from AAMFT. She presents frequently for groups about her passion for growing business and her expertise in children with emotional and behavior problems. She previously served as the membership chair on the SCAMFT Board. She graduated from the Converse College Marriage and Family Therapy Graduate Program.

Category A continuing education activities for psychologists as prescribed by the South Carolina Board of Examiners. The CHDC maintains responsibility for these presentations and their content. Al Pesso’s presentation offers 15 contact hours (three supervision and 12 clinical). SCAMFT-sponsored conferences are approved for LMFT, LPC, social work, and addiction certification hours. For more information, call the SCAMFT office at (803) 540-7520, fax: (803) 254-3773 or e-mail: info@scamft.org. Conference topics were carefully selected to adhere to ethical codes of SCAMFT, AAMFT and state licensure boards.

Conference Venue:
SCAMFT’s Spoleto Conference is scheduled at the Holiday Inn Charleston – Mt. Pleasant, 250 Johnnie Dodds Blvd., Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464. The hotel is holding an SCAMFT block of sleeping rooms at the reduced rate of $124 plus 12.5% tax per night until April 30, 2012. After this date, rates will increase to prevailing rate. For reservations, call 843-884-6000.

Registration:
The Conference Registration Desk opens Thursday, May 31st at 8:30 am. All SCAMFT/AAMFT members receive a discount. Full-time students also receive a discount. Lunch on Friday is on your own. Saturday’s Networking and Business Luncheon begins at noon and ends at 1:00 pm. SCAMFT’s Business Meeting is scheduled during Saturday’s lunch. Student members also receive a discount. A limited number of scholarships are available for fulltime students enrolled in marriage and family therapy programs. Those interested in applying for scholarships must complete the registration form and submit it to the office with proof of full-time enrollment in marriage and family therapy programs. Registration is available on line at www.scamft.org.

Cancellations:
The registration fee, less a $25 administrative fee, is refunded when notification of cancellation occurs two weeks prior to the workshop date. No refunds will be issued when notification of cancellation occurs after the two-week deadline; however, a substitute may be sent or registration transferred to another SCAMFT seminar held within 12 months. No show—no refund.

Exhibitor Information:
Companies and organizations that would like to promote their goods and services to conference attendees are invited to participate as conference sponsors or exhibitors. Exhibitor hours are Friday, June 1st from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm. Exhibitors receive a skirted display table in the conference registration area, recognition at the conference, list of attendees, one complimentary registration to one day of the conference. Exhibitor fee is $200. Conference sponsor opportunities are also available for $500. Sponsors receive skirted, display table in the conference registration area, recognition at the conference, list of attendees, one complimentary registration to both days of the conference, and web-site banner advertisement for six months. Exhibitor set-up begins at 8:30 am on Friday. Exhibitor tear down is no later than 5:00 pm. SCAMFT will also set up a special table for those companies who wish to promote their products and services. Cost to have your items available on this table is $100. Please ship at least 100 items for the take-one table to the SCAMFT office no later than May 25th.

Continuing Education:
The Counseling and Human Development Center (CHDC) Predoctoral Psychology Internship, cosponsor of Al Pesso’s presentation, is accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA) Commission of Accreditation and thereby authorized to offer
2012 SCAMFT Spoleto Conference
Featuring Al Pesso, Founder of Psychomotor Therapy

in Charleston, South Carolina May 31-June 2, 2012 (17 Continuing Education Hours)

Registration

Name: ____________________________________________ Organization: ____________________________________________
Licence: ____________________________________________ Address: ____________________________________________
City/State/Zip: ____________________________________________________________ Phone/Fax: ____________________________
Email: _________________________________________________________________

Registration for May 31st Preconference Workshop

Postmarked by: 4/30/2012 (Add $15 After 4/30/2012)
- AAMFT Members $25/$40
- Non Members $35/$50
- Student Members $10/$25
- Student Non Members $25/$40

Registration for May 31st Supervision

Postmarked by: 4/30/2012/ (Add $15 After 4/30/2012)
- AAMFT Members $50/$65
- Non Members $60/$75
- Student Members $30/$45
- Student Non Members $40/$55

Method of Payment: Enclosed is my:
- Check (Payable to SCAMFT)  - Mastercard  - Visa
Credit Card #: ____________________________ Expiration Date: ____________
CVVC#: ____________________________ Signature: ____________________________
Office Use Only: AVS: ____________________________ APPROV #: __________________

Registration for June 1-2 Conference

Postmarked by: 4/30/2012 (Add $25 After 4/30/2012)
- AAMFT Members $200/$225 (includes Saturday Lunch)
- Non Members $225/$250
- AAMFT Member Attending Lunch (please check)
- Lunch on June 1 for Nonmembers: $25
- Student Members $100/$125
- Student Non Members $125/$150
- One Day Registration $125/$150  - Friday  - Saturday
- Take-One Table Fee: $100
- Exhibitor Fee for Friday June: $200
- Spoleto Conference Sponsor Fee: $500

Return this form with check, credit card information or purchase order to:
SCAMFT, 1215 Anthony Avenue, Columbia, SC 29201 • Fax registrations to 803-254-3773
AAMFT Adds Membership Categories to Accommodate Allied Mental Health Professionals

MFTs, allied mental health professionals, and other interested professionals who are dedicated to their ongoing growth and professional development are eligible for membership in the AAMFT. The AAMFT added additional membership categories to accommodate those offering therapy and counseling services to families.

Following are the six (6) AAMFT Membership Categories:

**Clinical Fellow**
Clinical fellow membership is the credentialed level of membership in the AAMFT. Clinical fellows have met the rigorous standards of training in marriage and family therapy and are recognized worldwide for these standards. There are two tracks that will allow one to become a Clinical Fellow in the Association.

1. The licensure track is designed for individuals submitting proof of current licensing or certification as a marriage and family therapist in states or provinces with licensing or certification laws approved by the Board, under criteria established by the Board.
2. The evaluative track is designed for individuals submitting proof of current licensing or certification in a mental health field other than MFT, who also meet our evaluative standards for the clinical fellow category.

**Member**
Members of the Association shall have attained and hold a current independent (private) practice in a mental health field other than MFT, as defined by the Board that legally authorizes you to provide services to individuals, couples, and families.

An individual who holds a current mental health license other than MFT in a US state or territory at the highest level that can be documented and verified in one of the following mental health disciplines:
- Clinical Psychology
- Psychiatry
- Social Work
- Mental Health Counseling
- Professional Counseling, or
- Psychiatric Nursing

**Pre-Clinical Fellow**
An individual who has completed a master’s or doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy from a regionally accredited educational institution, or an equivalent course of study, and is completing the post degree supervised clinical hours toward licensure for independent practice. Pre-Clinical Fellows may remain in this category for a maximum of five (5) years or until they have completed Clinical Fellow membership requirements (whichever comes first). Transfer to Affiliate if not ready for Clinical Fellow membership at the end of 5 years. Applicants can attain Pre-Clinical Fellow status in the AAMFT through either our Licensure Track or Evaluative Track Process as described below.

The licensure track is designed for individuals who have earned a graduate degree in marriage and family therapy or a related mental health discipline and are working on the clinical hours required for the highest level of MFT licensure in a US state and AAMFT Clinical Fellow status. This category includes individuals who have an associate, intern, or graduate license or certification in MFT in a US state.

The evaluative track is designed for individuals who have earned a graduate degree in marriage and family therapy but who do not have a license in marriage and family therapy and are not working toward licensure as an MFT but meets our evaluative standards for the Pre-Clinical Fellow category and would like to work toward Clinical Fellow status OR an individual who has a degree in marriage and family therapy or a related mental health field and meets all education requirements.

**Associate Membership**
Associate members are individuals who submit proof of an official designation indicating they have met all educational requirements for licensure or certification in a mental health profession other than marriage and family therapy and are completing the post graduate clinical hours to practice independently in a mental health field other than MFT.

Individuals who hold a current intern/associate license or certification in a mental health discipline in a US state that can be documented and verified in one of the following mental health disciplines:
- Clinical Psychology
- Psychiatry
- Social Work
- Mental Health Counseling
- Professional Counseling, or
- Psychiatric Nursing

Applicants from these disciplines must be working toward having the license authority to practice independently.

**Student Membership**
Student members are those that are enrolled in a graduate marriage and family therapy program, or an equivalent graduate mental health program, which can reasonably be expected to lead to qualifications as a Clinical Fellow or Member of AAMFT.

Student membership may remain in this category for a maximum term of five (5) years or until satisfactory completion and receipt of a qualifying graduate degree, whichever shall come first.

**Affiliate Membership**
An Affiliate is an individual in a field related to marriage and family therapy other mental health discipline but not licensed nor have any plans to deliver mental health services independently. If you are licensed to practice marriage and family therapy or any other mental health discipline independently you will not qualify for Affiliate Membership and should apply under one of our mental health track applications.

Applicants under this category are:
- Non MFTs or pursuant
- Non Allied Mental Health practitioners opursuant
- Lawyers
- Medical Physicians
- Nurse Practitioners
- Mediators
- Psychotherapists
- Play Therapists
- Pastoral Counselors (except for those in Maine who are eligible for the Member category)
- Music Therapists
- School Psychologist
- School Counselors

**AAMFT Approved Supervisor Designation**
AAMFT Approved Supervisors are dedicated professionals who have obtained the educational, experiential, and supervisory training required for the competent supervision of marriage and family therapists and trainees. Those who have earned the designation serve as mentors who support and nurture their supervisees’ strengths and resources, and provide a learning environment that ensures thorough marriage and family therapy (MFT) training and education. Approved Supervisors work from a systemic orientation, using a variety of MFT theoretical approaches in their practice. Their supervision is guided by the Responsibilities and Guidelines for AAMFT Approved Supervisors, set forth in the Approved Supervisor Handbook, October 2002 and the AAMFT Code of Ethics.
SCAMFT Board of Directors

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Facebook Provides First-of-a-Kind Service To Help Prevent Suicides

SAMHSA and the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline are collaborating with Facebook to help those in crisis. In partnership with the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention, Facebook is announcing a new service that harnesses the power of social networking and crisis support to help prevent suicides across the Nation and Canada. The new service enables Facebook users to report a suicidal comment they see posted by a friend to Facebook using either the Report Suicidal Content link or the report links found throughout the site. The person who posted the suicidal comment will then immediately receive an email from Facebook encouraging them to call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255) or to click on a link to begin a confidential chat session with a crisis worker.

SCAMFT Bylaws Under Revision

The AAMFT is updating its bylaws in light of the new membership categories and SCAMFT will be doing the same. A draft of proposed changes to the SCAMFT Bylaws will be available for members to review prior to the June 2nd Annual Business Meeting where voting will occur to ratify them.