



Balint Bulletin No. 7

April, 2006

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(President) mlustig@optusnet.com.au or Dr Larry Osborne (Secretary) larrywosborne@yahoo.com.au

Balint Society of Australia

Plans are well underway to establish a website. The URL is www.balintaustralia.net - look out for it!

We have created a space on the free on-line encyclopaedia, Wikipedia about Balint groups, at www.wikispaces.com Please visit it and contribute your thoughts and experiences!

Membership application forms are available from the Secretary,
Dr Larry Osborne larrywosborne@yahoo.com.au

State contact people

We have established a network of contact people in each state for people interested in or starting Balint groups. They are:

VIC: Dr John Barton ph 9480 6335 email: jbarton@aapt.net.au

NSW: Ms Laurie Lovell-Simons ph 9427 6610 email:
lauriels@tpg.com.au SA: Dr Jill Benson ph 8303 5050 email:
jillb@bigpond.net.au

TAS: Dr Frank Meumann ph 6278 1551 email:
frank.meumann@gppt.com.au

WA: Dr Wendy-Lynne Wolman ph 9271 6968 email:
wwolman@westnet.com.au

QLD Ms Penny Love ph 3832 4983 email:
pl273743@bigpond.net.au

NT: Dr Sam Heard ph 04 1783 8808 email:
sam.heard@oceaninformatics.biz

Sydney developments

There is currently one Balint group in Sydney and the Sydney steering committee is working on starting more groups. The steering committee would like more GPs involved. Anyone interested, please contact Ms Laurie Lovell-Simons ph 9427 6610 email: lauriels@tpg.com.au

Balint group opportunities

Group vacancies we know about are in Melbourne (Heidelberg, Footscray, Caulfield, Frankston, Kew and a new group starting in June in Richmond/Hawthorn) Brisbane and Hobart. There are a number of people interested in starting groups in and around

Sydney, and an existing group in the Central Coast of N.S.W. We also have a contact person in Townsville. Please refer to state contact names above.

Diary dates

The Balint Society of Australia AGM will be in Melbourne on Wednesday evening June 14. There will be a scientific meeting/workshop in Melbourne on Saturday morning October 30 with German visitors Heide Otten and Ernst Petzold.

There will be a scientific meeting/workshop in Sydney on October 3 with German visitors Heide Otten and Ernst Petzold.

Details of all these meetings TBA.

General Practitioner Conference and Exhibition

For the first time, we will be offering 10 hours of Balint workshop at this conference to be held in Sydney from May 26-28. Small groups of up to ten GPs each will discuss their cases with experienced Balint group leaders. The workshops will be in the mornings of each of the three days. People who wish to attend GPCE for the Balint workshop only are eligible for a reduced registration fee. To inquire or register contact Dr John Barton (Melbourne) phone (03) 9480 6335 email: jbarton@aapt.net.au or Ms Laurie Lovell-Simons (Sydney) phone 02 9427 6610 email: lauriels@tpg.com.au

RACGP Annual Convention

For the third consecutive year, we will be running a 4 session Balint workshop at this conference which will be held in Brisbane from October 5-8. Overseas visitors Heide Otten who is the President of the International Balint Federation and Secretary of the German Balint Society and Ernst Petzold, who is the President of the German Balint Society, will be involved in the workshop together with Australian leaders. We will also offer a two hour leaders' workshop similar to last year's workshop in Darwin.

Research

Two research projects are under way. Marion Lustig (Melbourne) and Kerri Boase-Jelinek (Perth) are working on a project to study Balint groups in Australia. Marion Lustig and Leonie Sullivan (Sydney) are working on a literature review about the effectiveness of Balint groups.

International Balint Federation

We have received minutes from the last two IBF Council meetings held August, 2005 in Stockholm and in March, 2006 in Brussels. Please contact our secretary if you would like a copy of these at larrywosborne@yahoo.com.au.

The next International Balint Federation Congress will be in Portugal from September 1-5, 2007.

There is a new International Balint Federation website at www.balintinternational.com

Ascona Prize

The International Balint Federation provides an annual prize for medical students for an essay about a student-patient encounter. Details are on the IBF website www.balintinternational.com

American Balint Society

Three of our members, Marion Lustig, Larry Osborne and Penny Love, attended an American Balint Society Leadership Intensive workshop in March in Portland, Oregon. All found it most rewarding.

The next of these workshops, held twice yearly, will be in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania from October 12-15, 2006. These are highly recommended for both beginning and experienced Balint leaders.

Marion Lustig

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