

A Word from our Sponsor

Judy Coldoff, PhD*

April, 2011

On behalf of the Canadian Federation of Clinical Hypnosis / Fédération canadienne d'hypnose clinique, I am delighted to celebrate the launch of MBR. This day has been a long time in coming and there are a number of people whom I'd like to acknowledge, and to whom we wish to express appreciation.

First and foremost we owe an incalculable debt to Dr. Amir Raz, our Editor-in-Chief, whose brilliance, dynamism and perseverance have finally brought this initiative to fruition. It was undoubtedly Dr. Raz's international reputation as a cognitive neuroscientist and leading hypnosis researcher that inspired the confidence of distinguished authors to submit their manuscripts for publication in MBR. Dr. Raz's expertise in computer technology was also invaluable on more than one occasion, given this journal's online medium. But, on a more personal note, it was Dr. Raz's graciousness and professionalism throughout the process that made working with him a singular pleasure. He managed his editorial duties, meetings, and challenges with characteristic grace and goodwill. It is a mystery to me that he managed to travel the world, publish numerous articles, and keep his family and academic responsibilities going all at the same time. Our profound thanks go to you, Amir, to members of the Raz Lab who assisted you in this process, and to contributors – present and future – to this journal.

A number of other people also played pivotal roles in bringing us to this day. First, I'd like to thank Judy Powell of the University of Calgary Press for her patience, support, and encouragement over the past few years. In the Federation, Dr. Stanley Blicker has not only been a stalwart supporter both as Treasurer and liaison with Amir, but has also contributed in many other ways. Besides doing some copy-editing, Stanley also provided equipment, moral support and financial know-how to all of us during the journal's production. Heartfelt thanks to you, Stanley. Thanks to Dr. Jim Eliuk, who assisted as a copy-editor, and to Dr. Sylvain Néron, who was a supportive colleague at McGill and the Jewish General Hospital.

Several other individuals helped in more peripheral but vitally important ways to realize this journal. They are Dr. Mark Dimirsky, founding President of Federation; Mr. Len McEwen, current President of Alberta Society; and contributing Board members: Drs. Kent Cadegan, Maureen Gorman, Ian Simpson and Karen Parsonson. Thanks to all of you.

Finally, I want to thank the Member Societies of the Canadian Federation of Clinical Hypnosis: Alberta, Québec and Atlantic Societies for their unwavering financial support since the inception of the journal initiative. Without their help, we would not be here today.

Now for a bit of history: the idea for an online journal was first conceived in 2004 by Dr. Linda Sabatini, a member of our Alberta Society and former Chair of Federation's Research Committee. It was Linda who first made contact with the University of Calgary Press—a pioneer in the development of online journals—in 2005. Despite her valiant efforts, however, it was difficult to get manuscripts and we realized that we needed help.

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Then something serendipitous happened. At the joint ASCH-SCEH meeting in Dallas in 2007 I first heard that Dr. Amir Raz – who had just wowed conference participants with his morning plenary address – had accepted a Canada Research Chair and was moving from Columbia University in the City of New York to McGill University in Montreal. I was excited by the prospect of having so excellent a hypnosis researcher and clinician in Canada, so, as the Canadian Federation's representative to ASCH, I approached Amir, congratulated him on his award, welcomed him to Canada and offered to introduce him to our Montreal colleagues by way of making his transition easier. This was the beginning of Amir's relationship with the Canadian Federation, which was only cordial at first, but culminated in Amir's acceptance (18 months later) of our offer to become the Editor-in-Chief of our online journal. As he said, "I'd like to give something back to Canada by contributing to Canadian hypnosis."

It took over two more years of incredible effort on Amir's part to bring this project to fruition, and it is a testimony to his talent and personal skills that the work of prominent authors now appears in our first three volumes. It is a proud moment for all of us.

A word about language: As a Canadian journal we respect that both English and French are official languages. However, for practical reasons, and as an international journal catering to a wide readership, we offer MBR in English.

Congratulations everyone!

Stanley Blicker, MD*

April, 2011

As treasurer of Canadian Federation of Clinical Hypnosis / Fédération canadienne d'hypnose clinique I have been involved in watching the evolution of this fledgling journal from its inception. In the early stages there was difficulty in attracting world-class authors to submit articles for a new journal. When Dr. Amir Raz assumed the editorship a few short years ago I became the liaison with Dr. Raz, since I live in Montréal.

I was somewhat in awe of meeting Amir for the first time, since his reputation preceded him. Since then my appreciation for him has only increased. The time and effort involved in starting this new journal have been in themselves a full-time job. He has done the work of at least 3 or 4 people and has accomplished this task while staying below our rather meager budget.

The lineup of authors and articles in the next three issues (our first volume) is impressive. It is now up to our membership to "step up to the plate" and participate in the ongoing work that is required to keep this novel approach up to the high standard that it has set for itself. Please keep new articles coming.

As we say in Québec, "Chapeau" ["hats off"] Amir.

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