

Dear friends and colleagues,

We have the great pleasure to be able to inform you that, after many hearings and a rigorous evaluation procedure, the *Board of Scientific Examiners* in Berlin/ Germany has **confirmed that systemic therapy is an evidence-based treatment approach for adults as well as children and adolescents.**

In the past years, together with Kirsten von Sydow and Stefan Beher, and with support of the two German family therapy associations *DGSF* and *SG*, we have compiled a sound convincing data base showing that systems oriented therapy approaches are indeed efficacious.

As some of you may recall, we have used the AFTA and the EFTA mailing list to find additional studies for our reviews, and we were able to identify randomized controlled trials from as diverse places such as Basque country, Crete, Turkey and China- quite a challenge for our language skills!

On behalf of the German family therapy associations *DGSF* and the *SG*, we would like to express our gratitude and thank all the many people and AFTA members who have supported us. One of the first und foremost AFTA members to do so was the late Lyman Wynne, who was kind enough to share his vast knowledge in a meeting at Helm Stierlin's home, back in October 2004.

It was great to receive your helpful suggestions, comments on our questions, your research papers- thank you so much!

The next step will be to negotiate with the German Boards of Health Insurances about funding of systemic therapies in the public health care system, which means there is another long road ahead. But we do know about resilience in the face of adversity and have a sense of "yes, we can...!"

Best regards from Heidelberg

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