THE Script

VOL. 54 NO. 01 | JANUARY 2024

IN THIS ISSUE

ITAA Is Now a Professional Organization 1

Call for Board Nominations 3

January *TAJ* on Neurodiversity/ Neurodivergence 4

Recent Publications 6

Social Media and Ethics 7

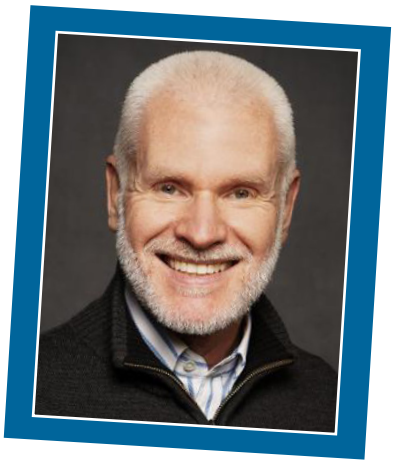
2025 World TA Conference 8

SAATA Conference 9

Appreciation for Jacqueline van Gent 11

A New Year and a New Start for a New ITAA!

by Thorsten Geck



It's done! **The new International Transactional Analysis Association (ITAA) has been established and registered with the California authorities as a professional association!** Congratulations to all of us for taking this step, thereby establishing a new ITAA and transactional analysis as a home for professionals from all TA fields, including education, organizations, counseling, and psychotherapy.

I extend my gratitude to all who actively took on this work and walked the path, including the ITAA Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees. And, of course, I want to thank those who initiated this project: In particular, I want to mention Diane Salters, who paved the way; Elana Leigh, who drove the project forward during her presidency; and Chitra Ravi, who took on the final work of the project during her presidency. Thank you for your commitment to our members and to transactional analysis!

What's New, What Will Remain?

I have been contacted several times about whether the new ITAA will also advocate for those who do not use TA in their professional work. I am glad to say that **the ITAA will not distance itself from nonprofessionals. We will be looking for how to further develop and promote TA as a theory, worldview, and method to anyone who is interested.**

However, **we are now able to provide a platform for users and TA teachers.** It will be possible to establish a place for ITAA members who want to present themselves: Who are they, what do they do, what do they offer?

itaa
INTERNATIONAL TRANSACTIONAL ANALYSIS ASSOCIATION

> ***"As a professional organization, we can act differently and network more effectively by presenting ourselves not just as a support organization but as a union of professionals."***

It will also be possible to formally integrate a central concern of the ITAA into the association: certification at Certified Transactional Analyst and Teaching and Supervising Transactional Analyst levels. **This aligns with what other associations do to be relevant to their members and visible to those members' clients.**

We can act differently and network more effectively by presenting ourselves not just as a support organization but as a union of professionals.

SCRIPT

Newsletter of the International Transactional Analysis Association
ITAA, 2700 E. Foothill Blvd., Suite 209, Pasadena, CA 91107 USA
email: info@itaaworld.org
website: www.itaaworld.org
Editor: Laurie Hawkes
Managing Editor: Robin Fryer
Desktop Publishing: lockwood design

Send all copy to: robinfryer@aol.com

Deadlines—15th of the month prior to the month of publication (e.g., 15 January for the February issue)

Advertising: Twelfth page: $50; sixth page: $100; third page: $200; half page: $300; full page: $400.

Publication of articles and advertising in *The Script* does not imply endorsement by the newsletter, the editors, or the ITAA.

The Script (ISSN 0164-7393) is published monthly by the International Transactional Analysis Association. For information on membership, visit www.itaaworld.org or contact the ITAA at the above address.

© 2024 International Transactional Analysis Association, Inc.

What Will Happen Now?

- Formally, all of you who were members of the "old" ITAA will now become members of the "new" ITAA professional association. You will receive official information about this soon, but just to reassure you that you will not need to do anything for this transition to occur.
- The International Board of Certification (IBOC) will be integrated into the professional association, and its function will remain the same.
- The Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees of the ITAA Foundation will form an Executive Committee and a Board of Directors of its own.
- The committees from the "old" ITAA (now the ITAA Foundation) will be transferred to the new ITAA. There they will continue their work under the aspect of "promoting the professional interests of the members."
- The ITAA Executive Committee will appoint a Board of Trustees for the ITAA Foundation. Discussions with interested parties have already taken place. There, a president, a treasurer, and a secretary general will manage the funds that belong to the members of the professional ITAA (but cannot be moved out of the ITAA Foundation due to California law).

We now officially commence the establishment of the new International Transactional Analysis Association with you, and a date for an online event will be announced soon!

Thorsten Geck is ITAA President and can be reached at president-itaa@use.start-mail.com .

Tragic Death of Chitra Ravi's Husband

We were deeply saddened to learn of the unexpected death (after a short illness) on Christmas Day of ITAA Past President Chitra Ravi's husband, D. G. Ravi. Only 49 years old, he is described by Suriyaprakash C. as "a gentle soul with a remarkable sense of humor who was ever present but not intrusive in his support of Chitra. He was her trusted best friend and companion." We know that many of you will share our concern for Chitra and her family as they cope with this devastating loss. If you wish to send condolences, please email her at chitra.seed@gmail.com .



Call for ITAA Board Nominations

Dear Members:
Now we are a professional association! **We, the ITAA Board of Directors, invite you to join our team and shape the new ITAA.** Use the opportunity to unfold the options for becoming a home for professionals who use TA in their work. **We are particularly looking for regional representatives for North America and Africa/Middle East and candidates for VP Development.** Let us know if you are interested!

Freundliche Grüße/Kind regards,
Thorsten Geck

The following positions are open for nominations now. ***Deadline for nominations:*** 27 January 2024 11pm PST (23:00 UTC):

President-Elect (2024–2025)

Vice President Operations (2024–2027)

Vice President Research & Innovation (2024–2027)

Vice President Development (2024–2027)

Vice President Professional Standards (2024–2027)

Treasurer (2024–2027)

Regional Representative, North America (2024–2027)

Regional Representative, Africa/Middle East (2024–2027)

Regional Representative, Latin America (2024-2027)

Nominations require the name and consent signature of the nominee (it may be yourself), the name of the person making the nomination (if not the nominee), and the name of two people seconding the nomination (one may be the person making the nomination). Trustees who have served two consecutive terms of office in any position on the board are not eligible for nomination. Position statements (charters) that describe the function and selection criteria for each of the officer positions are available on the ITAA website at itaaworld.org and from nominations chair Rema Giridhar at rema.k.giridhar@gmail.com . Nominees are encouraged to read and understand these and the full nomination/election documents before accepting nomination.

Send nominations to ITAA Nominations Committee Chair Rema Giridhar at rema.k.giridhar@gmail.com .

Those who accept nomination to any of the above positions must sign the "Rules for Candidates Seeking Election," which they will receive from Rema Giridhar and are also posted on the ITAA website. They must also email a written statement (maximum of 250 words) and digital photo to Rema as soon as possible and no later than the 27 January 2024 deadline.

Important Note About Nominations for the ITAA Board of Directors and the ITAA Foundation Board of Trustees

Individuals who are nominated for the ITAA Board of Trustees by the 27 January 2023 deadline (and elected if the position is contested) will be serving on the Board of Directors of the new International Transactional Analysis Association C6 professional association. That is, they will govern the C6 as the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors (C6) will appoint the Board of Trustees (C3) for the ITAA Foundation. **We are also looking for interested persons to serve as President, Treasurer, and Secretary for the C3 ITAA Foundation Board of Trustees.** That board will be responsible for administering the ITAA Foundation, including the preservation and maintenance of the historical archives and the funds representing members' assets. **If you are interested in any of these three positions, please contact the ITAA Secretary** Rema Giridhar at rema.k.giridhar@gmail.com . The guidelines for election to the current ITAA Board of Trustees (soon to be Board of Directors) will also apply to anyone expressing interest in serving on the new ITAA Foundation Board of Trustees.

Special January *TAJ* on Neurodiversity and Neurodivergence

We are excited to announce that **the January 2024 issue of the *Transactional Analysis Journal* on the theme of "Neurodiversity and Neurodivergence" will be out this month.**

Guest editor Steff Oates, along with *TAJ* coeditor Helen Rowland and additional help from *TAJ* coeditor Alexandra Gheorghe, have put together an outstanding group of articles. This issue raises important issues for transactional analysts in all fields of practice and offers both insightful and deeply meaningful reflections from a range of authors.

In their letter from the coeditors, Steff and Helen write:

> We had anticipated that editing an issue on the theme of neurodiversity and neurodivergence would probably be a lively experience. We both have lived experience of the joys and challenges of our own neurodivergence and that of our family members. Many of the authors in this issue had contacted us prior to submitting their articles and were open about the anxiety linked to sharing work that, by necessity, has involved personal sharing and potential exposure to familiar feelings of shame and isolation. We had anticipated this and knew from the outset and from our own experience of being edited that there would be a sensitive and important path to tread.
>
> The space between authors' voices and the eyes and ears of readers is a delicate balance between private and public. It is a balance between soliloquy (where we are talking utmost sense to ourselves) and words that will reach and inform others, a balance that is usually hard won.
>
> The double-blind review process used by the *TAJ* is advantageous in many ways because submissions are reviewed on their own merit, regardless of an author's reputation. Authors and reviewers are anonymous, which ideally should mean a level playing field. However, the complexity in this issue, raised by many authors in their papers, suggests that in the area of neurodivergence and/or neurodiversity, the playing field can, in some ways, never be level. We leave it up to you, our readers, to reflect on this as you engage with the papers in this issue.
>
> Although we expected vulnerability on behalf of our authors, we were surprised by the challenges reported by the reviewers of articles submitted for this theme issue. These did not have to do with the quality of the content presented but more that reviewers, as well as authors, appeared to become uncertain about academic "standards" required for publication in the *TAJ*. If you have been following the articles recently published in *The Script*, in which the *TAJ* coeditors have written about the style of articles submitted and accepted, you will know that there is a desire to expand the types of articles that are included without compromising the standards required of an academic journal. We recognize there is an established academic genre that includes essays, articles, book reviews, case studies, commentaries, research papers, and so on. And so in this issue, you will find several articles as well as an essay and a book review.
>
> We have witnessed and learned from the generosity of time and spirit shown by

both reviewers and authors of these contributions. Each has approached their task with serious undertaking while grappling with and respecting different frames of reference and different styles of expression. We have appreciated the honesty and willingness among us to learn from each other. Although the official language of the *TAJ* is English, it has felt as though there were other more subtle language differences to overcome in order to make sure these articles receive the best attention from readers that they can. The delicate and important balance has been between keeping the articles clearly in the authors' voices and representative of their views while making some adjustments to the presentation so that all readers can appreciate the views expressed.

The contributions in this issue include the following:

"Revisiting the Health System: Framing Transactional Analysis as Positive Social Psychology. Eric Berne Memorial Award Acceptance Speech" by Trudi Newton

"Brain Hemisphere Specialization and Neurodiversity as Influencing Factors on the Phenomenology of the Adult Ego State" by Neil Keenan

"Intersubjective Discoveries on Parenting Autistic Sons: Challenges to Ableist, Normative Narratives of Deficit" by Fionnuala Rupchand and Sonja Kormann

"Unmasking Neurodiversity: Revisiting the Relationship Between Core Self and Sense of Self to Examine Common Neurodivergent Script Decisions" by Beren Aldridge and Ronan Stilman

"What Is Psychological and What Is Neurological? A Political and Phenomenological Exploration of Neurodivergent Identity and Encounters With Thirdness" by Jo Moores and Steff Oates

"Time for a Change? A Review of Transactional Analysis Psychotherapy Training and Examinations With Consideration to Adopting a More Inclusive and Nondiscriminatory Approach" by Jan Baker

"Decentering Neuronormativity: A Transactional Analysis Impasse Theory Perspective for Understanding ADHD Masking and Authentically Honoring the Da Vinci Archetype Within" by Cheryl Leong and Romy Graichen

Le sentiment d'être différent: S'épanouir quand on n'entre pas dans les cases [Feeling Different: Thriving Even Though No Boxes Fit You] by Laurie Hawkes; reviewed by Sylvie Monin

Conferences & Events Calendar

15 February 2024
ITAA-EATA Webinar with Geoff Hopping (10-11:30 AM UTC)

19–21 April 2024
UKATA National Conference, Bradford, United Kingdom

10 June 2024
ITAA-EATA Webinar with Nicole Lenner (2-3:30 PM UTC)

6 November 2024
ITAA-EATA Webinar with Aruna Gopakumar (10-11:30 AM UTC)

8–10 August 2025
World TA Conference, Montpellier, France

Avoidance & Engagement in a Disturbed World

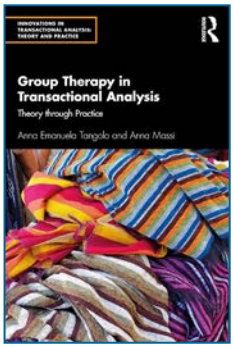
The ITAA **Social Engagement Committee has planned a series of three webinars in response to today's challenging times.** Amidst global challenges such as conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza, let's explore:

1. **Private Self:** Embracing our personal responses to disturbing world events
2. **Professional self:** Elevating our professional identities to respond rather than react
3. **Community self:** Building stronger TA community bonds to hold difficulties together

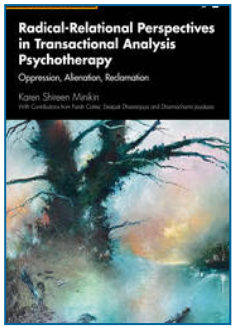
The first of these webinars, on the private self, is with Diane Salters on 23 January 2024 at 12 PM UTC. To register go to: https://buff.ly/47e9aib .

We can navigate adverse currents through collective reflection and striking the balance between numbness and pain. Join the journey of self-discovery, professional growth, and community engagement by joining us for these webinars! Share your thoughts during the webinars and register now to be a part of positive change.

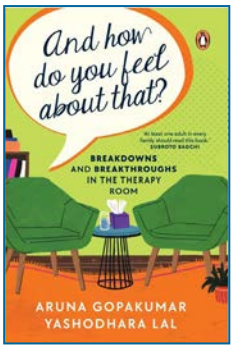
Anna Emanuela Tangolo and Anna Massi published *Group Therapy in Transactional Analysis: Theory through Practice* (Routledge, 2022) as part of the Innovations in Transactional Analysis: Theory and Practice series edited by Bill Cornell. The authors draw on their decades of experience working together in therapy, supervision, and training groups to present a compelling and comprehensive account of contemporary TA group therapy. The book demonstrates the evolution of TA as a relational psychodynamic therapy rich in clinical experiences within both individual and group settings.



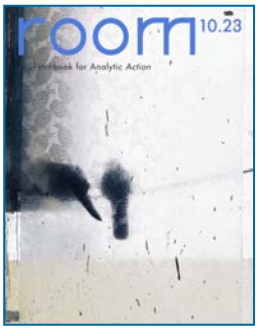
Karen Minikin has published *Radical-Relational Perspectives in Transactional Analysis Psychotherapy: Oppression, Alienation, Reclamation* (Routledge, 2024) as part of the Innovations in Transactional Analysis series edited by Bill Cornell. She assesses various forms of oppression in current, historical, and personal perspectives and considers the impact this has on the development and sustenance of the psyche. Karen reformulates the ideas of radical psychiatry for the contemporary community and honors both the historical legacy of including the social and political in TA and offers a critique of Eurocentrism in traditional relational perspectives.



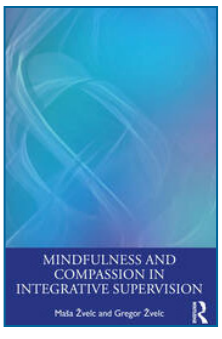
Aruna Gopakumar and Yashodhara Lal published *And How Do You Feel About That? Breakdowns and Breakthroughs in the Therapy Room* in December 2022 (Penguin). Both practicing Indian transactional analysts, they offer fictionalized accounts from their clinical practice. In this collection of 50 stories, readers can get a fly-on-the-wall perspective on what takes place in the intimate setting of the therapy room. The authors have written this book to destigmatize therapy by providing a realistic and nuanced view of how therapy works while keeping the approach light and jargon-free, perfectly suited for the lay reader who is curious or even skeptical about therapy. The authors also hope that the book introduces a larger population to the relevance, versatility, and potency of transactional analysis. The authors write, "The response to the book in the first year has been delightful and overwhelming." To continue their efforts to demystify therapy and introduce more people to possibilities with transactional analysis, the authors started an Instagram page called @inthetherapyroom. They put up short reels around ideas in transactional analysis. In these few months, they have received over 10,000 followers and consistent feedback on how useful people find the content.



Bill Cornell had an article published in the October 2023 issue of the online journal *ROOM: A Sketchbook for Analytic Action*. Entitled "A Sovereign Nation," it describes Bill's experience with an active shooter situation in his neighborhood and the way his neighborhood group responded following the horrific events that led to the death of a man who, because of mental health and other issues, had became an "outlier." This moving and heartbreaking article is available online here.



Gregor Žvelc and Maša Žvelc are happy to announce the publication of their new book entitled *Mindfulness and Compassion in Integrative Supervision* (Routledge, 2024). It presents an original integrative and transtheoretical approach to supervision that emphasizes the importance of mindful awareness and compassion in supervision practice.



Social Media, Ethics, and Professionalism

by Emma Haynes

Social media is such a brilliant tool and can offer so much to ITAA members. Yet it has its drawbacks because of the blurring of personal and professional boundaries and the potential to cause ethical tensions. **This month I briefly explore some of the pitfalls and risks involved and balance these against the benefits.** I am also wondering if our Code of Ethics needs to include a section on the use of social media in our professional lives.

It is well known that social media tends to make people feel less inhibited when sitting behind their computer screens, which can lead to oversharing. Social media may affect our perception of self and others and can lead to comparisons, self-criticism, and frustrations. However, it can also offer a means of connection in what can be an isolating professional world, particularly for those, like me, who work with individual clients in private practice. Many of us already take advantage of social media, using it for fun; keeping in touch; sharing news, information, and ideas; networking; and offering professional services such as continuous professional development. Professionally, it can also help raise the profile and public awareness of the ITAA, which could be crucial for ITAA's future development. Social media can, therefore, be both a great help and a hindrance.

My research on social media led me to ask how I could maintain a positive and strong online presence as a means to develop and enhance my work while weighing this up with my professional ethical responsibilities. I thought I might share some of the points I came up with:

- Posting on social media is much like speaking to a group of peers face to face. I should, therefore, approach my posts with the same professionalism I would with in-person contacts.
- Ethical standards still apply when posting online, even when posting on a personal account rather than a professional one.
- Confidentiality always applies because all material shared is in the public domain. This means the information may be shared much more widely than one might expect, and the risk of identifying a person, place, or situation increases exponentially. Disclosing identifiable information, therefore, may constitute a breach of our Code of Ethics.



- Online images may impact me, my profession, and the ITAA, so I need to think carefully about any photos I share.
- It may not be possible to delete or remove information that has been posted, so it may remain permanently in the public domain.
- Privacy settings are important.
- WhatsApp, LinkedIn, and X (formerly Twitter) used for networking also require consideration of confidentiality. I should exercise caution before posting, keeping in mind who might see what is posted.

When posts are deemed inappropriate, often there was no intention to cause offence. But perhaps not enough clear thought was given to the potential impact prior to posting. It has certainly taken me a while to get used to how many people can see posts, the way they are reshared, and the speed with which they move outside my control. This makes me extra cautious before posting.

The benefits of social media can be high, and when posts are done in a thoughtful, appropriate way, the opportunities that can arise are plentiful, helping us all to become successful professionals.

Let me leave you with some more questions: Do you think our ethical code now needs to include a section on social media use? How do we navigate such a complex area? Have we moved past ignorance being a defense? Please get in touch. As always, the Ethics Committee would love to hear your views.

Emma Haynes can be reached at emmafhaynes@aol.com .

Welcome to New Members

NOVEMBER 2023

Sam Ayres, United Kingdom
Ayesha Azhar, Pakistan
Nina Bajkovic, Montenegro
Milica Bilbija, Serbia
Anja Brune, Germany
Michael Chesterman, United Kingdom
Malina Chirea, Romania
Eric Curiel, United Kingdom
Sonia Di Gennaro, Italy
Dominik Elsbroek, Germany
Emma Howells, United Kingdom
Nataša Ilic Sekereš, Serbia
Haider Jasdan, India
Cheryl Muirhead, United Kingdom
Marlies Mulder, Netherlands
Brian Newman, Portugal
Slavomir Nikodijevic, Serbia
Marilia Pereira, Brazil
Tijana Radosavljevic, Serbia
Milena Radovancev, Serbia
Jenny Rafferty, United Kingdom
Jayalakshmi (Jaya) Ramesh, India
Caroline Risseeuw, Netherlands
Louise Russell, United Kingdom
Jaba Sen Menon, India
Jamuna Senthilkumar, India
Jane Souter, United Kingdom
Lindsey Thompson, United Kingdom
Katarina Thunander, Sweden
Pavel Tuchin, Serbia
Fabienne Ussher, New Zealand
Sheila van Tol, United Kingdom
Amanda Wilson, United Kingdom



2025 World TA Conference Site Chosen

Exciting news! Montpellier, France, has been chosen as the site of the next World TA Conference. Hosted by Institut Français d'Analyse Transactionnelle (IFAT), the gathering will take place from 8–10 August 2025 at Le Corum .



SAATA Holds Dynamic In-Person Conference

by Parul Arora



SAATA Conference Steering Committee: (top row from left) Shibani Mishra, Nisha George, Manish Narayan, Devika Khanna, Aruna Gopakumar, John Leo; (bottom row from left) Deepak Dhananjaya, Gunjan Zutshi, Parul Arora, Deepa Kumar, Suriyaprakash C., Ragini Rao

After a gap of 5 years due to the pandemic, **the South Asia Association of Transactional Analysts (SAATA) held its 7th Biennial Conference on 23–24 September 2023.** Nearly 200 participants and a wonderful line-up of speakers came together for exciting keynotes and workshops.

The conference theme was "Heggidira? – Dialogues on Mental Health." "Heggidira?" means "how are you" in Kannada, one of the principal languages of India. Heggidira is also a hat tip to the conference venue—Bengaluru, Karnataka—where Kannada is used widely. An energetic conference steering committee of SAATA elders and young volunteers came together with full energy to plan a gathering with keynote speakers, a panel discussion, and 25 engaging sessions over 2 days.

The conference kicked off with a lamp-lighting ceremony, a way to center and ready us for 2 days of learning and engaging. That was followed by the opening keynote by Karen Minikin—"Troubled Individuals or Troubled Society" in which she talked about how the political and social climate affects mental health, the need to decolonize therapy, and raising important questions such as how much responsibility is on the collective for our well-being as a society.

The two days saw workshops with TA thinkers such as Diane Salters, Chitra Ravi, Susan George, Suriyaprakash C., Fran Parkin, Anne Cariapa, Aruna Gopakumar, and many more. SAATA also paid tribute to the late P. K. Saru, cofounder and first president of SAATA and the torchbearer of transactional analysis in the region, with an engaging PK Saru Endowment Lecture by Dr. Jai Ranjan Ram focusing on "Enhancing Resilience in Children." Day 1 ended with an energizing performance by a local band led by a TA trainee who got participants singing and dancing along.

Day 2 began with a healing sound bath by Drum Events India, which centered us for the day and was followed by an engaging panel discus-



Suriyaprakash C. accepts his SAATA Service Award with Aruna Gopakumar (left) and Ragini Rao congratulating him



Keynote speaker Karen Minikin (left) with Susan George at the opening candle-lighting ceremony

sion on "Inclusive Mental Health" with Ashwin Naik, Midhun Noble, and Dr. Ketki Ranade. The SAATA Service Award was presented to Dr. Suriyaprakash C. for 30 years of building and growing the TA community, and it was an inspiring moment to hear him talk about his journey and his vision.

The conference was also the perfect moment to announce **the launch of SAATA's new MHTAP and DTAP certification** and celebrate those who passed their exams this year. There was a pop-up by the PSD team to answer questions about exams and motivate people to get their certifications.

The conference had elements of serious learning and reconnecting as a community in person as well as fun elements like Bingo cards, post-cards to self, selfie frames, and mental health check-ins. Participants appreciated the content as much as the activities and the environment that made the 2 days exciting, inspiring, and energizing. SAATA social media handles were active with updates and sharing snippets from the conference across Instagram, Facebook, and Linkedin. Do give them a follow for more events.

We are proud of the fact that the 2023 conference was a 100% plastic-free event with nearly 200 attendees. In fact, our conference registration kit consisted of cloth bags, stationery with seeds that can be planted back in the soil, and a reusable steel bottle sponsored by Jansons Business School, Ragini Rao, Infinum Learning, and Dr. Suriyaprakash C., Relations Institute.

The latest SAATA Conference was a resounding success and one that will be remembered fondly for a long time to come. Thanks are due to the participants, who were fully present; the speakers who brought their energy to the program; those who sponsored and subsidized parts of the conference; the SAATA Board of Trustees and Executive Committee, who guided the process; and the efforts of the Conference Steering Committee led by SAATA President Aruna Gopakumar as the Conference Convenor. The event was supported by SAATA veterans Dr. Suriyaprakash C. and Ragini Rao and a dynamic team including Gunjan Zutshi, Deepak Dhananjaya, Parul Arora, Devika Khanna, Deepa Kumar, John Leo, Manish Narayan, Shibani Priyadarshini, and Nisha George.

Parul Arora is SAATA VP Development and can be reached at ms.parularora@gmail.com .

ITAA Contact Info

ITAA
2700 E. Foothill Blvd., Suite 209
Pasadena, California 91107, USA
626-689-4810

Email: info@itaaworld.org .

Goodbye and Thank You to Jacqueline van Gent



As we start a new year, **we say goodbye and thank you to Jacqueline van Gent, who is ending her term as IBOC cochair, and extend a warm welcome to Haseena Abdulla, the new cochair.** Haseena begins her role formally on 1 January and will lead on CTA and TEW processes within the IBOC.

Farewell from Jacqueline

As I pass the IBOC cochair baton into the competent hands of Haseena Abdulla, I am grateful for her willingness to step into the role and for the gracious way that she familiarized herself with the task over the past few months.

Although IBOC work is often busy and intense, it is also satisfying and rewarding. I remember with great appreciation all the online examiners who have made an effort in recent years to build bridges during exams and to meet their fellow examiners somewhere on that bridge, in spite of the sometimes vast differences in backgrounds and cultures.

I also appreciate the critical reflections of both examiners and candidates around exam experiences. This is how we jointly create a learning system in which there is always new nourishment to improve and gradually change the system. To my delight, the group of online examiners is growing, and successful candidates are returning as enthusiastic examiners.

It is with great appreciation that I watch the progress of the "global conversation" on the development of TA training and certification. Although the fire was lit by PSC cochairs Giles Barrow and Karen Pratt, it became clear from member responses how welcome this initiative is and how much members are willing to think about and codecide how the current system of training and certification can be transformed and supplemented with local variants that better suit local needs.

Although I cannot name and thank each person whom I pleasantly worked with in the past 5 years, I will end with some special words of appreciation to the people with whom I have worked most closely. **Suriya**, thank you for the way you fulfilled the role of IBOC manager; you listened to our needs and acted immediately when the work was getting over our heads. Thanks to your efforts, soon all contracts, exam registrations, and payments will be made through the website, which is a great achievement. **Sarah Lowes**, thank you for being willing to take on the IBOC administration. In just a few months you have unequivocally demonstrated your decisiveness, sharpness, and organizational ability. You are an absolute star. **Giles Barrow** and **Karen Pratt**: Thank you for the great team spirit that made the close collaboration between PSC and IBOC so fruitful. With your energy, commitment, and humor, it was always a joy to consult with each other, to evaluate what we had done, or to brainstorm about future developments. And finally, dear colleague and friend **Sue Eusden**, I could not have imagined a better collaboration buddy than you. Although we were both often up to our ears in our daily work, on odd hours there was always time for a consultation on IBOC matters or a quick action to solve a problem. It's been a tremendous joy working with you. Thank you.

Goodbye to you all. We will undoubtedly meet again somewhere in the TA world, and I am looking forward to that occasion.

Postscript from Jacqueline: On 19 December I received a "Thank You" group card 56 (!) pages long. Lovely warm words and appreciation from many members came via my computer screen and landed right into

my heart. Wow, what a wonderful surprise. Thank you!

Farewell to Jacqueline

Many people have already signed a card to say thank you and goodbye to Jacqueline as IBOC cochair. The team members have also penned some words here.

Jacqueline has been a dear colleague who, for me, has been a "north star," someone I turn to when wisdom is needed. She has a beautiful, empathetic clarity of thought that I admire and from which I have benefited. She has courage, too, in her approach, alongside elegance and grace in her style. I have often said to myself, when I grow up, I want to be like her. ***Giles Barrow***

Jacqueline is both organized and efficient around a task and, at the same time, shows deep concern and care for all the people involved. She brings warmth and a deep humanity to all her work. She listens deeply and is firm in naming what needs to be named from a grounded sense of OKness for herself and everyone else. We will miss her dry sense of humor in our meetings. ***Karen Pratt***

Jacqueline has exemplified unwavering integrity and formidable influence as IBOC cochair. Her meticulous attention to detail and diligent approach significantly contributed to seamlessly incorporating the oral exam process into the evolving landscape of online business. Jacqueline uniquely balances a gentle demeanor with resolute conviction, leaving an indelible mark on our organization. Alongside Sue, she established elevated standards of service and performance, creating a legacy that will resonate for years. Jacqueline's departure from the IBOC is a substantial loss to our community, but we find solace in the enduring legacy she leaves behind. I extend heartfelt wishes for joy and success in her future endeavors. ***Suriyaprakash C***

Over the past 2 years, I had the opportunity to become acquainted with Jacqueline as we shared the joy of working together. These interactions gave me valuable insights into the examination process and fostered a strong sense of teamwork. Jacqueline embodies openness with composure, and her distinctive sense of humor is appealing. She blends authenticity, warmth, and firmness, and I feel fortunate to have spent the last few months acquiring skills from her. ***Haseena Abdulla***

Jacqueline has been a joy to work so closely with over the last years as we navigated establishing the online IBOC exams and many more aspects of certification work. She is reliable, trustworthy, direct, tactful, funny, creative, and strategic in her thinking as well as big of heart. She is committed to making the best experience possible for all involved in the exams without compromising the integrity of our standards. She works beautifully alone and as part of a team. She is a graceful elder and a Mother Tree in our community. I feel privileged to have worked alongside her. ***Sue Eusden***

Please note that the IBOC is taking a break over the holidays. If you contact us , we will get back to you as soon after January 5 as possible.

Jacqueline van Gent, Sue Eusden, and Haseena Abdulla, IBOC Cochairs

IBOC Exam Calendar

Type	Exam Date	Location	Application Deadline
CTA	21-23 Mar 2024	ONLINE	closed
TSTA	21-23 Mar 2024	ONLINE	closed
CTA	3-5 Oct 2024	ONLINE	3 Jul 2024
TSTA	3-5 Oct 2024	ONLINE	3 Apr 2024
CTA	19-20 Nov 2024	Wellingon, NZ	19 August 2024
TSTA	19-20 Nov 2024	Wellington, NZ	19 May 2024

IBOC TEW Calendar

Type	TEW Date	Location	Application Deadline	TPO Deadline
TEW	12-14 Apr 2024	ONLINE	closed	closed
TEW	25-27 Oct 2024	ONLINE	25 Feb 2024	25 Apr 2024
TEW	24-25 Nov 2024	Wellington, NZ	24 Mar 2024	24 May 2024
TEW	25-27 Apr 2025	ONLINE	25 Aug 2024	25 Oct 2024

Note: Written exams can be submitted anytime throughout the year.

Please send applications for exams and TEW to the IBOC administrator: iboc@itaaworld.org

For the EATA exam calendar, please refer to: https://eatanews.org/exams/#coc-calendar and for the EATA TEW calendar, go to: https://eatanews.org/ta-training-2/#tew-calendar