

Frontiers in the Psychotherapy of Trauma & Dissociation

The Official Clinical Journal of the ISSTD



Mission Statement

The International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation (ISSTD) aims to further the understanding and treatment of complex posttraumatic and dissociative disorders along three pathways: 1) the publication of empirical research that speaks to the nature and development of those disorders (via the *Journal of Trauma and Dissociation*); 2) the teaching of clinical approaches to those disorders for novice clinicians (via the ISSTD's *Professional Training Program*); and 3) a forum for the presentation, discussion and debate of developments in the diagnostic assessment and treatment of those disorders by experienced clinicians, via an e-journal, *Frontiers in the Psychotherapy of Trauma and Dissociation*.

The Editors of *Frontiers* will encourage authors to submit articles that a) identify the rationale for the diagnostic and treatment procedures employed (i.e., state the theory and underpinning mechanisms of disorder and symptom-generation that guides the clinician's interventions), and b) report psychological, behavioral and/or social outcomes as criteria for success. Wherever relevant, it is important to refer to related disciplines (e.g., neurobiology, cognitive psychology, social psychology) as sources of insights for psychotherapy.

The Editors believe that clinicians' observations from testing the rationale for their interventions, for one patient and one treatment session at a time, are indeed the seed for ideas to update existing theories and for hypotheses to test experimentally. Such experimental studies then may be submitted to the *Journal of Trauma and Dissociation* or to other journals whose missions involve the publication of theory and empirical research on complex posttraumatic disorders.

In addition to articles about treatment of clients traumatized repeatedly in personal relationships, the Editors encourage submission by authors who discern and treat the consequences of traumatic abuse and betrayal by the

larger community. Such trauma pertains for example to a) failure of institutions designated to correct abuse in personal relationships; and b) suffering oppression and discrimination as a member of a group (racial, ethnic, religious, gender, etc.)

In sum, *Frontiers in the Psychotherapy of Trauma and Dissociation* is intended as a vehicle for the growth and maturation of concepts, skills and interventions for effective treatment of the posttraumatic and dissociative disorders seen among survivors of traumatic abuse and betrayal.