

**Colloquium Series Presentation: Review of Wendy Greenspun, PhD
“Three Dimensional Treatment: Reflections on the Interplay of Patient,
Analyst and Supervisors on an Analytic Training Case”**

On December 4, 2009 at 8pm, Dr. Wendy Greenspun presented a paper based on her now completed work as a psychoanalytic candidate at the Manhattan Institute for Psychoanalysis. This was the second in the Institute’s Colloquium Series for 2009-2010, and was held at The Cultural Center, 410 Columbus Avenue in New York City.

Summary, Theoretical and Clinical Challenges, Discussion

Dr. Greenspun gave a rich presentation that explored how the presence of a third party, in the shape of a supervisor, may alter the elements of participation and mutuality between a patient and analyst. Dr. Greenspun traced the effects of these influences upon a training case at the Institute through her work with four different male supervisors over a period of five years.

Dr. Greenspun traced the effects of these influences upon a training case at the Institute through her work with four different male supervisors over a period of five years. Dr. Greenspun utilized the metaphor of “surfing versus diving” with the patient to capture the tension experienced in the case over whether to maintain an empathic or holding stance with the patient, emphasized by some supervisors, or to try to delve more deeply into unconscious processes and interpersonal enactments, emphasized by other supervisors, representing the range of perspectives on clinical activity seen within the relational-interpersonal leaning of the Institute. The unconscious background influence of the supervisor was illustrated in dreams of both the patient and the analyst. The themes of power in the analysis, and the parallel processes of personal growth of the patient and professional identity of the analyst were elucidated.

In her discussion of the paper, Manhattan Institute faculty member Susan Obrecht, LCSW, focused primarily on how the patient’s and analyst’s dreams communicated their impressions of the training supervisors’ influence on the analytic triad. In a detailed review of the patient’s dream, Ms. Obrecht offered new ways to explore the patient’s questions, assumptions and observations about the supervisor’s influence. She concluded that in this case “lifting the shroud of secrecy” around the supervisor’s impact might allow a deeper understanding of the recursive patterning around issues of power, gender, the erotic, and the nature of learning and influence.

The paper and its discussion evoked additional questions from those in attendance that were profitably engaged by the presenter and discussant in the dialogue that followed.

-Vincent Calenda, LCSW, First Year Candidate, Certificate Program in Psychoanalysis