



1) Speakers

Howard Levine with Lesley Caldwell and Alan Colam, chaired by Viqui Rosenberg with Becky Hall presenting in the clinical discussion

(2) Content (topics, themes, etc.)

Freud's formulations of separation of self and object and the inception of thought and reality testing are based on the *absence* of the breast. In his papers on technique, when he said that the enemy could not be defeated in absentia or in effigy, he implied that the negative transference object must be encountered and lived in the analysis. Winnicott's 'good enough mother' is a mother who *instinctively knows how to fail* her child in ways that will facilitate and stimulate psychic growth and development. Bion spoke of the necessity not just of knowing about, but becoming the O of the patient, a becoming that may imply *unconsciously being recruited to become an object who inadvertently recreates micro-experiences of failure*, so that they may be actualized, analyzed and contained, put into some comprehensible, verbalizable form (i.e., construction). This perspective is analogous to Winnicott's discussion in Fear of Breakdown, which emphasizes the need to repeat in the transference something that will evoke the force and perhaps meaning of the actual, unrememberable pre-verbal experience of failure, albeit one within what we might call 'good enough limits', so that what once occurred prior to the existence of an experiencing self could then become contained by being linked to an experienceable symbolic ideational form that could then be recognized as belonging to the self.

Full info here: <https://www.psychanalysis-bpa.org/events/the-debbie-bellman-memorial-lecture/>

(3) Publicity and outreach efforts and reflection on their success

Internal advertising, BPC advert, approaching national and international psychoanalytic organisations – we were pleased with the attendance though there were quite a lot of last minute sign ups.

(4) Audience—who came, how many, how they received the program

137 bought tickets, feedback was very positive.

(5) Outcome and ramifications for the society and community beyond the meeting itself.

This event was our inaugural Debbie Bellman Memorial lecture and marked the start of a committed annual engagement with the international psychoanalytic community. CAPSA helped us to achieve and deliver a scientific meeting followed by a Clinical Workshop which was attended not only by members of our society, but also from societies across Europe and beyond. As a relatively young organisation, this event will help acquire a



wider recognition and also encourage our own members to engage with the international community. It has been an important step in our international scientific life.

(6) Recommendations for other Societies based on experience.

We have had a great deal of positive feedback since the event and would encourage other Societies to think about organising similar events. The grant from CAPSA enabled us to be able to consider an overseas speaker and to engage him and other attendees from abroad in a clinical dialogue, when otherwise the costs and the enterprise might have felt prohibiting. It has been an enjoyable and interesting experience which has widened our horizons, both for our members and our society as a whole.