

Profile

ICSPP – International Center for the Study of Psychiatry and Psychology

ICSPP is an interdisciplinary, international center for professionals concerned with ethical and scientific issues in human research and services. Founded by its director, Peter R. Breggin, M.D. in 1971, ICSPP reform efforts began with its successful opposition to the international resurgence of psychosurgery. In the mid 1990s, ICSPP organized a campaign that caused the US Government to withdraw its “violence initiative”, a government – wide program that called for intrusive biomedical experiments on inner-city children in the hope of demonstrating biological and genetic causes of violence. ICSPP’s most recent reform efforts have been directed at the growing international trend to psychiatrically diagnose and medicate children. Because of its many successful efforts on behalf of truthfulness and justice in the psychosocial and biomedical sciences, ICSPP has been called “the conscience of psychiatry”.

ICSPP promotes ethical and effective psychosocial approaches that meet the genuine needs of people and contribute to the well-being of individuals, family life, and society. To understand and to address the needs of human beings requires the broadest ethical, psychosocial, and biological awareness. The ICSPP Board of Directors and Advisory Council of nearly two hundred members span the fields of counseling, psychology, social work, sociology, education, nursing, public health, and the biomedical sciences, including psychiatry, neurology, pediatrics, biochemistry, and psychopharmacology. Many are active in the fields of ethics, law, religion, public advocacy, and social policy analysis.

ICSPP has several divisions in North America, Europe, and Australia. The center offers a general membership. It publishes a newsletter and periodically distributes news releases and press packages about contemporary issues in the human sciences. In September 1998, ICSPP held its first annual international conference “Counseling and Psychotherapy Without Psychiatric Drugs” in Bethesda, Maryland, USA.

In May 1999, ICSPP will publish the first issue of its peer reviewed journal, *Ethical Human Sciences and Services*. ICSPP and the journal can be contacted at the following address: 4628 Chesnut Street, Bethesda, Maryland 20814, USA. Tel.: +1 301 652 5580; Fax: +1 301 652 5924; Internet: www.ICSPP.org.