

IPSO Vice President Elect For North America Statement

Dear Fellow Candidates and Friends,

My name is Konstantinos Taliouridis and I am a Clinical Psychologist and Psychoanalytic Psychotherapist. I am currently a psychoanalytic candidate at the Chicago Psychoanalytic Institute (CPI) and I am enrolled in the child/adolescent and adult program. At the institute, I am the IPSO representative, the American Psychoanalytic Association (APsA) representative, and I am very involved with the Candidate Association in different functions such as the CA's Social Committee. Also, I serve on their Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee. In addition to that, I am a member of the Program Committee at the Chicago Psychoanalytic Society (CPS).

Connecting people and building bridges are among my strengths, which I will use to unify our peers. The fact that I am tri-lingual – I speak Greek, English and French fluently and Spanish on a basic level – is an important factor. Language and culture go hand-in-hand so this allows me to understand people from a variety of backgrounds. Having lived in both Europe and North America has opened my mind with regard to diversity, equality and inclusion. The pandemic magnified inequalities and therefore, we had to think more deeply about our methods. Were they effective? How could we better meet the needs of those we try to help?

I would like to serve as Vice President Elect for North America within IPSO because I would like to create a sense of unity among the candidates around the world. In this way I could bring together ideas and colleagues from every region, which would significantly enrich and enliven our experience as candidates and future psychoanalysts.

When I was invited to join the IPSO World Reps WhatsApp group, I felt welcome and a sense of warmth as relationships developed with other candidates around the world. We share personal challenges and successes with each other, which stimulates the way that I think and perceive my work. We are more than simply colleagues, but deep friendships have resulted from our times together.

I am driven by my strong feelings and dedication to the future of psychoanalysis, which is the reason I am involved with several committees and sections within APsA. These include the Public Information Committee, the Ethics Committee, the DPE Child Analysis Section, the DPE Diversities Section, the Candidates Subcommittee Psychoanalyst in the Community, the Social Issues Department's Gender and Sexuality Committee and the Study Group Psychoanalysis and Neuroscience.

I currently serve as the Candidates' Liaison Editor for The American Psychoanalyst (TAP), a journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association (APsA) and the APsA's Candidate Council as Chairperson for the Child and Adolescent Analysis Committee.

Today's world is faced with intensifying global crises such as health pandemics, economic upheaval, war, environmental issues, racial and ethnic injustice just to name a few. As psychoanalysts in training, we want to move away from traditions of the past where patients were treated only in counsel rooms on the couch. Our desire is not to create a revolution, but to expand psychoanalytical

concepts making them more accessible in communities. If elected, I will embrace today's challenges and will help create an atmosphere of open dialogue and progressive thinking.

COVID-19 brought much fear and isolation as well as challenges, not only for individuals, but also for psychoanalysts as we were faced with things we had never had to deal with before. We responded quickly and effectively to the many challenges of the pandemic by helping people stay connected. Training and treatment of patients went on uninterrupted while classes continued through the use of technology. However, the exponential evolution of technology and artificial intelligence has obscured the frontier between internal and external reality. The basic sense of security in human life and relationships was shaken when the COVID pandemic struck. The sense of fear and instability has further intensified since the war began in Ukraine a year ago.

Should I be elected, I intend to expand psychoanalytic studies to the discriminated populations from various backgrounds and cultures, ethnicities, and the LGBTQIA+ community. I plan to do that by encouraging, helping and advocating in their defense.

To strengthen our analytical identities, my goal is to promote, support, stimulate and enhance research and the study of changes in psychoanalytical theory and methods. I would encourage different ideas, demands and needs through societies, groups and teams. I promise to use my skills to be an advocate and voice for analysts in training and for those working to keep psychoanalysis progressing.

If I am elected, I will bring to my fellow candidates and the executive committee my involvement, my deep conviction to psychoanalysis as well as my experience in working in psychoanalytic institutions. I will endeavor to contribute to IPSO's mission and together with my colleagues face current and future challenges of psychoanalysis.

On a personal note, I enjoy reading, hiking, singing and traveling around the globe. Currently I am working on creating podcasts vulgarizing psychoanalytical jargon to make it more accessible to all. These podcasts will raise awareness among the general public of who we are and what we are doing so that psychoanalysis will not be reserved for the more privileged.

Should I be elected, I promise to work at encouraging progressive thinking and opportunities for each to share their ideas and opinions. Too often as candidates, we find ourselves frustrated, alone and isolated because the challenges we face can be overwhelming or even shameful.

In conclusion, I can assure you that I will pour all of my energy and devotion into my position to unify and encourage and build up my fellow candidates such that we will form a stronger body of analysts in training. I would ask for your support by electing me as VP-elect for the North America region. In return, I promise you my unfaltering and steadfast dedication in bringing my enthusiasm for serving you in the field of psychoanalysis as well as to our colleagues throughout the world.

Sincerely,
Konstantinos Taliouridis