

SPECIAL MESSAGE

On behalf of the International Transpersonal Association (ITA), we are pleased to announce the 1990 International Transpersonal Conference, entitled **The Spiritual Quest, Attachment, and Addiction**, to be held on September 10-14 at the Hilton Hotel in Eugene, Oregon. The main focus of this conference will be the exploration of new perspectives and new approaches in the area of addiction, one of the most alarming symptoms of the profound psychological crisis of modern humanity.

Addiction, particularly in its most obvious forms - alcoholism and drug abuse represents a complex phenomenon that has biological, emotional, and spiritual roots. In the past, the medical and psychological aspects have received much attention and have been subjected to systematic research. By contrast, the spiritual dimension that plays a critical role in all successful treatment and rehabilitation programs, has often been only reluctantly acknowledged by mainstream professionals.

However, thanks largely to the proliferation and increasing influence of the Twelve Step movement, the area of addiction is the only field within our health care system that explicitly recognizes the importance of spirituality in human life and systematically uses this insight for healing purposes.

During the two decades of its existence, transpersonal psychology has made serious attempts to bring the spiritual dimension into the theory and practice of Western psychology and other disciplines. In spite of their ideological similarity, the spiritually oriented recovery programs, such as the Twelve Step fellowships, and transpersonal psychology have been developing quite independently and have had little contact.

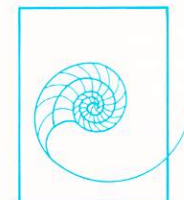
We feel that transpersonal psychology could learn a great deal from the lessons offered by the spiritually oriented recovery programs and that, in turn, the field of addiction might benefit from transpersonal psychology and from a broader acceptance of spirituality in professional circles. This ITA conference will offer a rich forum for the exchange of experience and information between the two fields. We hope that this will provide a basis for a new perspective and new practical approaches that will embrace and synthesize the philosophies of both endeavors.

In the broadest sense, addiction can be defined as an attitude that sees various aspects of the material world as exclusive sources of personal satisfaction. Understood in this way, it represents a prominent feature of our entire Western civilization which has lost its connection with inner

The International Transpersonal Association

The International Transpersonal Association (ITA) is a scientific organization that unites individuals of different nationalities, professions, and philosophical or spiritual preferences who share the transpersonal orientation. By using the specific methods of their disciplines and the results of their observations, they are moving toward or have arrived at the recognition of the fundamental unity underlying the world of separate beings and objects and are applying this new understanding in their respective fields.

The ITA is interested in bridging the gaps existing at present between various scientific disciplines and seemingly disparate or contradictory approaches, such as ancient wisdom and modern science or the Eastern spiritual philosophies and Western pragmatism. In practice, the ITA tries to facilitate the application of the new principles and conceptual frameworks to therapy, scientific research, education, spiritual practice, economy, ecology, politics, and other areas of human life.



Hosts:
*Christina and
Stanislav Grof,
M.D.*

**Conference
Coordinators:**
*Stuart and
Debra Funke-
d'Egnuff*

**Program
Coordinators :**
*Tav Sparks and
Cary O'Connor*

**On-Site
Coordinator:**
John McKenzie