

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF
RESPIRATORY PSYCHOPHYSIOLOGY (ISARP)
(Eighth Annual Meeting)
Worcester College, Oxford, United Kingdom
September 14-16, 2001

MEETING REPORT
William Gardner

It was a great pleasure to be able to organise this conference and to meet up with my old friends again. The dominant event overshadowing the conference was the September 11th atrocity. This occurred only 3 days before the start of the conference, some delegates were sitting on the tarmac waiting to take off at that time, and we were very relieved that all of our members came through unscathed.

We initially considered cancelling the conference, but after some debate decided to proceed with the meeting in the hope that at least some of our American colleagues would be able to attend. In the event sadly none were able to come in time. This was particularly unfortunate because the venue was superb with the lecture theatre opening via French windows onto beautiful green lawns adjacent to a lake and surrounded by ancient stone buildings and would have been particularly appreciated by our overseas colleagues who have not previously been able to experience the unique ambiance of one of the original Oxford colleges. The original program was further decimated by the last minute illness of Hans Folgering and we all wish him a full and speedy recovery.

In practice, we kept to the same overall program and the meeting was very successful with no gaps. I am very grateful for the speakers who stepped in at the last minute with substitute talks, often delivered without visual aids or with slides transmitted over the internet, for the European and New Zealand speakers who braved the travel uncertainties to attend, and for all of those speakers who adapted their talks to fill the vacant slots. In particular I am grateful to Christopher Bass who filled Don Klein's slot with an inspirational lecture on the management of psychosomatic disorders, to Dick Gevirtz who delivered a summary of new ideas on biofeedback without visual aids, to Bert Anderson who described his website for the management of panic disorders, and to our president, Bernard Dahme who delivered Thomas Ritz's presentation at very short notice.

The first day consisted of a session devoted to therapists and the role of physical therapies in the management of hyperventilation and breathing disorders. This proceeded largely according to the program, with an interruption for a short and moving church service to commemorate those who died in the September 11th atrocity. In the morning, there were presentations attempting to establish the scientific underpinning to the therapists' approach, and in the afternoon there was a range of case presentations (see summary below). There was widespread enthusiasm for a similar session to become a feature of future ISARP meetings.

I would like to thank Helen Russell, the conference organizer at Worcester College, and her staff who immaculately arranged the infrastructure of the meeting, to Elizabeth McQuaid who did most of the organization of the meeting (despite having a baby in the middle), and to Suzanne Widmer who stepped into Elizabeth's shoes on site and ran the registration desk. Without Suzanne's help the meeting would not have happened. I am indebted to Julie Backley and Anne Pitman who largely organized the Friday program, and to Hans Folgering and Ron Ley who read the abstracts and advised about the content of the program.

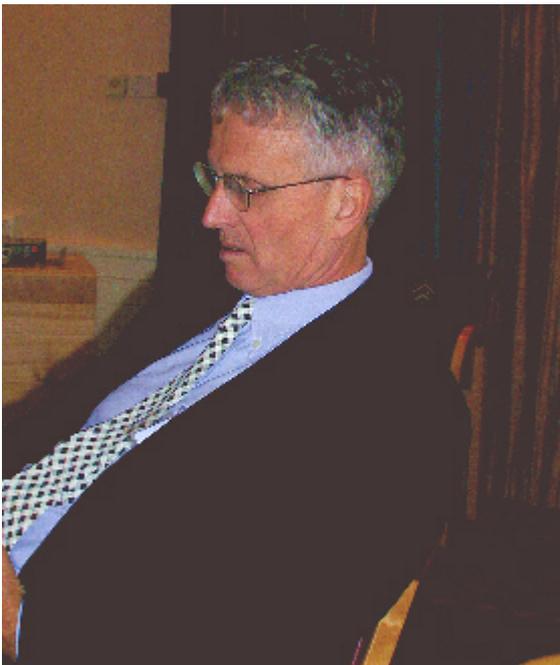
Ron Ley was close to the tragedy of September 11th, and his letter of regret at being unable to attend the conference puts much in perspective. [Go to letter](#)

Courtesy of Bert Anderson we have some pictures of the Oxford conference.

William Gardner



President Bernhard Dahme



Conference Chairman William Gardner



Meeting Room, Worcester College



Dining Room, Oxford