Psychotherapy supervision in Poland and beyond

C. Edward Watkins, Jr.

I applaud Jacek Bomba's fine psychotherapy supervision article [1] (last 2011 issue of Archives) and am honored that he would include my work among his reference list. Drawing on Milne's [2] empirical definition, Bomba correctly identifies the preeminent goals of supervision as being: (1) the development and enhancement of therapeutic competence; and (2) the assuring of safe, effective clinical care [3]. His instructive paper merits attention, because for far too long, psychotherapy supervision has not been given its due in the realization of those training goals and its educational significance and substance have been vastly underappreciated [4]. In my view, psychotherapy supervision has long been the most vital yet most neglected component of psychotherapy training worldwide.

In the last couple of decades, that sad state of affairs thankfully has begun to change, and I see Bomba's contribution as another important link in that chain of change. The crucial nature of psychotherapy supervision for psychotherapy education is now being recognized internationally as never before – with examples of that recognition in evidence from Africa to Australia, Sweden to Slovenia, Norway to Korea, Scotland to Hong Kong, England to the United States, and beyond [5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10]. Supervision now appears well on the way to being universally appreciated as a potentially pivotal component for psychotherapy training. In that respect, Poland is clearly on board as well and a vital part of the growing number of voices that comprise our international supervision chorus [1]. And to Jacek

C. Edward Watkins, Jr.: Department of Psychology, University of North Texas, USA. Correspondence addres: C. Edward Watkins, Jr., Uniwersity of Noth Texas, 1155 Union Circle # 311280, Denton, TX, USA. E-mail: watkinsc@unt.edu

Bomba, who so nicely accentuated the relevance of psychotherapy supervision for Polish psychiatry and psychotherapy practice, I say Bravo!

> Ed Watkins April 7, 2012

REFERENCES

- Bomba J. Psychotherapy supervision as viewed from psychodynamic standpoint. Archives of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy. 2011; 4(4): 45–49.
- Milne DL. An empirical definition of clinical supervision. Brit J Clin Psychol. 2007; 46(4): 437–447.
- Watkins CE Jr, Milne DL, editors. The international handbook of clinical supervision. London: Wiley; in process.
- Watkins CE Jr., editor. Handbook of psychotherapy supervision. New York: Wiley; 1997.
- Bang K, Park J. Korean supervisors' experiences in clinical supervision. The Counseling Psychologist. 2009; 37(8): 1042–1075.
- Gonsalvez C J, Milne DL. Clinical supervisor training in Australia: A review of current problems and possible solutions. Australian Psychologist. 2010; 45(4): 233–242.
- 7. Milne DL. Evidence-based clinical supervision: Principles and practice. Malden, MA: BPS/Blackwell; 2009.
- Sundin EC, Ogren M, Boethius SB. Supervisor trainees' and their supervisors' perceptions of attainment of knowledge and skills: An empirical evaluation of a psychotherapy supervisor training program. Brit J Clin Psychol. 2008; 47(4): 381–396.
- Watkins CE Jr. Psychotherapy supervision since 1909: Some friendly observations about its first century. Journal of Contemporary Psychotherapy. 2011; 41(2): 57–67.
- Zorga S. Stages and contextual approaches to development in professional supervision. Journal of Adult Development. 2003; 10(2): 127–134.