



Janis Abrahms Spring, Ph.D. – Connecticut, USA

[Author and clinical psychologist](#) with 38 years of clinical experience

Faculty member at Ackerman Institute for the Family

State of Connecticut licensed Clinical Psychologist (#613) and a registered **Health Service Provider in Psychology**

Dr. Spring is a **leading expert in couple therapy**, especially in helping couples transcend the trauma of infidelity (including cyberaffairs), and earn forgiveness.

Post-graduate training with Dr. Aaron Beck at the Center for Cognitive Therapy at the University of Pennsylvania

Former clinical supervisor in the Department of Psychology at Yale University

Member of the:

American Psychological Association,
American Family Therapy Academy,
Association for the Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies,
Connecticut Psychological Association

Affiliate member of the **American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy**

Dr. Abrahms Spring is an USA nationally acclaimed expert on issues of trust, intimacy, and forgiveness. Her first book, ***After the Affair: Healing the Pain and Rebuilding Trust When a Partner Has Been Unfaithful***, has sold more than a half million copies and was a Books for a Better Life Award finalist in the categories of Best First Book and Best Relationship Book. ***How Can I Forgive You? The Courage to Forgive, the Freedom Not To***, was a Books for a Better Life Award finalist in the category of Best Psychology Book. ***Life with Pop: Lessons on Caring for an Aging Parent***, a Living Well Award Silver Medallist, captures the extraordinary, ordinary personal challenges and moments of grace that come with caregiving and growing old.

Dr. Abrahms Spring often serves as a guest expert in the national media (*Good Morning America*, *NPR*, *The New York Times*, *Huffington Post*, *Sirius XM Radio*, and others).



Haviva Ayal, Ph.D. – Herzelia, Israel

Head of the program – Marital Counseling at Parents' College, Tel Aviv, Israel

Academic consultant and senior supervisor - Parents' Coaching Program, [Nitzan](#) (Association for Children with Learning Disabilities), Israel

Visiting professor - Family Therapy Postgraduate Program, Tel Aviv University.

Dr. Haviva Ayal is: a psychotherapist working with families, couples and individuals, a consultant and coach for general business and family business top managers.

She has competencies in a number of forms of psychotherapy such as family therapy, hypnosis and hypnotherapy, the Milan approach and Brief Strategic Therapy (MRI approach).

Member of the:

Israeli Psychological Association,
Israeli Association of Marital and Family Therapy,
Israeli Association for Focused Therapy,
European Family Therapy Association (EFTA) and EFTA Training Institutes Chamber (EFTA-TIC),
International Family Therapy Association (IFTA).

Dr. Ayal authored and co-authored several scientific papers on counseling, affective education, family therapy in divorce situations, increasing the therapist self awareness, published in Israeli and international journals and collective volumes. In her recent work, she emphasizes the role of self-awareness and the use of the therapist's self in the therapeutic process and relationship.



Professor Maria Borcsa, Ph.D. – Nordhausen, Germany

Professor of Clinical Psychology

Accredited Psychotherapist

Association for Statutory Health Insurance Physicians reg.#5769457

Family Therapist and Supervisor

Teacher of systemic approaches in various programs of the [University of Applied Sciences, Nordhausen](#), Germany:

Health and Social Services (B.A.)

Social Management (B.A.)

Change Management (M.A.)

Professor Borcsa established **the first Master's degree in "Systemic Counselling"** at a German university in cooperation with one of the earliest German Training Institute - [IF Weinheim](#).

She has been lecturing at European universities in Great Britain, France, Finland, Lithuania, Spain, Netherlands and Romania and has been giving workshops and supervision in Psychotherapy Training Institutes in Germany, Poland, Great Britain, France and Italy.

Professor Borcsa's memberships and positions are:

Board member of European Family Therapy Association (EFTA) since 2007

Institute Associate at TAOS Institute, USA (<http://www.taosinstitute.net/maria-borcsa>) since 2009

Former Chair of the EFTA-Chamber of National Family Therapy Organizations from 2010 to 2013

EFTA president since 2013

Founding member of the European Family Therapy Research Group (EFTRG) since 2013

Founding member and board member of ISRV (Institute of Social Medicine, Rehabilitation Sciences and Health Services Research), Nordhausen

Member of the Systemic Society – German Association for Systemic Research, Therapy, Supervision and Counselling (SG) since 2000

From 2005 to 2011 Professor Borcsa served as a board member of the Systemic Society – German Association for Systemic Research, Therapy, Supervision and Counseling (SG, Systemische Gesellschaft). One of their achievements (together with DGSF, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Systemische Therapie, Beratung und Familientherapie) was the initiation and supervision of a worldwide data collection of quantitative outcome research in Systemic Therapy/ Family Therapy. This resulted in the acknowledgment of ST/FT as an evidence based approach in Germany.

Activities as an Expert

Academic Expert/Evaluator at the Accreditation, Certification and Quality Assurance Institute ACQUIN since 2006

Academic Expert/Evaluator at the German Academic Exchange Service DAAD (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst) since 2008.

Professor Borcsa is co-editor of the Austro-German journal "[Systeme](#)" and "PiD - Psychoanalyse, Systemische Therapie, Verhaltenstherapie, Humanistische Therapien", Stuttgart: [Thieme](#).

She has **authored and co-authored** numerous journal articles and books in the field of systemic therapy research, training, practice.



Professor Catherine Ducommun-Nagy, M.D. – Philadelphia, PA, USA

Clinical Associate Professor
Family Therapy Program, College of Nursing and Health Professions,
[Drexel University](#), Philadelphia, PA, USA

President and sole owner of the Institute for Contextual Growth, Inc., Glenside, PA, USA, founded by Ivan Boszormenyi-Nagy

Professor Ducommun-Nagy has published numerous journal articles on Contextual Therapy and its applications. Her book on family loyalties "Ces Loyautés Qui Nous Libèrent", J.C. Lattès, Paris, 2006, has been translated in several languages.

Specialist FMH (Swiss Medical Association) in psychiatry and psychotherapy of children, adolescents, adults

Teacher of contextual therapy

Doctoral Degree in Medicine (spec. History of Medicine) University of Lausanne, Switzerland

Henri Siegerist Prize (Annual award for young Swiss researchers in the field of history of medicine and sciences) – 1984

Current member of:

American Family Therapy Academy,
European Family Therapy Association,
Swiss Medical Federation,
State of Vaud Medical Society, Switzerland.

Past member of:

American Psychiatry Association
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (Approved supervisor until 2012).

Professor Ducommun-Nagy's current activities include honouring numerous speaking engagements and invitations for lectures and seminars on contextual therapy for various private and academic couple and family therapy training programs. She has been invited in North, Central and South America, many European countries and Algeria.

She has been a key speaker at numerous national and international professional events, including plenary presentations during the 2001 and 2010 conferences of the European Family Therapy Association and presentations at several conferences of the American Family Therapy Academy and of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy.



Professor Diane Gehart, Ph.D. – Northridge, California, USA

Professor of Marriage and Family Therapy
Department of Educational Psychology and Counseling
[California State University](#), Northridge USA

Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist

Licensed Professional Counselor

Approved Supervisor & Clinical Fellow, [American Association for Marriage and](#)

[Family Therapy](#)

Professor Gehart has pursued advanced training in postmodern, emotionally focused therapy, solution-oriented, family systems, narrative, mindfulness, humanistic, cognitive-behavioural, psychodynamic, and trauma-focused therapies.

As part of her rich **academic career**, she is:

a **faculty member** at [Houston Galveston Institute](#) and

an associate at [Taos Institute](#), where she participates in centre trainings and activities which focus on social constructionist theories and practices

a **faculty member** at [Marburger Institutsfür C-Studien](#) in **Germany** where she assists in developing the curriculum and teaches as a visiting scholar for post-graduate students in postmodern and collaborative therapies.

Member in:

the Strategic Planning Task Force and First Readers Group of the *American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy* and in the Educators' Task Force in the California Division of the association.

Professor Gehart has **authored several books**, including:

Mastering Competencies in Family Therapy

Mindfulness and Acceptance in Family Therapy

The Complete Core Competencies Assessment System, and

Co-edited:

Collaborative Therapy: Conversations and Relationships that Make a Difference.

Professor Gehart has written numerous journal articles and is an internationally sought after speaker, having given hundreds of workshops to professionals and general audiences. She is on the editorial review boards for several academic journals as well as community service boards related to child sexual abuse. She is also a textbook reviewer for Brooks-Cole Publishers.



Damian McCann – London, United Kingdom

Clinical Lecturer

Individual and Couple Psychoanalytic Psychotherapist, Supervisor
Systemic Couple Psychotherapist (Association of Family & Systemic Therapy)

Accreditation: UKCP (The United Kingdom Council for Psychotherapy)
Advanced Award in Supervision from the Institute of Family Therapy, London

Head of Clinical Services

[Tavistock Centre for Couple Relationships](#), London, UK

Accredited Advanced Sexual Minority Therapist

Advanced Clinical Associate with [Pink Therapy](#)

Consultant in Family and Systemic Psychotherapy at the NHS Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service, Edgware Community Hospital working with children, adolescent and families

Member of the:

British Psychoanalytic Council

British Society for Couple Psychotherapists and Counsellors

Co-author of several books on counselling in primary care and supervision in family therapy, Damian McCann is one of the leading experts in the field of same-sex parenting, family therapy of same-sex clients and same-sex couple therapy. He is also an assessor and book reviewer in the **Journal of Family Therapy** editorial board.



Professor Wendel Alfred Ray, Ph.D. – Palo Alto, CA, USA

Senior Research Fellow,
[The Mental Research Institute \(MRI\), Palo Alto, CA](#)

Spyker Endowed Chair of Marriage & Family Therapy, Tenured Full Professor
[College of Health & Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Louisiana-Monroe \(ULM\)](#)

Psychotherapist (private practice), supervisor - Individual, couple, and family therapy

Senior Archivist, Founder and first Director of the Don D. Jackson Archive

Post Graduate Trainings in:

MRI Brief Therapy (1987-2004), Mental Research Institute, Palo Alto, CA, under supervision of Richard Fisch, MD, Paul Watzlawick PhD, & John Weakland, MFCC

Ericksonian Hypnosis & Therapy (1999), Erickson Foundation, Phoenix, AZ, Introductory, Intermediate & Advanced Training

Milan Systemic Family Therapy (1983-2003), under supervision of Gianfranco Cecchin, MD

Bowen Family System Therapy (1988-89), with Murray Bowen, MD, and Michael Kerr, MD

Rational Emotive & Cognitive Behavior Therapy, with Albert Ellis, Advanced Training (1983-1985)

Brief Individual, Marital, Family & Group Therapy (1981-present).

Member of:

American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy, Member #8908, Approved Supervisor;

American Brief, Strategic & Systemic Therapy Association (ABSSTA), Emeritus member;

European Brief, Strategic & Systemic Therapy Association (EBSSTA);

Solution Focused Brief Therapy Association (SFBTA).

Member in the Professional Journal Editorial Boards of several internationally edited journals: *Human Systems*; *Journal of Systemic Therapies* (Emeritus); *Journal of Brief Therapy*; *Brief Therapy Newsletter*; *European Journal of Strategic Therapy*

As a **family therapy trainer**, Professor Ray often conducts national and international trainings on various topics, including Interaction Focused Theory and Therapy. He lectures worldwide on Gregory Bateson's research team, Don Jackson's contributions to Interactional Theory, and Paul Watzlawick's contributions to Interactional Theory, constructivism, and Brief Therapy.

Professor Ray has **authored and co-authored** several journal articles and books on interactional theory in the practice of psychotherapy, resource-focused therapy, brief therapies, strategic couple and family therapy, the evolution of family systems therapy. He also published research on the work of notorious authors with high contribution to family systems therapy: Paul Watzlawick, Don D. Jackson, John Weakland, Richard Fisch, Gregory Bateson. Some of his books were translated in French, Italian, Spanish, Japanese, Greek, German, Danish.



Professor Emeritus Peter Stratton, Ph.D. – Leeds, United Kingdom

Emeritus Professor of Family Therapy,
[Leeds Family Therapy and Research Centre](#)
Institute of Health Sciences
[University of Leeds](#), UK

UKCP (The United Kingdom Council for Psychotherapy) **accredited systemic family therapist and developmental psychologist**

AFT (Association for Family Therapy and Systemic Practice, UK) **accredited family therapy supervisor**

Chair of [European Family Therapy Association](#) (EFTA) Research Committee

Recent Chair of the **UKCP** ([UK Council for Psychotherapy](#)) Research Faculty

Academic and Research Development Officer for the [Association for Family Therapy](#), UK

Founding Director of [Leeds Family Therapy and Research Centre](#) (LFTRC)

Managing Director of the Psychology Business Ltd., UK

Fellow of the British Psychological Society.

Member in:

CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, UK) – Outcomes and Evaluations

the “Critical Friends” group of the CYP-IAPT (Children and Young People’s Improving Access to Psychological Therapies) program and the Related Research Advisory Groups.

Editor of the internationally edited journal [Human Systems](#)

Professor Stratton has **authored and co-authored** numerous journal articles and books on building on and using research in training and practice, assessment instruments in systemic therapy, psychotherapy relationship and enhancing family therapy’s relationships with research, dialogical construction of the selves of trainees, competencies and occupational standards for systemic couple and family therapy, evidence based systemic therapies.



Ildikó Mária Antal – Miercurea-Ciuc, Romania

Psychotherapist, trainer and supervisor in systemic couple and family therapy

Program Coordinator for Miercurea-Ciuc

Member of the Professional Committee

[“Pro-Familia” Family Therapy Association](#) (ATF-PF), Miercurea-Ciuc

Founding member of “Pro-Familia” Family Therapy Association (ATF-PF)

Accredited psychotherapist, trainer and supervisor in systemic couple and family therapy, member of the Romanian Federation for Psychotherapy (RFP) and of the Romanian College of Psychologists (RCP).

She also has competencies in group analysis.



Carmen Costea-Bărluțiu, Ph.D. – Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Lecturer

Department of Special Education

[„Babeș-Bolyai” University](#), Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Systemic couple and family therapist – private practice

Voluntary researcher in the field of systemic therapy and family dynamics at [„Ψ-Quest” Association](#), Cluj-Napoca

President of the Ethical Committee of „Pro-Familia” Family Therapy Association

Systemic couple and family therapist accredited by “Pro-Familia” Family Therapy Association. She also has competences in child centred focusing psychotherapy, clinical hypnosis and Ericksonian psychotherapy

Member of the:

Romanian College of Psychologists;

Romanian Psychotherapy Federation;

“Pro-Familia” Family Therapy Association;

European Association of Developmental Psychology.

Dr. Costea-Bărluțiu’s research interests range from attachment theory, systems theory, existentialism and their application in psychotherapy. Her clinical experience in individual, couple and family therapy includes working with personality disorders, trauma and traumatic grief, various clinical disorders (anxiety, eating disorders, depression, substance abuse), as well as normative crises.



Mihaela Fadgyas-Stănculete, M.D., Ph.D. – Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Senior Psychiatrist

Department of Psychiatry, [Cluj Emergency County Hospital](#)

Assistant Lecturer

Department of Neurosciences, [„Iuliu Hatieganu” University of Medicine and Pharmacy](#), Cluj-Napoca

Member of the:

Romanian Medical College

Dr. Fadgyas-Stănculete's **domain of expertise is represented by adult and old age psychiatric disorders** such as: psychotic, mood, anxiety, eating disorders, substance abuse, personality disorders, dementias and mental disorders of an organic nature. She published several journal articles on clinical aspects of irritable bowel syndrome, anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia and has an extensive practical experience in the emergency psychiatric unit.



Ágnes Kónya, M.D. – Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Psychotherapist

Trainer and supervisor in systemic family therapy
[AGAPE Life care Foundation](#), Cluj-Napoca

Trainer and supervisor
Cluj Systemic Family Therapy Association

RCP (Romanian College of Psychologists) accredited systemic and family therapist, trainer and supervisor
European Psychotherapy Certification, European Psychotherapy Association, Vienna (Austria)
Specialist family doctor

Founding member of the Romanian Systemic Family Therapy Association

Member in the Chamber of Individual Members of the European Family Therapy Association (EFTA-CIM)
Chair of a training institute, member in the Training Institutes Chamber of the European Family Therapy Association (EFTA-TIC).

As an author and researcher in family therapy, Dr. Agnes Konya published several journal articles, co-authored two books in Romanian language on family systems therapy and conducted several European projects on abuse, family violence, family therapy as support for the family doctors.



Zoltán Kónya, M.D. – Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Psychotherapist

Trainer and supervisor in systemic family therapy

[AGAPE Life care Foundation](#), Cluj-Napoca

Trainer and supervisor
Cluj Systemic Family Therapy Association

RCP (Romanian College of Psychologists) accredited systemic and family therapist, trainer and supervisor
European Psychotherapy Certification, European Psychotherapy Association, Vienna (Austria)
Specialist paediatrician

Founding member of the Romanian Systemic Family Therapy Association

Member in the Chamber of Individual Members of the European Family Therapy Association (EFTA-CIM)
Chair of a training institute, member in the Training Institutes Chamber of the European Family Therapy Association (EFTA-TIC).

As an author and researcher in family therapy, Dr. Agnes Konya published several journal articles, co-authored a book in Romanian language on family systems therapy and conducted several European projects on hope and healing post-abuse, family violence, family therapy as support for the family doctors and the fostering of children's health.



Enikő Školka, Ph.D. – Cluj-Napoca, Romania

(Chair of the conference)

Chair of the Professional Committee

[“Pro-Familia” Family Therapy Association](#) (ATF-PF), Miercurea-Ciuc

Founding member and vice president,

Scientific coordinator of the research working groups

[„Ψ-Quest” Association](#), Cluj-Napoca

Systemic couple and family therapy psychotherapist, trainer and supervisor (ATF-PF, Miercurea-Ciuc), Ericksonian hypno-psychotherapist (ARHTRE, Iași) – accredited by the Romanian College of Psychologists and the Romanian Federation of Psychotherapy

Focusing oriented, client centred psychotherapist for children, adolescents and adults (accredited in Switzerland – SGGT).

Former (tenured) university lecturer (resigned) - Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

Author of the following books:

Explanatory Theories, Models and Intervention Techniques in Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy (Romanian)

Aspects of Assistance for the Terminally Ill. Possibilities, Limits and Fundamental Dilemmas (Romanian)

Book chapters in collective volumes:

Quality of Death in the Terminal State. Dying with Dignity (Romanian)

Some Aspects of Family Therapy Theories and Techniques for Increasing the Efficiency of Therapeutic Interventions (Romanian)

Author of journal articles concerning systemic therapy, the adult and child images about and attitudes towards death, terror management and self determination theory about self defence mechanism against anxiety of death, a dignity centred multidimensional and dynamic model of quality of death within terminal state, coping with Sclerosis Multiplex and paraplegias of posttraumatic nature.

Member in:

Romanian Federation of Psychotherapists, București – since 2006

Romanian College of Psychologist, București – since 2007

Romanian Association of Clinical Hypnosis, Relaxation and Ericksonian Therapy, Iași, Romania - since 2005

“Pro-Familia” Family Therapy Association, Miercure-Ciuc, Romania - since 2007

Focusing Institute, New York, USA – since 2005

“Ψ-Quest” Association, Cluj-Napoca, Romania (founding member, vice president) – since 2010.