

SPRING 2010 - ISSUE 24

## From the President's Desk

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Dear MATI Members,

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I hope you are all enjoying the spring weather in the Midwest. Here at MATI, we are in the process of transitioning to a new board, which was installed this past Saturday. Please stay tuned for announcements the educational event in Chicago on 7/17 and the MATI annual conference in Milwaukee on 9/11.

It is hard to believe that my 2 year term as the president has come to an end. I really enjoyed working for MATI and having the chance to meet many of you in the past two years. I feel like I have grown both professionally and personally through the MATI experience. I will always remember the good times we have had together at educational events, conferences, and social gatherings. I will most likely relocate within this year. I look forward to keep in touch and catch up with you when we meet again in the future.

Warm Regards,

Di Wu

2008 - 2010 President - MATI

(Midwest Association of Translators & Interpreters)

[www.matiata.org](http://www.matiata.org)

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# Overlapping Terminology- Working

## in Two Fields

Reported by Enrica J. Ardemagni, Ph.D.

The Midwest Association of Translators and Interpreters sponsored an afternoon educational event on March 26, 2010 on the Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis campus. The keynote speaker was George Parker, M.D., who presented on the topic, *"Court-Ordered Psychiatric Evaluations: Terminology and Protocol for Medical and Legal Interpreters."*

Dr. Parker holds an undergraduate degree from Harvard College and his medical degree from the University of Massachusetts Medical School. He is board-certified in general and forensic psychiatry and is a Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association. Currently he is an Associate Professor of Clinical Psychiatry in the Indiana University School of Medicine Department of Psychiatry. He specializes in criminal evaluations and has served as the Medical Director of the Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addictions since 2003.

Many times judges are faced with the challenge of deciding if an individual is competent to understand court

proceedings. Dr. Parker gave an informative summary of the Indiana Codes that form the decision for a court-ordered psychiatric evaluation if there are reasonable grounds for believing that an individual lacks the ability to understand any proceedings and especially to stand trial. In his presentation, Dr. Parker indicated that the court appoints a minimum of two and sometimes three competent, disinterested individuals to carry out such an evaluation. At least one of the evaluators must be a psychiatrist, and the other(s) may be a psychologist endorsed by the Indiana state board of examiners in psychology.

After specific details of the why and who, Dr. Parker covered the format for a sample court-ordered evaluation. This evaluation is heavily detailed on a medical history of the individual and his/her family to ascertain if there is any history of mental illness or accidents that could impair one's ability to understand court proceedings. A second component of the evaluation revolves around a series of questions that focus on the knowledge of court and what happens in the courtroom. Typical questions are:



DR. PARKER

*Who are the people in a courtroom? Who is the judge, a prosecutor, defense attorney? What is a jury? What is the job of the judge, prosecutor, defense attorney, and members of the jury?*

Dr. Parker indicated that the goal of the evaluation is not simply a question format to find out historical or educational level of an individual, but it also includes a testing for memory and cognitive ability. To show how Dr. Parker evaluates this, a short vignette of an interpreted evaluation was done where Dr. Parker asked some core questions, but then tested the person being evaluated with regard to memory and cognitive ability. During this vignette, Professor Enrica Ardemagni, who has served as an interpreter for several court-ordered psychiatric evaluations, played the role of an individual undergoing evaluation. Lourdes Daily-Pendón, Interpreter Manager for Marion Superior Courts, served as the interpreter. To show the challenges an interpreter faces when called upon to know both medical and legal terminology, the vignette was not shared with the interpreter in advance. Through this format, participants in this workshop could see what skills are needed and what surprises may come

up in an interpreted encounter. Dr. Parker also explained the significance of how an interpreter may be required to step out of his/her comfort zone, since the locale for evaluations may take place in his office, in a clinical setting, or in a detention or jail setting. Since there are strict requisites about security, interpreters need to ask before the evaluation what items are and are not allowed in the locale.

Dr. Parker's presentation was extremely informative and educational and interest in the topic could be seen by the overwhelming number of questions from the audience for a presentation that went past its scheduled time. Dr. Parker's expertise helped many to understand that the importance of knowledge in medical, legal and the use of idiomatic expressions is particularly important in court-ordered psychiatric evaluations for limited English proficient individuals, and that accuracy in interpreting is a cornerstone of assuring a thorough evaluation. Participants in the educational event also received a handout of the most common medical and legal terminology used in court-ordered evaluations and a list of resources for interpreting in mental health prepared by Professor Ardemagni.



ENRICA ARDEMAGNI AND LOURDES DAILY-PENDÓN

Welcome new

## MATI members:

Child & Family Partners, Inc.

Ramsey Bacerott

Saehee Chang

Brad Gunter

Kathryn Herrick

Nelly Martinez

Meghan McCallum

Betsy Mejia

Jacqueline Meredith

Art Peek

Sarah Puchner

Gloria Quintana

Laura Ritchie

Raul Romo

Blanca Salas

## SAVE THE DATE!

### **MATI Educational Event: Managing Client Needs & Expectations**

Saturday, July 17, 2010

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Garfield Conservatory

Chicago, IL

### **ATA Certification Exam Sitting:**

Saturday, July 17, 2010

1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Chicago, IL

## Submission guidelines

We encourage our members to actively contribute to *inforMATION*. We ask that you submit items of interest in the fields of translation, interpretation, and languages. Below is a list of submission types we accept:

- comments on issues within the profession
- letters to the editor
- biographies
- book reviews
- Q&A
- summaries of monthly meetings
- announcements such as awards, job opportunities, weddings
- announcements of events relating to the profession

Maximum length for features is 2500 words. Photographs and graphics in the form of .gif or .jpeg are also accepted.

### Submission deadlines:

- February 1 for the Winter issue
- May 1 for the Spring issue
- August 1 for the Summer issue
- November 1 for the Fall issue

Microsoft Word files may be sent as e-mail attachments, with clearly labeled e-mail subjects. File extensions (\*.rtf or \*.doc) should be added to short file names. Do not send files with \*.exe extensions. Please add a title and author's name inside the word file—please do not put it only in the e-mail. Add 3-4 lines of biographical information at the end of the article.

Submit articles to the Editor, Alexis Pollitz, at [apollitz@gmail.com](mailto:apollitz@gmail.com). The editor reserves the right to edit each article.

## 2010 Officers and Board of Directors

### President:

Enrica Ardemagni (2010-2012)

### Vice President:

Lilian Jiménez-Ramsey (2009-2011)

### Secretary:

Montserrat Zuckerman (2010-2011)

### Treasurer:

Krasimira Kalcheva (2010-2012)

### Directors:

- Elizabeth Colón (2009-2011)
- Massimo Galdo (2010-2012)
- Christina Green (2009-2011)
- Lourdes Lonergan (2010-2012)
- Gloria Quintana (2010-2012)

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### EDITOR

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### DESIGN AND LAYOUT

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