

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

My name is Xiaofeng Wang, LCSW, and I am a psychoanalytic candidate at the American Institute for Psychoanalysis in New York. Many candidates from IPSO North America Region may know me as the Treasurer of the APsA Candidates Council. I was recently honored to be nominated for the position of President-Elect of the APsA Candidates Council. As my beloved supervisor once observed, I continue my journey to find ways to contribute my expertise within organizations, as working effectively in these settings is a significant part of my identity. It is indeed a great honor to be nominated for the position of Vice-President Elect for North America of the International Psychoanalytic Study Organization (IPSO).

My mission will be to continue to promote psychoanalysis to make it more accessible to individuals who may be interested. I will direct resources toward this goal and work to eliminate the obstacles that prevent people from pursuing psychoanalytic treatment and careers. I want to support projects focused on diversity and inclusion and create more opportunities for candidates to participate in IPA Congress. I will work to build a strong governance structure that effectively serves our members, connecting us with essential resources and supporting our needs. I will work with current IPSO leadership, reviewing and evaluating our current procedures, building upon them for improvement. I believe that effective communication and understanding are crucial. Thus, I will improve our current communication channels, promote transparency, and create opportunities for engagement. I aim to listen to our candidates' needs and struggles to establish programs that help them overcome these barriers to secure a rich training journey and support their graduation. I will collaborate with local and international organizations and institutes to develop policies that benefit our candidates, ensuring they receive quality training.

In the wake of the drastic changes following the pandemic, we are witnessing increasing political conflicts between countries, along with wars that impact our daily lives. There is also a growing polarization of political views among families and organizations impacting our candidates. Based on my personal experiences, I believe that psychoanalysis offers a form of human understanding that can aid in conflict resolution and promote peace. I hope to leverage my expertise to foster discussions and understanding among colleagues and groups with differing opinions. Distance training, IPA voting to change APsA's Regional Association status are all extremely sensitive topics that often spark heated discussions within the organization. I will promote discussion to listen to those who have different views and opinions. My goal is to

contribute constructive ideas to policies that are sensitive to the complexities of psychoanalysis and psychoanalytic training, impacting many people both locally and globally.

Emigrating to the United States to become a psychoanalyst has enhanced my understanding of both Asian and American cultures with heightened sensitivity. My previous career as a Sales & Marketing Manager provided me with valuable skills in organization, planning, team building, and executive functions. Working with therapy patients has transformed my worldview by helping me understand their feelings, which has deeply enriched my life. My experience at inpatient psychiatric unit at Bellevue Hospital Center (New York City) increased my understanding of difficult emotions and actions, including violence, pain, fear, anger, aggression, and helplessness in various forms. All of this will be helpful for me to be an effective leader as IPSO Vice-President Elect for North America.

Many in our field have noted that it is challenging to find leaders at the international, national, and institutional levels. As per IPA website, North America region has about 49 institutes, many of which have no representative as of yet. Our candidate engagement for voting turnout in the 2021 IPSO ExCom election was about 20.5%. Considering our candidates will graduate in a few years, will add another layer of challenge for recruiting chairperson, committee members and representatives. My goal is to develop a sustainable system that ensures continuity within our organization. Financial resources have been another challenge, as many candidates struggle to pay dues, and our organization faces difficulties in raising dues. My experience as APsA Candidates Council Treasurer and my background in the business sector will support me in addressing these challenges by working effectively across different departments and committees to better utilize available resources. This experience will be invaluable as Vice-President Elect for North America in working closely with APsA candidates Council in providing service to our candidates.

As always, I wish to pursue these ambitious goals with those who share the same passion for psychoanalysis by encouraging more of our colleagues to vote, run for office, serve as chairpersons, and become committee members and institute representatives.

In closing, I extend my regards to you and welcome your questions, comments, thoughts, ideas and suggestions.

Warmly,

Xiaofeng Wang, LCSW