



CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT

Prof. Dr. Miranda Olf, PhD

Title and Organizational Affiliation: Department of Psychiatry, Academic Medical Center, University of Amsterdam, and Arq Psychotrauma Expert Group, The Netherlands

Education and Employment: I have been trained as a clinical psychologist as well as a neuropsychologist, graduated cum laude, and received my PhD in 1991 at the University of Utrecht, The Netherlands. Since then I have been employed in research and/or partly clinical positions in the pharmaceutical industry, University of Groningen, and Netherlands National Institute for Mental Health and Addiction. During the last 11 years, I have been working in the Academic Medical Center in Amsterdam, leading the Center for Psychological Trauma within the department of psychiatry. Since 2011 I have been a professor and partly employed by Arq Psychotrauma Expert Group, which supports and binds together organizations that specialize in psychological trauma. In Norway, I have a visiting professorship. I am past president of the *European Society for Traumatic Stress Studies (ESTSS)* and the editor-in-chief of the *European Journal of Psychotraumatology*. My clinical training and research spans a broad range of approaches and topics within the traumatic stress field.

I am trained in CBT, hypnotherapy, Brief Eclectic Psychotherapy for PTSD and EMDR. My research has ranged from early interventions, psychotherapy and treatment trials to neuroimaging and neuroendocrine studies of PTSD. I have done the coordination of large EU funded projects (e.g. on post disaster psychosocial care in Europe, TENTS); ongoing are trials on the effects of social support and oxytocin in different samples. This breadth of expertise and experience makes me well-qualified to represent and advocate for the diverse perspectives among the ISTSS membership. My current research focuses on 'bonding after trauma,' and I think bonding is what we need to further increase ISTSS's membership and with that its international power (see Olf, 2012 & 2013, EJPT for more details).

Qualifications: My international leadership experience makes me uniquely positioned to lead ISTSS. I have been a member of ISTSS since 1991, and a board member since 2012 (and ex-officio board member earlier). I was selected by the current president, Dr. Karestan Koenen, to serve as her Vice President, an experience that has enabled me to learn about all aspects of the Society. As Vice President, I am responsible for all issues that have to do with 'global' collaborations and relationships. For example, I am leading the Global Collaboration on Child Abuse and Neglect. In this project, ISTSS and representatives from all affiliates throughout the world work together on one topic. I am also leading, along with Jonathan Bisson, the Global Meetings Committee. For the first time in its history, ISTSS is organizing multiple meetings per year throughout the globe. We have planned meetings in Bologna, Oslo, Nairobi and Ottawa. The goal of these meetings is to partner with local communities in addressing traumatic stress as a public health issue. In addition to these more recent roles, I have served on the International Structures and Affiliations Committee, on the Nominations Committee, and on the Global Initiative project team. I served on the editorial board for the *Journal of Traumatic Stress* and participated as a program deputy and reviewer for several annual meetings. I have presented at ISTSS meetings regularly.

I have also led other traumatic stress societies. I am a founding member of *Dutch Traumatic Stress Society*. I was the president of the *European Society for Traumatic Stress Studies* from 2009-2011 having been on the ESTSS Board since 2005. I have been project leader/PI of a number of national and international collaborations including large EU funded projects. And as the editor-in-chief of the *European Journal of Psychotraumatology*, I am constantly interacting with members of the field of traumatic stress globally.

Candidacy statement: As President of ISTSS, I would like to see ISTSS become even more attractive for current members as well as the society to join for anyone interested in traumatic stress. On a personal note, I have gained a lot from being an ISTSS member and would like many more people to get these same experiences. I believe that my experience and skills within ISTSS and ESTSS can now be of use to the ISTSS in helping the society to expand its membership and improve its service to traumatic stress professionals and traumatized persons throughout the world. I would aim to increase access to the very strong current *annual ISTSS meetings*, as it is still THE place to meet your colleagues in the field. At the same time, I believe we can reach out to many more clinicians and researchers throughout the world.

I have four specific strategies to accomplish this goal. First, we should continue our work to increase meetings outside the region to reach people in underserved areas of the world as part of mission of the *Global Meetings Committee*. Second, we should further increase the bonds with other existing regional (like ESTSS) or local societies as well as reach out to those not yet having strong *national or regional societies*. We should especially help to start up local traumatic stress societies in areas where there is still very little organized, like in Asia or Africa. Third, we need to create more opportunities for *new/young ISTSS members* -- who are often very creative thinkers -- in helping shape ISTSS and for them to stay with ISTSS as their professional home. Finally, I would further like to encourage many other *exciting developments* within ISTSS like the online training programs and distance education, reaching out to professionals treating PTSD and complex PTSD (see guidelines on the website), increasing attention on the public health impact, having a state-of-the-art website and the many assessment and treatment materials available for members on the website.

Although is not very Dutch to say so, I believe I now have the necessary experience, personality and skills to be an effective ISTSS president, and I do hope that if elected I will get a chance to show this. I especially welcome the opportunity to further serve an organization that has contributed so much to my professional development and relationships.