Psychotherapy supervision in Poland and beyond

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

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REFERENCES