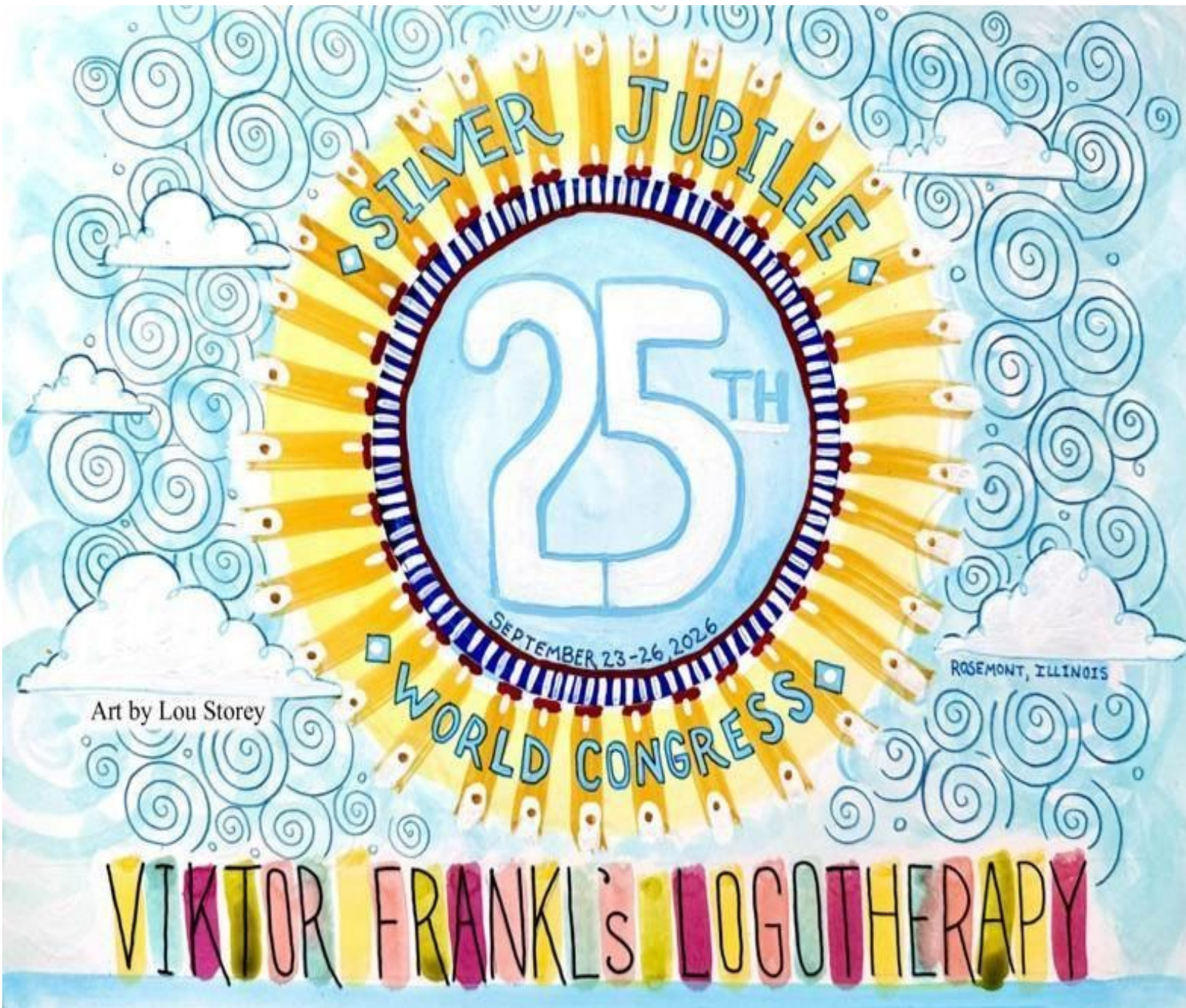




***25th Anniversary Viktor Frankl Institute of Logotherapy
World Congress***

September 23-26, 2026

Staybridge Suites Rosemont, Chicago / Chicagoland

In-Person & Virtual

Official Program

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Welcome to the Congress

On behalf of the Congress Planning Committee, welcome to The Viktor Frankl Institute of Logotherapy's Silver Jubilee World Congress on Viktor Frankl's Logotherapy. As we gather in the footsteps of our 24 previous World Congresses, we are reminded that we are an international family with a mission to explore, deepen, and share Viktor Frankl's enduring vision of meaning, purpose as spiritual beings on a human journey. The theme of this World Congress is "Hope: Finding purpose and meaning in a chaotic world."

This year marks a milestone in more than name: the 25th World Congress is our first fully hybrid Congress, offering complete access to every keynote, plenary, and presentation both in-person in Rosemont, Illinois and live online, wherever in the world you may be. Sessions are recorded and made available for later viewing, so no attendee, in-person or virtual, needs to choose between two presentations happening at once, or miss a moment of the Congress.

We are honored to welcome colleagues from many countries both in person and virtually. Each person is a testament to the truly global reach of Viktor Frankl's Logotherapy. Viktor Frankl's message of hope reminds us that there is meaning to be discovered in every moment even in the face of chaotic times and unavoidable suffering. We asked for presentations that focused on hope both in times of trouble, uncertainty, and what Frankl called unavoidable "acts of fate." Every speaker you will hear at this Jubilee Congress answered our call. Their presentations are testaments to Frankl's message of hope and meaningful moments regardless of the vicissitudes of life. It is so important to remember Viktor Frankl unequivocally stated that "Life has meaning to the last breath."

A highlight of this Silver Jubilee will be our Congress Celebration Banquet on Friday evening, where we are privileged to welcome Viktor Frankl's grandchildren as our Featured Guests of Honor: Katja Ratheiser Frankl, joining us in-person, and Alex Vesely Frankl, joining us virtually. Together they carry forward the living legacy of their grandfather and offer Congress attendees a rare, personal connection to the Frankl family. Katja will share about the new Viktor Frankl Museum in Vienna located in the apartment where her grandparents lived and worked. Alex will share photos and memories of Elly Frankl receiving an honorary doctorate from North Park University in Chicago.

Throughout the Congress you will find a full schedule of keynote addresses, plenary presentations, and breakout sessions spanning clinical practice, philosophy, education, healthcare and wellbeing, coaching and consulting, business, faith, and beyond — along with our Saturday Diplomat Colloquium celebrating the next generation of Logotherapists.

The Viktor Frankl Institute of Logotherapy Board of Directors and all our members welcome you to our 25th Silver Jubilee World Congress, whether you are joining us in the halls of the Staybridge Suites Rosemont, Illinois or from a screen on the other side of the world. We are an international Logotherapy family and are honored and glad you are all here to join in our celebration of hope.

With gratitude and anticipation,

The 25th Silver Jubilee World Congress Planning Committee,

Jared Bishop
Sonya Heckler Cheyne
Doreen Francis

Raphael Kleinmann
Nancy Liscano
Ann-Marie Neale

Memduh Özmert
David Sarshalom
Bryanna Tartt

Schedule of Events & Presentations

Pre-Congress | Monday-Wednesday, September 21-23, 2026

Time	Session / Presentation	Presenter(s)	Location / Format
Foundations of Logotherapy Course (all times Central)			
9:00 AM–5:00 PM (Mon–Tue) 9:00 AM–12:00 PM (Wed)	Foundations of Logotherapy	Memduh Özmert, VFIL Faculty Andreas Schreiber, VFIL Faculty	<i>Location TBD</i>

Courses must meet minimum enrollment.

All times listed in Central Time (CT). Every session is available in-person and virtually and is livestreamed and recorded for later viewing, so attendees never have to choose between two presentations happening at once.

Day One | Wednesday, September 23, 2026

Time	Session / Presentation	Presenter(s)	Location / Format
12:30–1:00 PM	Registration		Terminal 1–3 · In-Person
1:00–1:30 PM	Opening General Session	Dan Hostetler	Hybrid
1:30–2:20 PM	Featured Keynote 1: Meaning Beyond the Self: Frankl's Hope for a Fragmented Age	Cynthia Wimberly	Hybrid
2:20–2:45 PM	Break		
Breakout Presentation Sessions — Block 1 (In-Person, Terminal 1–3 & Control Tower)			
2:45–3:35 PM	Before Meaning Is Named: An Embodied Expansion of Logotherapy Through the Neuroception of Safety and Humaning the Human Experience	Tawanna Marie Woolfolk	Terminal 1
2:45–3:35 PM	Four Steps to a Meaningful Self	Andreas Schreiber	Terminal 2
2:45–3:35 PM	Embracing Hope: How Trauma, Grief, and Loss Become Guideposts Toward Finding Meaning and Purpose	Geraldine Kerr	Terminal 3
2:45–3:35 PM	Meaning, Mind, and Medicine: Psychedelic-Assisted Psychotherapy Through a Logotherapeutic Lens	Daniel Franz	Control Tower
Virtual Presentation Sessions — Block 1			
2:45–3:35 PM	MeaningPlay: A Logotherapeutic Play Therapy for Hope and Healing	Kurtis Pugh	Virtual
2:45–3:35 PM	Promoting Hope Through Meaning: A Hybrid Logotherapy-Based Intervention for Depression in University Students	Fares Barakat	Virtual
2:45–3:35 PM	Tragic Optimism as a Meaning Builder	A.G. Gideon Millul	Virtual
2:45–3:35 PM	Logotherapy and Holistic Approach in Pain Management and Rehabilitation	Toni Merhi	Virtual
3:35–4:00 PM	Break		
Breakout Presentation Sessions — Block 2 (In-Person)			
4:00–4:50 PM	Meaning in Practice: Counselors' Lived Experiences Integrating Spirituality and Religion in Clinical Work	Lorraine Dinkel Jessica Gonzalez	Terminal 1
4:00–4:50 PM	Pain and Purpose: A Meaning-Centered Approach to Chronic Pain	Jared Bishop	Terminal 2
4:00–4:50 PM	Hope Without Guarantees: A Logotherapeutic Perspective in Times of War and Collective Uncertainty	Anna Mirrenwald	Terminal 3
Virtual Presentation Sessions — Block 2			

Time	Session / Presentation	Presenter(s)	Location / Format
4:00–4:50 PM	Changing Recovery With Logotherapy: Using the Logobridge for Conceptualizing and Treating Complex Trauma 	Richard Close	<i>Virtual</i>
4:00–4:50 PM	Hope Without Illusion: A Shared Horizon of Meaning in War-Affected and Fragmented Communities 	Dmytro Sukhachov	<i>Virtual</i>
4:00–4:50 PM	Wishful Thinking: Valuing the Daimonic Function of Socratic Dialogue 	Hamad Mohamed Al-Rayes	<i>Virtual</i>
4:00–4:50 PM	Centripetal Leisure: Expanding Logotherapy Through Yoga, Ayurveda, and Embodied Practice 	Margarita Grueskin	<i>Virtual</i>
4:50–5:30 PM	Break		
5:30–7:00 PM	Hotel Social Hour (free appetizers & drinks for Staybridge guests)		
7:00–9:00 PM	Welcome Reception (non-alcoholic drinks & cash bar)		<i>In-Person</i>



Clinical



Philosophy

Education
ApplicationsHealthcare &
Wellbeing

Coaching/Consulting



Business



Faith/Religion



Other

Day Two | Thursday, September 24, 2026

Time	Session / Presentation	Presenter(s)	Location / Format
6:30–9:30 AM	Complimentary Hotel Breakfast		
9:30–10:00 AM	Registration		<i>Terminal 1–3 · In-Person</i>
10:00–10:30 AM	Opening General Session	Dan Hostetler	<i>Terminal 1–3 · Hybrid</i>
10:30–11:20 AM	Featured Keynote 2: Managing Grief: A Logotherapeutic Perspective	Jay Levinson	<i>Terminal 1–3 · Hybrid</i>
11:20–11:45 PM	Break		
11:45–12:45 PM	Areas of Interest Lunch Discussion Groups		
	Clinical		<i>Terminal 1 · Hybrid</i>
	Faith, Religion, and Logo-Philosophy		<i>Terminal 2 · Hybrid</i>
	Business		<i>Terminal 3 · Hybrid</i>
	Education		<i>Control Tower · Hybrid</i>
12:45–1:10 PM	Break		
Breakout Presentation Sessions — Block 1 (In-Person)			
1:10–2:00 PM	Experiencing Tragic Optimism through Nominal Socratic Dialogue: A Coaching Approach to Unconditional Hope 	Memduh Özmert	<i>Terminal 1</i>
1:10–2:00 PM	The Drop Zone as Existential Crucible: Logotherapy, the Will to Meaning, and the Human Search for Hope 	Sonya Heckler Cheyne Sherwood Harrison	<i>Terminal 2</i>
1:10–2:00 PM	Value Self-Regulation as a Protective Factor in Anxiety: Integrating Social Cognitive Theory and Logotherapy 	Michele Silveira Santos	<i>Terminal 3</i>
1:10–2:00 PM	Ancient Self-Knowledge and Human Freedom in the Age of the Algorithm 	Cristina Cox	<i>Control Tower</i>
Virtual Presentation Sessions — Block 1			
1:10–2:00 PM	Meaning Beyond Victory: Elite Sport and the Search for Meaning 	Klemen Kobal Vedrana Nucak	<i>Virtual</i>
1:10–2:00 PM	From Trauma to Purpose: Advancing Integrative Logotherapy-CBT for Adolescent Survivors of Sexual Violence in Java, Indonesia 	Juster Donal Sinaga	<i>Virtual</i>
1:10–2:00 PM	The Loss of Meaning in Oncology: Hope as the Last Standing Lighthouse 	Adrian Pogacian	<i>Virtual</i>
1:10–2:00 PM	SILEE: Embracing Hope Through Shared Reading and Logotherapy in Mexican Public Schools 	Rosa Adelaida Del Valle Puente (Spanish)	<i>Virtual</i>
2:00–2:25 PM	Break		

Time	Session / Presentation	Presenter(s)	Location / Format
Breakout Presentation Sessions — Block 2 (In-Person)			
2:25–3:15 PM	A Light in the Dark: Cultivating Connection to Meaning through Imagination 	Elizabeth McAdam	<i>Terminal 1</i>
2:25–3:15 PM	Cultivating Hope in Genetic Counseling through Logotherapy 	Kendra Schaa Anna Chassavant	<i>Terminal 2</i>
2:25–3:15 PM	Cultural Humility as an Existential Posture: A Logotherapeutic Bridge in Multicultural Counseling 	Sonya Heckler Cheyne Bellah Kiteki	<i>Terminal 3</i>
Virtual Presentation Sessions — Block 2			
2:25–3:15 PM	The Unchosen Life: How Default Living Erodes Hope, Meaning, Freedom, and Responsibility 	Gerald Finch	<i>Virtual</i>
2:25–3:15 PM	Hope from Southern Epistemologies: Narration of Courage in Search for Meaning of a Young Psychiatrist from Indonesia 	Leonardo Alfonsius Paulus Lalenoh	<i>Virtual</i>
2:25–3:15 PM	The Coherence Model: Revealing the Architecture of Conscious Meaning-making - Navigating Hope in a Chaotic World 	Peta McCullagh Paul McQuillan	<i>Virtual</i>
2:25–3:15 PM	Hope, Love, and Human Encounter in Chaotic Times: Philosophical and Clinical Considerations of Relational Logotherapy 	Michael Winters	<i>Virtual</i>
3:15–3:25 PM	Break		
Breakout Presentation Sessions — Block 3 (In-Person)			
3:25–4:15 PM	Zenlogos: Exploring Eastern Religions, Frankl's Mountaineering, and Logotherapy through Taoism, Cycling, Photography, and Haiku 	Joseph Erdos	<i>Terminal 1</i>
3:25–4:15 PM	The Invisible Cure: Tragic Hope and the Humanization of Healthcare 	Catalina Arzoz Gutiérrez (Spanish)	<i>Terminal 2</i>
3:25–4:15 PM	Meaning-First Behavioral Health and SUD Recovery 	Dan Hostetler	<i>Terminal 3</i>
Virtual Presentation Sessions — Block 3			
3:25–4:15 PM	The Existential Circumplex: A Preliminary Model of Meaning in Life and Self-Transcendence 	Salvatore Grammatico (Italian)	<i>Virtual</i>
3:25–4:15 PM	Understanding Viktor Frankl's Outdoor Pursuits: The Self-Transcendence Writing/Centripetal Leisure Nexus 	Rodney Dieser	<i>Virtual</i>
3:25–4:15 PM	Cultivating Hope in Teacher Education: A Logotherapeutic Exploration of Meaning and Values 	Manuela Schlick Christoph Schlick	<i>Virtual</i>

Time	Session / Presentation	Presenter(s)	Location / Format
3:25–4:15 PM	Development of a Meaning-Centered Group Psychotherapy for Chinese Patients with Advanced Cancer: A Modified Treatment Workbook 	Tommy Liang	<i>Virtual</i>
4:15–4:25 PM	Break		
4:25–6:25 PM	Diplomate Colloquium	Diplomate Students	<i>Terminal 1–3 · Hybrid</i>
	From Psychiatric Practice to Logotherapy: Theoretical Foundations and Clinical Application Through Two Cases	Onur Gökçen	<i>Virtual</i>
	Sacralizing Logotherapy: The Heightening Influence of Ignatian Spirituality	Dennis Kukuk	<i>Virtual</i>
	Practical Applications of Viktor Frankl's Noëtic Concepts in Pastoral Care and Counseling	Tom Edmondson	<i>Virtual</i>
	Changing Recovery with Logotherapy: Using the Logobridge for Conceptualizing and Treating Complex Trauma	Richard Close	<i>Virtual</i>
	De-Reflecting from Wellness to Pause on Self-Transcendence: Four questions for modern psychiatry inspired by a Logotherapy-informed workshop for Psychiatry Residents	Teresa Lanza di Scalea	<i>In-Person</i>
	The Influence of Eastern Religions, Mountaineering in Fostering Hope and the Development of Logotherapy	Joseph Erdos	<i>In-Person</i>
6:30-10:00 PM	Social Networking at the Staybridge Hotel / Free evening to independently explore Chicago		



Clinical



Philosophy

Education
ApplicationsHealthcare &
Wellbeing

Coaching/Consulting



Business



Faith/Religion



Other

Day Three | Friday, September 25, 2026

Time	Session / Presentation	Presenter(s)	Location / Format
6:30–9:30 AM	Complimentary Hotel Breakfast		
9:30–10:00 AM	Opening General Session	Dan Hostetler	<i>Terminal 1–3 · Hybrid</i>
10:00–10:50 AM	Featured Keynote	Ralph Keen	<i>Terminal 1–3 · Hybrid</i>
10:50–11:00 AM	Break		
11:00–11:50 AM	Keynote 3	Todd DuBose	<i>Terminal 1–3 · Hybrid</i>
11:50 AM–12:40 PM	Plenary 1: Viktor Frankl's Legacy in the Work of the Krakow Institute of Logotherapy	The Krakow Institute of Logotherapy	<i>Terminal 1–3 · Hybrid</i>
12:40–1:05 PM	Break		
1:05–2:05 PM	Regional Lunch Discussion Groups		
	North and South America		<i>Terminal 1 · Hybrid</i>
	Europe		<i>Terminal 2 · Hybrid</i>
	Africa and the Middle East		<i>Terminal 3 · Hybrid</i>
	Asia and Australia		<i>Control Tower · Hybrid</i>
2:05–2:30 PM	Break		
Breakout Presentation Sessions — Block 1 (In-Person)			
2:30–3:20 PM	Meaning-Centered Presence: Logotherapy as a Foundation for Psycho-oncological Care 	Monika Poznańska	<i>Terminal 1</i>
2:30–3:20 PM	Viktor Frankl's Logotherapy as a Vision of Hope for Meaning-Centered Aging 	Ann-Marie Neale	<i>Terminal 2</i>
2:30–3:20 PM	An Exploration of Divine Narrative Mentoring (DiNaMe) Framework 	Solomon Makola	<i>Terminal 3</i>
Virtual Presentation Sessions — Block 1			
2:30–3:20 PM	Hope Between Mortality and Beginning: Natality as the Ontological Horizon of Meaning in Viktor Frankl 	Keisuke Noda	<i>Virtual</i>
2:30–3:20 PM	Embracing and Embodying Hope as a Value 	Tom Edmonson	<i>Virtual</i>
2:30–3:20 PM	Reconciliation and Meaning Through Literature: A Logotherapeutic Reading of Sophocles' Antigone 	Zeynep Esenli	<i>Virtual</i>
2:30–3:20 PM	Meaning-Centred Integrative CBT and Logotherapy for the Treatment of PTSD in Refugees and Asylum Seekers 	Reza Pishyar	<i>Virtual</i>

Time	Session / Presentation	Presenter(s)	Location / Format
3:20-3:45PM	Break		
3:45-4:35 PM	The Inner Immune System: Rehearsing Meaning Before Suffering Arrives 	Tommy Schaff	<i>Terminal 1</i>
3:45-4:35 PM	In Our Imperfection Lies Hid the Secret of Our Indispensability; In the Noëtic Is Found the Font of Hope 	Charles McLafferty	<i>Terminal 2</i>
Virtual Presentation Sessions — Block 2			
3:45-4:35 PM	Unveiling Eternal Hope 	Dida Kimor	<i>Virtual</i>
3:45-4:35 PM	The Transmorbid Character of the Human Spirit: An Experience of a Psychologist in a Psychosocial Care Center 	Sávio Moreira Emmerick	<i>Virtual</i>
3:45-4:35 PM	Discovering Meaning Through Evolution: A New Epistemological Access Point in Logotherapy 	Kshitij Sharma	<i>Virtual</i>
3:45-4:35 PM	The Existential Drone: A Tool to Facilitate Self-Distancing in Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy 	Clara Martinez (Spanish)	<i>Virtual</i>
4:35-6:00PM	Break		
Congress Celebration Banquet — Terminal 1-3			
6:00-7:30 PM	Served Meal and Non-Alcoholic Beverages		<i>Terminal 1-3</i>
7:30-8:30 PM	Featured Guest of Honor — Viktor Frankl's Beloved Grandchildren (presenting in-person)	Katja Ratheiser Frankl (in-person)	<i>Terminal 1-3 · Hybrid</i>
8:40-9:40 PM	Featured Guest of Honor — Viktor Frankl's Beloved Grandchildren (presenting virtually)	Alex Vesely (virtual)	<i>Terminal 1-3 · Hybrid</i>



Clinical



Philosophy

Education
ApplicationsHealthcare &
Wellbeing

Coaching/Consulting



Business



Faith/Religion



Other

Day Four | Saturday, September 26, 2026

Time	Session / Presentation	Presenter(s)	Location / Format
7:30–10:30 AM	Complimentary Hotel Breakfast/Farewell Breakfast		

Keynote, Plenary and Guests of Honor Speakers

Biographies for our Keynote Speakers, our Plenary presenters from the Krakow Institute of Logotherapy, and our Featured Guests of Honor, Viktor Frankl's grandchildren.

Keynote Speakers

Cynthia Wimberly



Board Member Emerita, Viktor Frankl Institute of Logotherapy

Featured Keynote 1 | "Meaning Beyond the Self: Frankl's Hope for a Fragmented Age" | Day One, 1:30 PM

Cynthia Wimberly, PhD, is a licensed counselor in Stamford, Texas, recently retired as Director of Primary Prevention and Coordinator of the Batters' Intervention & Prevention Program at the Noah Project Family Violence Center in Abilene, Texas. She earned degrees in History from McMurry University and Hardin-Simmons University, a Master of Education in Counseling & Human Development from Hardin-Simmons University, and a PhD in Counselor Education from Texas Tech University. For over 25 years she has played an active role in the Viktor Frankl Institute of Logotherapy, serving as Director of Distance Learning, Chair of the Education Committee, Vice President, and President, and now continues as a Board Member Emerita. With more than 40 years of teaching experience from PreK through graduate level, her research spans at-risk youth, school counseling, meaning-centered living, and education in small, rural schools.

Jay Levinson



Licensed Psychologist, Baltimore, MD · Former Special Assistant to Dr. Viktor Frankl

Featured Keynote 2 | "Managing Grief: A Logotherapeutic Perspective" | Day Two, 10:30 AM

Dr. Jay Levinson is a licensed psychologist who has practiced in Baltimore, MD for more than 45 years, served as a forensic psychologist for the Circuit Court for Baltimore City for 25 years, and has lectured internationally on the faculties of Johns Hopkins University and the University of Maryland School of Medicine. He is the only person to publish research integrating the work of Dr. Viktor Frankl (meaning in life) with Dr. Elisabeth Kübler-Ross (meaning in death), and he was privileged to serve as Special Assistant, colleague, and friend to Dr. Frankl for over 20 years, editing Frankl's last book, *Man's Search for Ultimate Meaning*. His books include *Existential Psychotherapy of Meaning* (2009) and *Logotherapy and Existential Analysis* (2024). He was honored by the Vienna Institute of Logotherapy with its Lifetime Achievement Award and made an Honorary Member of the Austrian Medical Society; he is the founder of the Baltimore Ronald McDonald House.

Ralph Keen



Professor of History and Religious Studies, University of Illinois Chicago (UIC)

Featured Keynote | "Viktor Frankl and (Certain Aspects of) Jewish Spirituality" | Day Three, 10:00 AM

Ralph Keen is professor of history and religious studies at the University of Illinois Chicago, trained in classics and philosophy before receiving his PhD from the University of Chicago Divinity School. A historian of early-modern theology, his research focuses on the continuity between late-medieval Catholic Scholasticism and the teachings of the early Reformers. From 2015 until recently, Keen served as dean of the UIC Honors College. He has been president of the American Society of Church History and currently serves as president of the American Catholic Historical Association, as well as editor of the monograph series *Catholic Christendom 1300–1700*, published in Leiden by Brill.

Todd DuBose



Distinguished Full Professor, The Chicago School's College of Professional Psychology

Keynote 3 | "When Hope Hurts: On the Therapoetics of Dys-abling Pain" | Day Three, 11:00 AM

Todd DuBose, PhD, is a Distinguished Full Professor at The Chicago School's College of Professional Psychology and a licensed clinical psychologist in Chicago with over thirty-five years of experience as a former chaplain, teacher, clinician, supervisor, and consultant. He holds degrees in contemporary continental and comparative philosophy of religion (B.A., Georgia State University; M.Div., Union Theological Seminary, NYC) and in human science clinical psychology (PhD, Duquesne University). He integrates these traditions in a clinical specialization he calls "therapoetics," with a particular focus on impossible or "no way out" situations, the taboo, and extreme experiences. He is known globally for his presentations on existential-hermeneutical-phenomenological approaches to therapeutic care and serves on the board of directors for The International Society for Ethical Psychology and Psychiatry.

Plenary Presentation

The Krakow Institute of Logotherapy



Plenary 1 | "Viktor Frankl's Legacy in the Work of the Krakow Institute of Logotherapy" | Day Three, 1:20 PM

A special in-person plenary presentation representing the **Krakow Institute of Logotherapy (Poland)** — one of the most active contemporary centers advancing Viktor Frankl's legacy in Europe. In the presenters' own words: this presentation introduces the Krakow Institute as a place where Viktor Emil Frankl's thought is not only studied, but translated into concrete forms of education, therapy, prevention, culture, and public dialogue, asking how Frankl's message of meaning can become a living source of hope for people today.

Presenting Team

- Roman Solecki, Director
- Michal Kus, Deputy Director
- Mariusz Gajewski, Editor, Journal of Logotherapy Studies

Guests of Honor — Viktor Frankl's Grandchildren

A highlight of this Silver Jubilee World Congress: our Friday evening Congress Celebration Banquet welcomes Viktor Frankl's own grandchildren as our Featured Guests of Honor: Katja Ratheiser Frankl, joining us in-person, and Alex Vesely, joining us virtually.

Katja (Vesely) Ratheiser, LLM, MAS



Granddaughter of Viktor E. Frankl · International Board, Viktor Frankl Institute Vienna

Guest of Honor Presentation (in-person) | Friday Banquet, 7:30 PM | the Viktor Frankl Apartment & Museum, Vienna

Katharina (Vesely) Ratheiser, LLM, MAS, is the granddaughter of Viktor E. Frankl and a member of the International Board of the Viktor Frankl Institute Vienna. She carries forward the living legacy of her grandfather by supporting international educational and cultural initiatives dedicated to Logotherapy and Existential Analysis. In 2026, Viktor Frankl's original Vienna apartment and psychiatric practice opens to the public as the Viktor Frankl Apartment & Museum — the very rooms in which he lived, worked, and developed the foundations of Logotherapy after his return from the concentration camps. Katja's participation offers Congress attendees a unique opportunity to engage with the Frankl family's continuing commitment to meaning-centered thought.



Alexander Vesely

Grandson of Viktor E. Frankl · Filmmaker & Licensed Psychotherapist · Co-Founder, Viktor Frankl Institute of America

Guest of Honor Presentation (virtual) | Friday Banquet, 8:40 PM | a video presentation on Elly Frankl's honorary doctorate from North Park University

Alexander Vesely, MSc, Dr. h.c., is a psychotherapist, educator, and Director of the Viktor Frankl Media Archive in Vienna. He earned his Master's degree in Psychotherapy Science from Sigmund Freud University in Vienna and completed his clinical training in Logotherapy and Existential Analysis under Elisabeth Lukas, one of the closest collaborators of psychiatrist and Holocaust survivor Viktor E. Frankl, founder of Logotherapy and author of *Man's Search for Meaning*. Since 2022, Vesely has

played a leading role in developing and teaching at the Online Academy for Logotherapy at the Elisabeth Lukas Archive, helping bring Frankl's meaning-centered approach to students and professionals worldwide. He is also Co-Founder of the Viktor Frankl Institute of America. Vesely began his professional career in film and television production. He co-founded the Vienna-based production company Clipwerk and collaborated internationally, including with StraightUp Films in Los Angeles. He has also taught at the University of Television and Film (HFF) in Munich. He directed the award-winning documentary *Viktor & I* (2010), a personal portrait of his grandfather, Viktor E. Frankl, and *Wizard of the Desert*, about American psychiatrist Milton H. Erickson. In recognition of his contributions to preserving and advancing Frankl's legacy through education and film, he was awarded an honorary doctorate (Doctor Honoris Causa) by the Universidad Femenina del Sagrado Corazón (UNIFÉ) in Lima, Peru. Alexander Vesely is an international speaker on Logotherapy and lives in Vienna with his wife Carina and son David.

Presentation Descriptions

Full biographies for our Keynote Speakers, our Plenary presenters from the Krakow Institute of Logotherapy, and our Featured Guests of Honor, Viktor Frankl's grandchildren.

Day One | Wednesday, September 23, 2026

Tawanna Marie Woolfolk | 2:45 PM – 3:35 PM | In-person

Presentation Title:

Before Meaning Is Named: An Embodied Expansion of Logotherapy Through the Neuroception of Safety and Humaning the Human Experience

Presentation Description:

Tawanna Marie Woolfolk first encountered Viktor Frankl's *Man's Search for Meaning* as a third-grade student navigating developmental asynchrony within systems of care. Long before formal training, she engaged the text as a survival framework for coherence and dignity. Drawing from lived experience and clinical practice, this presentation offers an embodied expansion of logotherapy through the neuroception of safety, illustrating how meaning-making is contingent upon felt safety within the nervous system. Integrating developmental and sociocultural perspectives, this work reimagines meaning not as endurance alone, but as humaning the human experience across diverse identities and global contexts.

Educational Objectives:

- Develop an understanding of how the neuroception of safety influences meaning-making processes within the framework of logotherapy.
- Examine the role of developmental and sociocultural factors in shaping an individual's capacity to engage meaningfully with experiences of suffering and resilience.
- Apply an embodied perspective to logotherapy that integrates nervous system awareness, allowing for more inclusive and responsive clinical and human-centered practices across diverse identities and global contexts.

About the Presenter:

Tawanna Marie Woolfolk (she/they), Master of Social Work, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, is the founder of Doula for the Soul Enterprises and an EMDRIA Approved Consultant specializing in complex trauma, grief, neurodivergence, and embodied approaches to healing. With more than 22 years of clinical practice, their work integrates attachment, nervous system science, existential inquiry, and relational ethics to explore how people reconnect with dignity, meaning, and hope following adversity. A multiracial, queer, autistic and ADHD clinician, Woolfolk's scholarship is deeply informed by both lived experience and clinical practice. At nine years old, they encountered Viktor Frankl's *Man's Search for Meaning*, beginning a lifelong exploration of suffering, purpose, and what it means to remain deeply human. Today, their work explores the conversation between logotherapy, neuroception of safety, and embodiment while remaining deeply rooted in Frankl's enduring commitment to human dignity and the discovery of meaning. Tawanna Marie is also a contributing author to *Queering EMDR Therapy* and continues to write and present internationally on trauma, embodiment, and relational healing.

Andreas Schrieber | 2:45 PM – 3:35 PM | In-person

Presentation Title:

Four Steps to a Meaningful Self

Presentation Description:

In a world of constant pressure to optimise and “fix” ourselves, genuine and lasting personal change emerges not from resistance or willpower alone, but from a practical gentle four step process of meaningful self-development that integrates insights from psychology, philosophy and Eastern wisdom: self-awareness (observing and recognising), self-acceptance (dissolving inner resistance and conflicts), self-distancing (taking a stance towards oneself), and self-transcending (growing towards a meaning beyond oneself). In overcoming automatic reactions and self-criticism we learn how awareness creates freedom, acceptance resolves conflict, and meaning enables lasting transformation. In the sense of "embracing hope," this concept demonstrates that true self-development is not a struggle, but a life-affirming process that leads to greater freedom, authenticity, and a meaningful life.

Educational Objectives:

- Develop non-judgmental self-awareness to interrupt automatic and harmful behavioural patterns, to create the inner gap for conscious choice, and as a foundation for genuine personal growth.
- Cultivate genuine self-acceptance to reduce psychological resistance and enable natural, sustainable personal change.
- Practice self-distancing to enhance authentic discernment and intentional decision making and connect small behavioural shifts to meaningful purpose that align with one's actual life, values, and energy patterns.
- Connect personal development and growth to meaningful, life-serving purposes to foster a meaningful transformation and to strengthen motivation and hope.

About the Presenter:

Andreas Schrieber, PhD, is a philosophical counsellor and psychotherapist according to the naturopathic law in Freiburg, Germany. He earned his Ph. D. in Philosophy from Albert-Ludwigs University in Freiburg, Germany. He is certified as a Diplome Educator by the Viktor Frankl Institute of Logotherapy (VFIL) in Chicago, Illinois (USA) and has been actively involved as a member of the institute since 2007. As an instructor of logotherapy since 2007 and a faculty member of the VFIL since 2012 he conveys the message of Logotherapy and Logophilosophy and helps to grow the number of logotherapists worldwide. He teaches for the Associate Credentials and supervises Diplome students of the educational program of the VFIL. His Institute „Cura Vitae“ is also acknowledged as a logotherapy training institute by the Victor Frankl Institut, Vienna, Austria. He is author of several publications related to the theory and practice of logotherapy. His areas of interest are the theory of logotherapy (logophilosophy), as well as helping clients in his private practice to find meaning in periods of transition, personal development, burn-out, adaptation and anxiety disorder, depression, PTSD, personality disorders etc. This service has been supplemented with the method of EMDR, and he's also providing services in couples counselling with a female colleague as a therapist duo. schrieber@curavita.eu; www.curavita.eu

Geraldine Kerr | 2:45 PM – 3:35 PM | In-person

Presentation Title:

Embracing Hope: How Trauma, Grief, and Loss Become Guideposts Toward Finding Meaning and Purpose in our Lives

Presentation Description:

Viktor Frankl's Logotherapy addresses meaning as the primary motivational force in life. Embracing hope recognizes that within challenging experiences, meaning transcends one's painful journey. The human spirit is filled with resources that help move us forward. The ability to love others strengthens us to move beyond ourselves. Potential meaning exists in every situation. We cannot change painful events; we can only change ourselves. Finding meaning in what lies beyond our loss allows us to become more of who we are, embracing hope.

Educational Objectives:

- Develop an understanding of moving beyond loss to create meaning
- Achieve inner peace while moving through trauma
- Develop self and other compassion, letting go of loss while changing ourselves

About the Presenter:

A Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist with more than 40 years of clinical experience, she earned her M.A. in Counseling Psychology from Seton Hall University in 1983, where she was first introduced to Viktor Frankl's Logotherapy. During that same period, she faced the unexpected challenge of raising four young children after being abandoned by her spouse, an experience that profoundly shaped her personal and professional commitment to meaning-centered therapy. She earned an Educational Specialist (Ed.S.) degree from Seton Hall University in 1986, becoming licensed as a Marriage and Family Therapist, and later completed a Ph.D. in Family Psychology and Marriage and Family Therapy in 2012. Her dissertation examined the meanings parents make of sudden, unexpected divorce from a family systems perspective. Since 1986, she has worked with individuals, couples, and families, integrating systemic family therapy with Logotherapy's emphasis on meaning, purpose, and self-transcendence. She also completed a Certification in Pastoral Ministry from Fordham University in 1978. Currently, she facilitates a bereavement group from a psychospiritual perspective, helping individuals discover renewed meaning and purpose following grief and loss. Her work reflects a lifelong commitment to helping others transform suffering into personal growth through the principles of Logotherapy.

Dan Franz | 2:45 PM – 3:35 PM | In-person

Presentation Title:

Meaning, Mind, and Medicine: Psychedelic-Assisted Psychotherapy Through a Logotherapeutic Lens

Presentation Description:

Psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy is re-emerging as a promising treatment for depression, trauma, and existential distress. Logotherapy emphasizes the human search for meaning as central to psychological health. This presentation explores the intersection of these approaches, examining how psychedelic experiences may catalyze "meaning-making" while logotherapeutic principles guide integration. Points of convergence, tension, and ethical consideration will be discussed. An integrative framework is proposed in which meaning-centered reflection transforms acute psychedelic insight into sustained psychological change, highlighting the role of responsibility, values, and purpose in long-term healing.

Educational Objectives:

- Identify the core components and therapeutic process of psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy.
- Explain key principles of logotherapy, including the will to meaning and responsibility.
- Analyze points of convergence and divergence between psychedelic experiences and logotherapeutic meaning-making.
- Apply logotherapeutic concepts to the preparation and integration phases of psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy.

About the Presenter:

Dr. Daniel A. Franz is a psychotherapist in private practice whose clinical, academic, and research interests center on existential psychology, meaning-centered psychotherapy, and the emerging field of psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy. He earned a Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology from Ball State University and a Doctor of Psychology in Pastoral Logotherapy from The Graduate Theological Foundation. He is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor and a Licensed Clinical Addictions Counselor in the State of Indiana and holds a certificate in Psychedelic-Assisted Psychotherapy from The Integrative Psychiatry Institute. Dr. Franz has earned the Diplomate in Viktor Frankl's Logotherapy and has taught logotherapy in academic and professional settings, emphasizing its relevance to contemporary clinical practice and existential well-being. In addition to his teaching and clinical work, Dr. Franz has developed specialized interests in the integration of logotherapy with psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy. Through professional training, scholarly study, and clinical engagement with psychedelic integration, he explores how Frankl's principles of meaning, responsibility, and self-transcendence can provide a robust existential framework for translating profound therapeutic experiences into enduring psychological growth and purposeful living.

Kurtis Pugh | 2:45 PM – 3:35 PM | Virtual

Presentation Title:

MeaningPlay: A Logotherapeutic Play Therapy for Hope and Healing

Presentation Description:

This presentation offers an introduction to the innovative approach to therapy called MeaningPlay, which is an integration of Viktor Frankl's Logotherapy, Miguel de Unamuno's philosophical thoughts, attachment-based play therapy theories, and broader social science theories about the importance of play for human wellness.

Educational Objectives:

- Articulate the theoretical principles of Logotherapy and integrations with Unamuno's thinking, and attachment-based play theories on which the play therapy of MeaningPlay is based.
- Describe how the three broad goals of MeaningPlay rest on the theoretical foundations of MeaningPlay.
- Explain the activation or incorporation of at least three of the therapeutic powers of play and how those relate to meaning finding in MeaningPlay therapy.
- Analyze concerns, limitations, and considerations regarding Logotherapeutic Play Therapy (MeaningPlay).
- Assess an example of the application of MeaningPlay.

About the Presenter:

Kurtis J. Pugh, MS, LPC, is an adjunct professor, Logotherapy Emphasis Area Director at Northwest Nazarene University (NNU), and the owner of MeaningPlay Counseling LLC. Kurtis specializes in the innovative integration of Viktor Frankl's Logotherapy with Play Therapy. He holds an MS in Counseling from NNU and a Diploma in Logotherapy and Existential Analysis from the Viktor Frankl Institute of Ireland. His pioneering work, MeaningPlay, focuses on utilizing the

noetic qualities of play as a meaning-finding tool. In addition to his academic roles and private practice, he serves as a Licensed Mental Health Consultant for the Community Council of Idaho Migrant and Seasonal Head Start.

Fares Barakat | 2:45 PM – 3:35 PM | Virtual

Presentation Title:

Promoting Hope Through Meaning: Development of a Hybrid Logotherapy-Based Intervention for Depression in University Students

Presentation Description:

Depression is prevalent among university students, who are in emerging adulthood, a developmental stage marked by identity exploration and psychological vulnerability. Meaning in life is a core construct in Viktor Frankl's logotherapy and is associated with resilience and well-being. This presentation introduces the development of a hybrid logotherapy-based intervention designed to reduce depression and promote hope among university students. Integrating logotherapy principles, self-transcendence theory, and emerging adulthood theory, the intervention aims to strengthen meaning-making processes and psychological resources. The presentation outlines the theoretical framework, intervention structure, and proposed mechanisms through which meaning-centered approaches may support mental health in young adults.

Educational Objectives:

- Understand the role of meaning in life as a protective psychological factor against depression and distress during emerging adulthood.
- Examine how Viktor Frankl's logotherapy can be integrated with developmental and psychological theories to address mental health challenges among university students.
- Evaluate how meaning-centered interventions may strengthen resilience, enhance meaning-making, and reduce depressive symptoms in emerging adults navigating developmental and psychological challenges.

About the Presenter:

Fares Barakat is a PhD candidate in Mental Health Nursing at the School of Nursing and Rehabilitation, Shandong University, China. He earned a Master of Science in Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing from Tishreen University in Syria. His research focuses on meaning in life, depression, and anxiety among university students, applying Viktor Frankl's logotherapy and meaning-centered psychological interventions. He recently published a study as the first author in the Journal of Affective Disorders, examining meaning in life as a central pathway in depression among university students using network and causal discovery methods. Having lived and worked in Syria during fourteen years of civil war, he provided mental health support to individuals experiencing trauma and existential distress, an experience that deeply shaped his interest in meaning-centered approaches and the application of logotherapy principles in contexts of suffering. His doctoral research, supervised by Professor Ping Li and Associate Research Professor Meiling Qi, aims to develop and evaluate a hybrid logotherapy-based intervention designed to promote meaning in life and psychological resilience among young adults. He has presented his work on logotherapy and mental health at international conferences and is committed to advancing meaning-centered approaches in mental health nursing practice and research. faresbarakat010@hotmail.com or d2024010@mail.sdu.edu.cn

A.G. Gideon Millul | 2:45 PM – 3:35 PM | Virtual

Presentation Title:

Tragic Optimism as a Meaning Builder

Presentation Description:

Out of the tragic triangle/rhombus which is characterized by fails, by suffering and pain, by death and by injustice, arises the "tragic optimism". That is an optimism which arises in the face of the tragedy and the suffering, by saying yes to life, in spite of all. A saying which is attained through Belief in human values, Hope, which is a crucial factor for survival and Love, which is the essence of life. Added to this is the Why to live for. The Why that gave and gives many, strengths and inner forces, to cope with almost any How experienced.

Educational Objectives:

- Demonstrate the application of a Logotherapeutic intervention that can be used in individual and group settings to promote meaning, strengthen resilience, and reduce depressive symptoms.
- Explain how Logotherapy can help individuals respond to suffering, loss, and tragedy by fostering hope, preventing despair, and facilitating the rediscovery of meaning.
- Apply Logotherapeutic principles to strengthen individuals' inner resources and capacity to cope with both changeable and unchangeable life circumstances, including the realities represented by the tragic triad and tragic rhombus.

About the Presenter:

A.G Gideon Millul was born in Jerusalem in 1935, he is a Diplomate in Logotherapy (2001) and Founder and President of OTSMOT, the approved Viktor Frankl Center for Logotherapy in Israel. He earned an M.A. in Educational Sciences from Tel Aviv University and a B.A. in Political Science and General History from the University of Haifa. Earlier in his career, he served as a certified Chief Officer in the Merchant Marine before spending three decades as Training Coordinator for Israel's largest shipping company, where he developed and implemented professional and behavioral training programs. Since 1996, he has led the education and qualification of Logotherapy Diplomates in Israel under the auspices of the Viktor Frankl Institute of Logotherapy, with recognition from the Viktor Frankl Institute in Vienna and the University of South Africa (UNISA). He is the founder and former president of the Logotherapy Association in Israel and organized the first International Logotherapy World Congress in Israel in 2015. His background also includes certification in group leadership and specialized training in Individual Psychology through the Adler Institute and international Adlerian programs. He has served as a guest lecturer at the University of Pisa, presented at national and international conferences, and has extensive experience as a counselor, educator, and trainer working with diverse populations.

Toni Merhi | 2:45 PM –3:55 PM | Virtual

Presentation Title:

Logotherapy and Holistic Approach in Pain Management and Rehabilitation

Presentation Description:

This paper considers a bio-psycho-noetic model for chronic pain and rehabilitation. Following the World Health Organization's definition of health, I examine the culmination of chronic pain as a "perception of danger" that triggers a vicious cycle of physical and noogenic neurosis. Two case studies will show how surpassing the conventional bio-psycho-social framework into Logotherapy can be critical to effective recovery. Drawing on the Tragic Triad and Self-Transcendence, clinicians can help patients neutralize existential threat and find meaning within physical limitations. The proposed approach empowers individuals to break the cycle of suffering, facilitating a resilient recovery process through a meaning-centered lens.

Educational Objectives:

- Differentiate nociception from the brain's perception of pain, by learning how existential threats contribute to the maintenance of chronic pain cycles.
- Identify the limitations of the conventional bio-psycho-social model in chronic pain management.
- Locate the benefits of integrating the bio-psycho-noetic model in rehabilitation settings.
- Apply Logotherapeutic concepts—such as the Will to Meaning, the Tragic Triad, and Self-Transcendence—to help patients overcome the noogenic neurosis associated with chronic pain, severe physical handicaps, and rehabilitation difficulties.

About the Presenter:

Toni Merhi is a Physiotherapist driven by a commitment to holistic healing and the founder of the Motion Emotion Center (www.motionemotion.clinic) in Ghazir, Keserwan, Lebanon, which he established in 2021. His work centers compassionate integration of the physical, emotional, and spiritual dimensions as fundamental for effective physical rehabilitation. Drawing on his extensive experience in Neurological Rehabilitation and Geriatric and Palliative Care, Toni specializes in Chronic Pain Management, where he uses his expertise in osteopathy not just to treat symptoms, but to guide individuals toward a deeper sense of well-being and resilience. Further certifications include Osteopathic Manipulative Techniques from the International Osteopathic Training Academy (Osteoformation, France) and Biodecoding Consultancy from the Christian Flèche School (France). He is also a certified Emotional Liberation Breathing Practitioner from The Bridge Institute in Lebanon. Toni is currently completing Level 4 (Academic Level 2) of his Logotherapy formation through the Viktor Frankl Institute of Logotherapy, in affiliation with Logotherapy MENA, while pursuing his master's in Osteopathic Manual Therapy at the Lebanese University. By weaving the principles of meaning-centered therapy into his clinical work, he empowers his patients at the Motion Emotion Center to find purpose and hope, amidst the challenges of chronic pain and physical limitation.

Lorraine Dinkel & Jessica Gonzalez | 4:00 PM – 4:50 PM | In-person

Presentation Title:

Meaning in Practice: Counselors' Lived Experiences Integrating Spirituality and Religion in Clinical Work

Presentation Description:

This presentation explores counselors' lived experiences of integrating spirituality and religion into clinical practice through a phenomenological lens. The presentation highlights how counselors encounter, interpret, and respond to spiritually infused and ethically complex moments in counseling sessions. Emphasizing logotherapy principles, the program centers on meaning-making, purpose, and hope as core elements of clinical work. Attendees will gain insight into how counselors navigate personal values, client beliefs, and ethical considerations while fostering connection and growth. This presentation invites reflection on how spirituality can serve as a resource for resilience, meaning, and healing in counseling practice.

Educational Objectives:

- Examine how counselors experience and make meaning of spiritually and religiously integrated moments in clinical practice.
- Apply logotherapy principles of meaning, purpose, and hope to ethically complex counseling situations.
- Identify strategies for integrating spirituality and religion into counseling while honoring client values and maintaining ethical practice.

About the Presenters:

Lorraine M. Dinkel, PhD., LPC-S (TX/MO), LPC (KS) is currently a teaching associate professor in the School Counseling Educational Specialist Program and the Doctoral Counselor Education and Supervision Program at Kansas State University. Across her twenty-five plus years as a counselor and counselor educator, she has served as an elementary school counselor, a mental health intake officer, therapist, and unit director for children and adolescents in psychiatric residential treatment two different states, in addition to teaching and coordinating counseling programs. After these professional experiences she earned a Counselor Education and Supervision PhD from the University of New Orleans. Her dissertation, *The Relationship Between Graduate Counseling Students' Meaning in Life and Their Crisis Experiences*, utilized logotherapy as a foundation and she presented her findings at the 18 th World Congress in Dallas and then in 2013 presented at the 19th World Congress. She also published these findings in two manuscripts: *Meaning in life and suffering from crisis experiences in a sample of graduate students in the US* in *The International Forum for Logotherapy*, 36 and *Exploring meaning in life and crisis experiences with graduate counseling students in VISTAS*. In 2020, she opened *Alchemy Agents LLC*, a supervision and consultation practice.

Jessica Gonzalez, M.A., RMHCI, RMFTI is a third-year doctoral student in the Counselor Education and Supervision program at Kansas State University. She earned her Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Rollins College and completed a graduate certificate in Family and Relationship Therapy. Jessica is a Registered Mental Health Counselor Intern (RMHCI) and Registered Marriage and Family Therapist Intern (RMFTI) in Florida. She currently provides counseling services in a private practice setting, working with children, adolescents, and young adults experiencing emotional, relational, and developmental challenges. In addition to her clinical work, Jessica serves as an adjunct instructor at Rollins College and has been a Graduate Teaching Assistant in the counselor education program at Kansas State University for three years. Her academic and clinical interests include counselor development, clinical supervision, gatekeeping, faith-integrated counseling, play therapy, and supporting the professional growth of future counselors. Jessica is passionate about creating engaging learning environments that bridge research, ethical practice, and real-world clinical application.

Jared Bishop | 4:00 PM – 4:50 PM | In-person

Presentation Title:

Pain and Purpose: A Meaning Centered Approach to Chronic Pain

Presentation Description:

Chronic pain affects roughly 20% of adults worldwide and encompasses physical, emotional, and existential dimensions. Beyond somatic and psychological factors, chronic pain disrupts identity, purpose, and future orientation, often increasing distress and comorbid conditions. Traditional treatments emphasize pain reduction, yet limitations in these approaches underscores the need for broader approaches. Logotherapy can serve as a meaning-centered framework, emphasizing adaptive coping through attitudinal change when suffering is unavoidable. Integrating Logotherapy with other approaches to pain treatment can support patients in discovering purpose and living their values despite enduring pain.

Educational Objectives:

- Explain the multidimensional nature of chronic pain, including biological, psychological, social, and existential components, and recognize the impact of chronic pain on identity and the search for meaning in life.
- Compare traditional pain management approaches with meaning-centered interventions.
- Apply principles of Logotherapy to support individuals with chronic pain in discovering meaning, clarifying values, and adapting to unavoidable suffering.

About the Presenter:

Dr. Jared Bishop is a licensed psychologist and Director of Behavioral Health Training at the Jane Pauley Community Health Center in East Central Indiana. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and a Master's of Education degree in Counseling and Human Development from Hardin-Simmons University. Dr. Bishop graduate from Ball State University with a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Educational (School) Psychology and completed his doctoral internship at the Onarga Academy site of the Illinois School Psychology Internship Consortium. He has been active in the Viktor Frankl Institute of Logotherapy since 2009. He has experience providing counseling and psychological assessments in various settings, including community mental health, school districts, and residential treatment facilities. Dr. Bishop's clinical interests include meaning-centered therapy, Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), and complex trauma. Dr. Bishop is a current member of the VFIL Board of Directors and previously served as Secretary and Vice President of VFIL.

Anna Mirrenwald | 4:00 PM – 4:50 PM | In-person

Presentation Title:

Hope Without Guarantees: A Logotherapeutic Perspective in Times of War and Collective Uncertainty

Presentation Description:

This presentation explores hope from logotherapeutic and existential perspectives in contexts of war, displacement, and collective uncertainty. Drawing from therapeutic work with Ukrainian and Middle Eastern clients affected by war, displacement, and existential insecurity, as well as the presenter's lived experience of enduring ongoing instability shaped by two wars, the presentation examines how traumatic events disrupt trust in the future, continuity of identity, and the experience of meaning. In contrast to optimism or reassurance, existential hope will be presented as a meaning-oriented stance that remains possible even without certainty or control. Clinical reflections and practical logotherapeutic approaches will be discussed.

Educational Objectives:

- Differentiate existential hope from optimism, reassurance, and outcome-based thinking within a logotherapeutic framework.
- Identify how war, displacement, and collective trauma affect meaning, future orientation, and existential security in clients.
- Apply logotherapeutic approaches to working with hopelessness, uncertainty, and loss of meaning in conditions where certainty cannot be restored.

About the Presenter:

Anna Mirrenwald is an existential psychotherapist, logotherapist, clinical psychologist, gestalt therapist, philosophical counselor, and independent researcher in private practice. Her clinical and academic work focuses on the philosophical foundations of logotherapy, existential psychotherapy, meaning-centered approaches to suffering, hope, identity, and the relationship between philosophy and psychotherapy. She holds a Master's degree in Existential Psychology and

Logotherapy from the Moscow Institute of Psychoanalysis with a specialization in PTSD counseling and therapy in logotherapeutic and existential approach, a Master's degree in Clinical Diagnostics from Pirogov Russian National Research Medical University, a qualification in Clinical Psychology from the Higher School of Expertise and Right, training in Gestalt Therapy from the Moscow Gestalt Institute, and certification in Philosophical Counseling from the Institut de Pratiques Philosophiques (Paris). Anna is an Accredited Member of the International Association of Logotherapy and Existential Analysis at the Viktor Frankl Institute in Vienna.

Alongside her clinical work, she develops educational programs and lectures on the intersection of philosophy and psychotherapy. Her current research explores hope, tragic optimism, and meaning-oriented psychotherapy with people affected by war, forced migration, and humanitarian crises, including extensive pro bono work with refugees and displaced persons.

Richard Close | 4:00 PM – 4:50 PM | Virtual

Presentation Title:

Changing Recovery With Logotherapy: Using the Logobridge for Conceptualizing and Treating Complex Trauma

Presentation Description:

By means of a proposed framework for logoconceptualizing based on the comparative understandings of self-transcendence as found in Adlerian psychology and Frankl's logotherapy, engaging the triumphant power of the human spirit, this presentation introduces the concept and use of the Logobridge illustrating its central place in transforming conventional approaches to the case conceptualization of complex trauma by integrating the noetic dimension.

Educational Objectives:

- Three perspectives on the nature of complex trauma for the work of logoconceptualizing.
- Self-transcendence as the logodiagnostic conceptual crosswalk from medical necessity to noetic necessity.
- Assisting clients in building and using their Logobridge throughout the logotherapeutic treatment process.

About the Presenter:

Richard E. Close, DMin, PsyD, LPCC, LICSW, practices as a trauma specialist and clinical supervisor at Natalis Counseling and Psychology Solutions in St. Paul, Minnesota; and is an Associate Professor in the MA in Counseling and Psychological Services Program at St. Mary's University of Minnesota. He is an EMDRIA-Certified EMDR Therapist, certified clinical pastoral counselor, and an ordained priest in a Celtic Christian Order. He is credentialed by the Viktor Frankl Institute of Logotherapy as a Clinical Diplomate in Logotherapy (2025), and a trained Adlerian counselor. As both priest and clinician, he has spent a life-time career practicing, teaching, and publishing at the intersection of counseling psychology and pastoral theology.

Dmytro Sukhachov | 4:00 PM – 4:50 PM | Virtual

Presentation Title:

Hope Without Illusion: A Shared Horizon of Meaning in War-Affected and Fragmented Communities

Presentation Description:

Grounded in Viktor Frankl's logotherapy and the concept of tragic optimism, this presentation explores how hope may emerge without illusion in communities affected by war, fragmentation, uncertainty, and loss. Drawing on the Ukrainian experience, it examines how diverse personal meanings may orient toward a shared horizon of meaning rooted in

dignity, responsibility, memory, solidarity, and future orientation. Rather than romanticizing suffering, the presentation explores how individuals and communities may respond to collective crisis through responsibility, relational connection, moral resilience, and renewed commitment to life while contributing to the reweaving of the social fabric.

Educational Objectives:

- Describe the distinction between personal meaning, imposed collective narratives, and a shared horizon of meaning.
- Identify meaning-centered foundations of communal resilience in collective crisis, including dignity, responsibility, memory, solidarity, and future orientation.
- Apply the concept of tragic optimism as a framework for understanding hope without illusion in communities affected by suffering and fragmentation.

About the Presenter:

Dmytro Sukhachov is an educator and logotherapist-in-training from Odesa, Ukraine. He holds a Master's degree in Philosophy from Dragomanov Ukrainian State University and a Master's degree in Marine Navigation from National University "Odesa Maritime Academy." As well he successfully completed Basic and Advanced courses of Logotherapy and Existential Analysis. The Advanced Course in Spiritual Capabilities of Viktor Frankl's Logotherapy and Existential Analysis. Presently continue studying in «Ukrainian Viktor Frankl Institute» and see himself as a fully certified logotherapist in the near future. His professional and academic work focuses on logotherapy and existential analysis, meaning-centered support, tragic optimism, moral resilience, and the restoration of hope in times of personal and collective crisis. He has applied logotherapeutic principles in education, group work, work with war-affected communities, work with helping professionals, and research. His proposed presentation, "Hope Without Illusion: A Shared Horizon of Meaning in War-Affected and Fragmented Communities," explores how individuals and communities living through war, social fragmentation, uncertainty, and loss may discover personal meanings and a shared horizon of meaning that supports dignity, responsibility, solidarity, and the reweaving of the social fabric.

Hamad Mohamed Al-Rayes | 4:00 PM – 4:50 PM | Virtual

Presentation Title:

Wishful Thinking: Valuing the Daimonic Function of Socratic Dialogue

Presentation Description:

This paper argues for reconceiving the role of Socratic dialogue in logotherapy as incorporating two distinct modes, one logical-disputative, the other erotic-sollicitous. It argues for the value of the latter "daimonic" mode especially for reimagining clients' relationship to their own fledgling wishes, the incapacity to wish being "the origin of the existential vacuum" according to Frankl. The ability to wish thus becomes the first step toward a life of meaning. Far from lying outside the purview of Socratic dialogue, the paper contends that learning how to wish well is a core principle of the Socratic enterprise.

Educational Objectives:

- Understand the present role of Socratic dialogue in logotherapy
- Philosophically distinguish the logical and erotic functions of Socratic dialogue
- Appreciate the psychotherapeutic value of wishing
- Understand the connection between Socratic dialogue, wishing, and meaning

About the Presenter:

Hamad Mohamed Al-Rayes is a Senior Lecturer and the Student Counselor at the Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF). He earned his PhD in Philosophy from Stony Brook University and his MA in Philosophy from Duquesne University. In his capacity as counselor, he brings his training in philosophical counseling (with the American Philosophical Practitioners Association) and logic-based consultation (with the National Philosophical Counseling Association) to bear on students' questions of purpose and value. Although not formally trained in logotherapy, he uses Viktor Frankl's insights in much of his meaning- and value-focused work with students. As a lecturer, he teaches modules on thinking skills and ethical reasoning.

Margarita Grueskin | 4:00 PM – 4:50 PM | Virtual

Presentation Title:

Centripetal Leisure: Expanding Logotherapy Through Yoga, Ayurveda, and Embodied Practice

Presentation Description:

This presentation expands Viktor Frankl's concept of centripetal leisure through the applied frameworks of Yoga and Ayurveda. While Logotherapy identifies the human drive for meaning, modern life often pulls individuals outward into distraction and overactivity. This session proposes a return inward through embodied, daily practices—such as self-study, disciplined action, and attunement—as pathways to sustained meaning. By integrating ancient wisdom with contemporary existential psychology, participants will explore how to operationalize meaning-making beyond insight and into lived experience, offering practical tools to navigate the existential vacuum and cultivate authentic, purpose-driven lives.

Educational Objectives:

- Differentiate between centrifugal and centripetal forms of leisure in Logotherapy and explain their influence on the experience of meaning, hope, and existential distress.
- Describe how principles from Yoga and Ayurveda support the cultivation of hope through embodied self-awareness, inward reflection, and daily practice.
- Apply a framework of centripetal practices, including self-study, disciplined action, and attunement, to strengthen one's capacity to respond to life with meaning, purpose, and hope.
- Evaluate ways in which Logotherapy can be expanded beyond clinical settings into coaching, wellness, and daily life practices to foster sustained hope and self-leadership in diverse populations.

About the Presenter:

Margarita V. Grueskin is a National Board Certified Health and Wellbeing Coach who earned the credential of Diplomate – Educator/Administrator in Viktor Frankl's Logotherapy through the Viktor Frankl Institute of Logotherapy. She holds a Master of Urban and Regional Planning from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics with a minor in Psychology from California State University, Long Beach. Margarita's work integrates Logotherapy with Yoga philosophy, Ayurveda, Lifestyle Medicine, contemporary neuroscience, and Positive Intelligence to explore practical pathways for cultivating meaning, hope, mental fitness, and human flourishing. Her professional work focuses on self-leadership and workplace wellbeing, where she designs and facilitates leadership development programs, reflective learning communities, and educational workshops that help individuals develop greater self-awareness, resilience, and purpose through daily practice. Her Diplomate final paper examined the relationship between Logotherapy and Advaita Vedanta philosophy, with a focus on expanding Viktor Frankl's concept of centripetal leisure through embodied practice. She is particularly interested in extending Logotherapy beyond traditional clinical settings by translating its principles into accessible practices for coaches, educators, leaders, yoga teachers, and community guides who seek to cultivate meaning-centered living in everyday life.

Day Two | Thursday, September 24, 2026

Memduh Özmert | 1:10 PM – 2:00 PM | In-person

Presentation Title:

Experiencing Tragic Optimism through Nominal Socratic Dialogue: A Coaching Approach to Unconditional Hope

Presentation Description:

The concept of tragic optimism, central to the work of Viktor Frankl, refers to the human capacity to affirm life despite the inevitability of suffering, guilt, and death. This paper revisits this concept from a phenomenological perspective, emphasizing that meaning is not a presupposition but an experiential reality disclosed through one's stance toward existence. Drawing on existential analysis as a phenomenological method, the study positions "will to meaning" as a lived response rather than a theoretical construct. The presentation further integrates the methodological contributions of Willem Maas, particularly the "Nominal Socratic Dialogue," as a practical tool for eliciting a client's personal mission statement. This method operationalizes tragic optimism by structuring a dialogue between two dimensions: the tragic triad (suffering, guilt, death) and the optimistic triad (faith, hope, and unconditional affirmation of life). Through guided selection and reordering of core personal values, individuals are enabled to recognize inconsistencies within their value hierarchy and to reorient themselves toward meaningful commitments. A case study of a professional undergoing a major life transition illustrates this process. The analysis shows how existential unease—initially expressed as fear of failure and loss—can be transformed into a coherent, value-based orientation through Socratic questioning and phenomenological clarification. The findings suggest that tragic optimism is not merely an attitude but a dynamic existential stance that emerges through dialogue and responsibility. This paper contributes to the field by bridging theory and practice, demonstrating how logotherapy can extend beyond clinical settings into coaching, life transitions, and meaning-centered decision-making processes. A live demo will be presented.

Educational Objectives:

- Explain the concept of tragic optimism as formulated by Viktor Frankl, including its relation to the "tragic triad" of suffering, guilt, and death.
- Differentiate between presupposed meaning and phenomenologically experienced meaning within the framework of existential analysis.
- Demonstrate how Willem Maas's Nominal Socratic Dialogue facilitates values clarification and the development of a personal mission statement by integrating the tragic triad with faith, hope, and the affirmation of life.

About the Presenter:

Memduh N. Özmert holds a B.Sc. in Statistics and an M.Sc. in Management Science and Operational Research from the University of Warwick, UK. He has more than 30 years of experience across academia, government, and the information technology sector, specializing in people management, consulting, and program management. In 2016, he founded Viktor Frankl Enstitüsü Türkiye, an accredited member of the International Association of Logotherapy and Existential Analysis. He is a Diplomate, Board Member, and Faculty Member of the Viktor Frankl Institute of Logotherapy (USA).

Memduh provides certificate programs in Logotherapy, keynote presentations, workshops, executive coaching, and organizational consulting on meaning-centered leadership, resilient organizations, career development, conflict management, and major life transitions. He also leads the Meaningful Living Initiative, a literature- and dialogue-based educational program of Viktor Frankl Enstitüsü Türkiye, and directs a social volunteer project supporting career resilience and youth employment.

through Logotherapy. His scholarly interests include Edmund Husserl's phenomenology, Viktor Frankl's philosophical anthropology, and the application of meaning-centered approaches to leadership, education, and organizational culture.

Sonya Heckler Cheyne & Sherwood Harrison | 1:10 PM – 2:00 PM | In-person

Presentation Title:

The Drop Zone as Existential Crucible: Logotherapy, the Will to Meaning, and the Human Search for Hope

Presentation Description:

At 14,000 feet, the human spirit confronts what logotherapy names as its deepest imperatives: freedom, responsibility, and the irreducible search for meaning. This presentation examines the drop zone as an existential site - a context in which Frankl's core concepts of the will to meaning, attitudinal values, and self-transcendence become viscerally alive. Drawing on narrative accounts from licensed skydivers and grounded in logotherapeutic theory, this session explores how voluntary confrontation with fear, finitude, and freedom can awaken the human spirit to hope. Participants engage with logotherapy through a vivid, unexpected lens and leave with reflective tools for cultivating meaning across diverse life contexts.

Educational Objectives:

- Articulate Frankl's three foundational pillars of logotherapy: freedom of will, the will to meaning, and the meaning of life, and apply them to embodied, non-clinical human experience.
- Identify how voluntary confrontation with fear and finitude can activate attitudinal values and self-transcendence as described in logotherapeutic and existential analytic frameworks.
- Reflect on a personally significant experience through which meaning, hope, or existential transformation has been or could be cultivated, integrating logotherapeutic principles into self-understanding and professional clinical practice.

About the Presenters:

Sonya Heckler Cheyne, PhD, LPC-, NCC is a Professor in the Department of Counselor Education and Family Studies, Clinical Mental Health Counseling program at Liberty University. She has earned a PhD in Counselor Education and Supervision from Regent University, a master's degree from Hardin-Simmons University, and a bachelors from Texas Tech University. She holds credentials as a Licensed Professional Counselor and Supervisor in Texas, a National Certified Counselor, and a Diplomate Clinician through the Viktor Frankl Institute of Logotherapy, where she serves on the Institute's Board of Directors, the Faculty, and is a Lifetime Member. Dr. Heckler Cheyne presents at the state, national, and international levels. smheckler@liberty.edu

Sherwood Miller Harrison, III, MA, LPC-S, LCMHC-S, is a Ph.D. Candidate in Counselor Education and Supervision at Liberty University. He practices as a professional counselor in North Carolina's Crystal Coast area. He has practiced since 2009 and provides outpatient counseling across NC, SC, VA, and TX, specializing in cognitive-behavioral therapy, logotherapy, and men's mental health. His research examines meaning-making and behavioral phenomena in skydiving, informed by his experience as a licensed skydiver with advanced licensure and competition accuracy recognition. Harrison is active in community service, offering volunteer counseling, school-based psychoeducation, and a free men's relationship group. His broader interests include aviation, ethics advocacy, sailing, and service in the Coast Guard Auxiliary. He is an active member in the American Counseling Association and the North Carolina Counseling Association.

Michele Silveira Santos | 2:10 PM – 3:00 PM | In-person

Presentation Title:

Value Self-Regulation as a Protective Factor in Anxiety: Integrating Social Cognitive Theory and Logotherapy

Presentation Description:

Anxiety disorders represent one of the most prevalent mental health conditions worldwide, raising important questions about psychological mechanisms that promote emotional regulation and resilience. This presentation examines the role of value self-regulation as a potential protective factor in anxiety, integrating principles from Social Cognitive Theory and Viktor Frankl's Logotherapy. The study draws on findings from a quantitative correlational investigation conducted with adults in Brazil, which explored the relationship between value self-regulation and the intensity of anxiety symptoms. Results indicated statistically significant negative correlations between these variables, suggesting that higher levels of value-oriented self-regulation are associated with lower anxiety symptoms. The presentation discusses theoretical and clinical implications for psychotherapy.

Educational Objectives:

- Examine the concept of value self-regulation within Social Cognitive Theory and Logotherapy.
- Analyze the relationship between values and anxiety symptoms in empirical research. Discuss how value-oriented self-regulation may function as a protective psychological mechanism.
- Explore implications of value-based approaches for psychotherapy and mental health interventions.

About the Presenter:

ro Silveira Santos is a Brazilian clinical psychologist with more than 25 years of professional experience working primarily with anxiety disorders, existential suffering, and meaning-centered psychotherapy. She holds a Master's Degree in Psychology from the Universidade Católica de Petrópolis, where her research focused on the relationship between Value Self-Regulation and anxiety symptoms in Generalized Anxiety Disorder, integrating Social Cognitive Theory and Logotherapy. She holds a postgraduate specialization in Logotherapy from UNILIFE, is a member of the Associação Brasileira de Logoterapia e Análise Existencial, and is affiliated with the Viktor Frankl Institute. Her clinical work emphasizes existential meaning, values, and psychological self-regulation in psychotherapy with adolescents and adults. In addition to her clinical practice, she lectures and contributes to academic and public discussions on anxiety, mental health, and meaning-centered approaches in psychotherapy.

Dr. Cleia Zanatta Clavery Guarnido Duarte is co-author of the study presented.

Cristina Cox | 1:10 PM – 2:00 PM | In-person

Presentation Title:

Ancient Self-Knowledge and Human Freedom in the Age of the Algorithm

Presentation Description:

The paper looks at Viktor Frankl's concept of freedom in cross reference to the ancient Greek command "Know Thyself" and the Aristotelian idea of Prohairesis, in an era of digital and algorithmic prediction. Focusing on the risk of reducing a person to a pattern of consumption. Logotherapy postulates, that the self is not known via prediction, but revealed though the response we give in life. We are more than a click.

Educational Objectives:

- Evaluate the algorithmic prediction and digital attention how it may influence human freedom, responsibility, self-understanding, and the search for meaning.
- Explain how freedom and responsibility, in Logotherapy are an antidote.
- Develop a reflective understanding of how Logotherapy can speak to contemporary questions about technology, identity, attention, and human purpose

About the Presenter:

Cristina Cox is a philosophy graduate from the University of York (United Kingdom) and holds a Master's degree in First World War Studies from the University of Birmingham. Her academic interests lie at the intersection of philosophy, existential psychology, and Viktor Frankl's logotherapy, with a particular focus on freedom, responsibility, self-knowledge, and the search for meaning in contemporary life. She is currently undertaking professional training in logotherapy with the Viktor Frankl Institute of Logotherapy and integrates its principles with philosophical inquiry in her research and writing. Her work explores how classical philosophy, especially Aristotelian ethics, can enrich Frankl's understanding of human freedom and meaning while addressing modern challenges such as artificial intelligence and algorithmic decision-making. She is committed to developing a future practice dedicated to helping individuals discover meaning, resilience, and purpose through a philosophy and logotherapy-informed approach.

Klemen Kobal & Vedrana Nucak | 1:10 PM – 2:00 PM | Virtual

Presentation Title:

Meaning Beyond Victory: Elite Sport and the Search for Meaning

Presentation Description:

This article explores elite sport as a space revealing not only the limits of human performance, but also fundamental dimensions of human existence. Drawing on the existential-logotherapeutic perspective of Viktor Frankl, it examines elite sport as a context in which meaning, suffering, freedom, responsibility, and hope become central. Elite sport is presented as a form of secular asceticism, where long-term sacrifice without guaranteed success raises questions about the meaning of human striving. The article emphasises that an athlete cannot be understood solely through the result but as a person whose dignity and inner value transcend performance and sporting outcomes.

Educational Objectives:

- Examine elite sport through the lens of Logotherapy, explaining how Viktor Frankl's concepts of meaning, freedom, responsibility, and suffering illuminate the existential experiences of high-performance athletes.
- Analyze how injury, failure, uncertainty, and performance challenges can reveal an athlete's identity, resilience, and capacity to maintain hope through meaning rather than external achievement alone.
- Apply existential-logotherapeutic principles to understand how meaning-centered approaches can support psychological resilience, personal growth, and authentic human flourishing in elite sport and other high-performance environments.

About the Presenters:

Klemen Kobal is Doctor of Psychology, psychotherapist, teacher and supervisor in logotherapy, existential analysis (graduated at Zavod Žički Tabor, barbarapahljina@yahoo.com) and existential psychotherapy with more than twenty years of clinical, educational and supervisory experience in elite sport. He is founder and director of the Academy for Psychotherapy and Logotherapy in Radomlje, Slovenia (referat.apl@ko-dam.si), with a program accredited by Viktor Frankl Institute Vienna. He is a professor at the Graduate Theological Foundation (academicaaffairs@gtfeducation.org)

with expertise in sport psychotherapy and existential supervision in high-performance environments and has completed more than 10.000 hours of direct clinical practice and works with elite athletes, national teams and international sport organisations.

Vedrana Nucak holds a Master's degree in kinesiology and is a postgraduate doctoral student at the University of Zagreb, Faculty of Kinesiology (doktorski.studij@kif.unizg.hr), working on doctoral research which explores the integration of kinesiology and logotherapy, focusing on physical activity, meaning and quality of life. She is a logotherapist (graduated at LOGOS-Croatian Association for Logotherapy, logos@udrugalogos.hr) and accredited member of the Viktor Frankl Institute Vienna. Vedrana is more than ten years a private practice logotherapist based in Zagreb, Croatia (VIDA Perfecta - Counselling, vedrana@vida.com.hr), working daily with clients. She also works as a teacher, supervisor and mentor at the Academy for Psychotherapy and Logotherapy in Radomlje, Slovenia.
referat.apl@ko-dam.si

Juster Donal Sinaga | 1:10 PM – 2:00 PM | Virtual

Presentation Title:

From Trauma to Purpose: Advancing Integrative Logotherapy-Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Adolescent Survivors of Sexual Violence in Java, Indonesia

Presentation Description:

Adolescent survivors of sexual violence face profound existential disruption alongside trauma symptoms. While Cognitive Behavioral Therapy reduces distress, it often neglects meaning reconstruction. This presentation introduces Integrative Existential-Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (IE-CBT), a culturally adapted intervention uniting Frankl's logotherapeutic principles of meaning, freedom, and responsibility with Cognitive Behavioral Therapy's structured techniques. Findings from a randomized controlled trial in Indonesia demonstrate IE-CBT's superior outcomes in the presence and search for meaning, autonomy, positive relations, and purpose in life. By bridging existential and cognitive mechanisms, IE-CBT advances trauma recovery, offers culturally responsive strategies, and extends Frankl's vision of hope and self-transcendence to global adolescent populations.

Educational Objectives:

- Analyze the theoretical integration of Logotherapy and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy in trauma recovery for adolescent survivors of sexual violence.
- Evaluate the empirical evidence from a randomized controlled trial demonstrating IE-CBT's effectiveness in enhancing meaning, autonomy, and psychological well-being among adolescent survivors.
- Apply culturally responsive IE-CBT strategies to foster meaning reconstruction and promote psychological flourishing in adolescent populations affected by trauma.

About the Presenter:

Juster Donal Sinaga was born in North Sumatra Province, Indonesia. He earned a Bachelor of Education in Guidance and Counseling from Sanata Dharma University in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, and a Master of Education in Guidance and Counseling from Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia (Indonesia University of Education) in Bandung, Indonesia. He is currently pursuing his Doctoral degree in Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology at Universiti Putra Malaysia, Selangor, Malaysia. Since 2012, he has served as a lecturer in Guidance and Counseling at Sanata Dharma University, where his academic and professional work focuses on trauma recovery, crisis intervention pedagogy, and curriculum design. He developed Integrative Existential-Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (IE-CBT), an innovative model that combines Viktor Frankl's logotherapeutic principles with structured Cognitive Behavioral Therapy strategies, specifically designed and empirically tested for adolescent survivors of sexual violence in Indonesia. He completed both the Basic and

Advanced Courses in Logotherapy at The Viktor Frankl Institute of Logotherapy in Israel and has actively practiced Logotherapy in counseling sessions at the Counseling Service Center of Sanata Dharma University since 2022, applying meaning-centered approaches to foster resilience and reconstruct purpose among trauma-exposed youth.
donalsinaga@usd.ac.id

Adrian Pogacian | 1:10 PM – 2:00 PM | Virtual

Presentation Title:

The loss of meaning in oncology. Hope as the last standing lighthouse

Presentation Description:

Burnout in oncology is not limited to feelings of fatigue and the need for rest, but can be mediated by feelings of guilt and persistent responsibility. In situations of intense suffering or death, counterfactual processing (“more should have been done”, “something was omitted”) frequently occurs, which can transform occupational stress into chronic guilt. This dynamic is amplified by the duration of care and relational closeness, as well as the diversity of responsibilities, the emotional load and, sometimes, the lack of specific training to manage the psychological complexity of oncology.

Educational Objectives:

- Examine the existential and professional challenges experienced by oncology practitioners, including uncertainty, compassion fatigue, burnout, guilt, and the emotional demands of sustained engagement with suffering and mortality.
- Analyze how psychological flexibility, self-awareness, boundaries, and reflective practices can support professional resilience while maintaining empathy and person-centered care in oncology settings.
- Evaluate the role of individual and organizational responsibility in addressing burnout among oncology professionals, including the importance of supervision, institutional support, and preserving human connection in increasingly digital healthcare environments.

About the Presenter:

Adrian Pogacian PhD., licensed clinical psychologist with advanced training in psycho-oncology, holding a degree in Global Health Diplomacy from Geneva Graduate Institute, a certificate in Medical Intel Course from NATO School, Oberammergau and serves as a mentor in the MASCC Global Mentorship Program, supporting the professional development of emerging clinicians and researchers in supportive care in cancer. Currently, invited speaker and associate lecturer with focus on Coping with Cancer, Communication in Cancer Care and Fear of Cancer Recurrence. His expertise is on Complicated Grief, Posttraumatic Growth and Meaning-Centered therapy approach. Additionally, Founder of INCKA Psycho-oncology Center incka.org, Host of Beyond the Cancer Diagnosis Interview Series at OncoDaily.com, Journalist at CancerWorld.net, active contributor to the International Psycho-oncology Society, presently Co-Chair IPOS E-Health and AI (Artificial Intelligence) Special Interest Group (2025-2027), Board Member IPOS Fear of Cancer Recurrence (FORwards) Special Interest Group (2025-2027), Member MASCC* Education Committee (2025-2028). *(Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer).

Rosa Adelaida Del Valle Puente | 1:10 PM – 2:00 PM | Virtual

Presentation Title:

SILEE: Embracing Hope Through Shared Reading and Logotherapy in Mexican Public

Presentation Description:

SILEE (Integral System of Literature and Existential Encounter) is a pioneering system that integrates logotherapy, psychology, and pedagogy to accompany children in the discovery of meaning through literature. Within SILEE, hope is not taught: it is lived as an experience, together with freedom, responsibility, and the awakening of the child's noetic resources. Implemented for years in primary schools, the system turns the act of reading into an existential experience. This presentation shares its theoretical framework, its application in the classroom, and the observations that have emerged from direct work with children, teachers, and families.

Educational Objectives:

- Articulate how Frankl's noëtic dimension and the three pathways to meaning—creative, experiential, and attitudinal—can be activated in childhood through shared reading without explicit didactic instruction.
- Distinguish a logotherapeutic literary encounter from conventional pedagogical reading by identifying the essential elements of the SILEE approach, including the facilitator's role, dialogical process, group dynamics, and the use of literature as a catalyst for existential discovery.
- Evaluate the potential of the SILEE model to cultivate hope, self-transcendence, and noëtic development in educational settings while considering its applicability to diverse cultural and school contexts.

About the Presenter:

Rosa Adelaida (Rossy) Del Valle Puente holds a degree in Psychology and is a specialist in Logotherapy from Casa Viktor Frankl. She holds two master's degrees — one in Education and one in Philosophy — and a doctorate in Logotherapy from Universidad Andragógica Americana; she is currently pursuing a doctorate in Philosophy. She is director of the Semilleros de Sentido association and co-author of the SILEE system (Integral System of Literature and Existential Encounter), with nearly 30 years of professional experience and pioneering work in applying logotherapy with children.

Elizabeth McAdam | 2:25 PM – 3:15 PM | In-person

Presentation Title:

A Light in the Dark: Cultivating Connection to Meaning through Imagination

Presentation Description:

The brain responds to something we imagine happening almost as if that thing were actually happening. This is why we start to experience sensations associated with stress when imagining things going wrong. But what if we harnessed our brain's superpower for the forces of good? Even in times of suffering or stress, we can utilize imagination to feel hopeful and connect to avenues of meaning. This presentation starts a conversation about intentionally utilizing imagination to build a mental space geared toward hope, peace, and purpose where we can rest our weary minds in times of trouble.

Educational Objectives:

- Develop a deeper understanding of the power of imagination
- Explore how imagination and logotherapy intertwine
- Learn strategies utilizing imagination to reconnect with meaningful feelings of peace and hope

About the Presenter:

Elizabeth McAdam is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor at Indiana University's Counseling and Psychological Services. She graduated with a Bachelor of the Arts in both Psychology and English Writing at Indiana University

Southeast in 2015 before going on to earn a Master of Science degree in Counseling from Indiana State University in 2020. Elizabeth worked in community mental health in Madison Indiana for 3 years before entering the college counseling field at Indiana University. Elizabeth is currently enrolled as a student through the Viktor Frankl Institute of Logotherapy. Elizabeth has found that the principles of logotherapy are evident in all aspects of her life. She has witnessed the difference logotherapy can make in the personal and professional wellbeing for herself and for others.

Kendra Schaa & Anna Chassevent | 2:25 PM – 3:15 PM | In-person

Presentation Title:

Cultivating Hope in Genetic Counseling through Logotherapy

Presentation Description:

This presentation explores the application of logotherapy to genetic counseling, offering a framework for counselors and patients to navigate suffering, guilt, death, and existential distress associated with genetic diagnoses. While genetic counseling has traditionally emphasized biomedical information and non-directiveness, logotherapy provides practical techniques that support meaning-making, resilience, and values-based decision-making. Drawing on clinical experience, the presenters demonstrate how a logotherapeutic approach to genetic counseling can improve therapeutic outcomes through three case studies involving prenatal diagnosis, autism, and hereditary cancer. The presentation explores how logotherapy can strengthen genetic counseling's future as healthcare increasingly relies on technology and artificial intelligence.

Educational Objectives:

- Describe the current practice model of genetic counseling and key challenges faced in clinical care.
- Illustrate the application of logotherapy in genetic counseling through three clinical case studies.
- Analyze how logotherapy can foster hope for both the future of the profession and the patients we serve.

About the Presenters:

Anna Chassevent is a board-certified genetic counselor at the Kennedy Krieger Institute, specializing in pediatric neurogenetics. She is the lead genetic counselor for the Batten Disease and Fragile X clinics. Batten disease is a pediatric onset, fatal, neurodegenerative condition and Fragile X disease is unique in its inheritance and can affect family members in vastly different ways making counseling around family dynamics particularly complicated. Anna has also held several teaching, mentoring, and research positions. Her commitment to patient care was honored in 2020 through a nomination for the Heart of Genetic Counseling Award, a patient nominated recognition at the Genetic Counseling National Conference. Importantly, Anna is a cancer survivor and parent to an adopted foster child with developmental delays and behavioral concerns, which informs her practice and her personal journey with logotherapy. Together with Kendra and several colleagues, Anna has published a paper and given several presentations on the application of logotherapy to genetic counseling. She has completed 75 hours of continuing education through the Viktor Frankl Institute of Logotherapy.

Kendra Schaa is a board-certified genetic counselor with 15 years of clinical experience in reproductive medicine. She is the current lead of Prenatal Genetic Counseling at University of Iowa Health and founder of Allay Life, a virtual genetic counseling service to support patients who receive unexpected news in their reproductive journey. Kendra has extensive experience teaching professional communication and counseling skills to healthcare trainees and providers across the nation. She was the recipient of the 2025 Excellence in Interprofessional Education Award at the University of Iowa. She has co-authored multiple peer-reviewed publications related to genetics research and genetic counseling, including a recent publication, "Exploring the principles of logotherapy in genetic counseling: Enhancing decision-making,

adaptation, and ice.” Kendra has completed 75 hours of continuing education through the Viktor Frankl Institute of Logotherapy. She leads and participates in monthly peer supervision groups for genetic counselors, weaving logotherapeutic principles into case discussion and reflective practice.

Sonya Heckler Cheyne & Bellah Kiteki | 2:25 PM – 3:15 PM | In-person

Presentation Title:

Cultural Humility as an Existential Posture: A Logotherapeutic Bridge in Multicultural Counseling

Presentation Description:

This presentation explores the convergence of logotherapy and multicultural counseling through the lens of cultural humility, with particular attention to refugee and immigrant populations. Drawing on Viktor Frankl's conviction that meaning-seeking transcends cultural boundaries while remaining uniquely personal, this presentation positions cultural humility not merely as a clinical competency but as an existential posture already embedded in logotherapy's foundational anthropology. Logotherapeutic techniques of Socratic dialogue, dereflection, and attitudinal value exploration are reframed as culturally responsive tools that honor each client's meaning world, embodying Frankl's vision of human dignity, self-transcendence, and hope.

Educational Objectives:

- Articulate how Viktor Frankl's core logotherapeutic concepts provide a philosophical foundation for practicing cultural humility in therapeutic relationships with culturally diverse and displaced populations.
- Apply logotherapeutic techniques within a culturally humble framework, adapting their use to honor clients' culturally grounded meaning systems, drawing on clinical illustration from refugee and immigrant contexts.
- Demonstrate an existential self-reflective stance by identifying assumptions that may unconsciously shape a clinician's interpretation of culturally diverse clients' expressions of meaning, suffering, and hope, recognizing that the noetic dimension of each person exceeds any cultural category or clinical framework.
- Explain the congruence between logotherapy and existential analysis and a culturally responsive group framework developed for African refugee and immigrant youth.
- Identify how Frankl's concepts of self-transcendence and monanthropism support group-based meaning discovery while preserving the irreducibly personal nature of each participant's meaning.

About the Presenters:

Sonya Heckler Cheyne, PhD, LPC-, NCC is a Professor in the Department of Counselor Education and Family Studies, Clinical Mental Health Counseling program at Liberty University. She has earned a PhD in Counselor Education and Supervision from Regent University, a master's degree from Hardin-Simmons University, and a bachelors from Texas Tech University. She holds credentials as a Licensed Professional Counselor and Supervisor in Texas, a National Certified Counselor, and a Diplomate Clinician through the Viktor Frankl Institute of Logotherapy, where she serves on the Institute's Board of Directors, the Faculty, and is a Lifetime Member. Dr. Heckler Cheyne presents at the state, national, and international levels. smheckler@liberty.edu

Bellah Kiteki, PhD [bkiteki@liberty.edu] holds a PhD in Counselor Education and Supervision from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro is a Licensed Professional Counselor in Ohio and Illinois and a Nationally Certified Counselor. Dr. Bellah Kiteki is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Counselor Education and Family Studies, Clinical Mental Health Counseling program at Liberty University, is a published author in national and international peer-reviewed journals and is editorial board member reviewer for the Journal of Counselor Preparation and Supervision (JCPS). Her scholarship spans clinical supervision, refugee populations, group work, and multicultural and diversity

issues. Her clinical practice focuses on helping clients navigate and make meaning of life's experiences. In her clinical supervision, she consistently guides emerging counselors in applying Logotherapy principles to strengthen their case conceptualization skills, deepen their understanding of client meaning making, and enhance their overall development as reflective practitioners.

Gerald Finch | 2:25 PM – 3:15 PM | Virtual

Presentation Title:

The Unchosen Life: How Default Living Erodes Hope, Meaning, Freedom, and Responsibility

Presentation Description:

This paper examines the “unchosen life” — a mode of living shaped largely by inherited beliefs, goals, identities, and assumptions that remain insufficiently examined or consciously chosen. Drawing from Logotherapy, existential psychology, and emerging work on mental operating systems, the presentation argues that default living may quietly erode four concerns central to Viktor Frankl's thought: hope, meaning, freedom, and responsibility. When individuals live primarily from inherited scripts rather than reflective self-authorship, they may experience existential drift, diminished meaning, obscured freedom, and weakened responsibility. The presentation proposes the consciously authored life as a useful framework for understanding contemporary struggles with identity, uncertainty, and existential hope.

Educational Objectives:

- Define and explain the concept of the unchosen life and describe how inherited beliefs, identities, assumptions, and mental frameworks may influence human functioning without conscious awareness.
- Differentiate between default living and the consciously authored life by evaluating the role of reflection, intentionality, and personal responsibility in the discovery of meaning.
- Apply principles of Logotherapy to help individuals recognize hidden assumptions and mental operating systems that may limit existential freedom, fostering greater self-awareness and intentional engagement with life's meaning.

About the Presenter:

Gerald L. Finch, PhD, is a professor of Existential Psychology and other psychology courses at Universidad San Francisco de Quito and is researching the relationship among unexamined interpretive systems, psychological lostness and meaninglessness, and the capacity for genuine contribution. The theoretical framework underlying this research is fully developed in “Mental Operating System Theory: Toward a Framework for Examining the Invisible Systems That Shape Human Experience”. He attended the Introductory Logotherapy Course in Berkeley, California, with Will Finck, and attended the Intermediate Course in Logotherapy in Kansas City with Elisabeth Lukas. He has published various articles in the International Forum for Logotherapy. geraldfinch5@gmail.com

Leonardo Alfonsius Paulus Lalenoh | 2:25 PM – 3:15 PM | Virtual

Presentation Title:

Hope from Southern Epistemologies: Narration of Courage in Search for Meaning of a Young Psychiatrist from Indonesia

Presentation Description:

Growing from a tropical and dynamic country of Indonesia, this presentation highlights the existential journey of a young psychiatrist to find meaning. Rooted with different cultural immersion, this session proposes the hermeneutic autoethnographic perspective regarding mental health, as a growing seeds across the life course from dyadic

relationship to ego integration. At the same time, the positionality statement was engulfed in the post-colonialism awareness, political climate, social dynamic and polycrisis. This is an invitation to embrace uncertainty as a potential transition to growth. At the same time promoting hope and courage as the catalysts for mental health transformation.

Educational Objectives:

- Explain the role of meaning-making during hardship, uncertainty and global political atmosphere
- Reflect on the southern hemisphere cultural perspective on mental health conception
- Understand the role of psychiatrist to promote local wisdom-based collective resilience in dealing with precariousness

About the Presenter:

Leonardo Alfonsius Paulus Lalenoh, MD, M.Sc. is an Indonesian psychiatrist and global mental health advocate with academic and professional experience spanning psychiatry, clinical epidemiology, geriatric mental health, digital psychiatry, and community-based psychosocial care. He completed his psychiatry residency at the Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Indonesia and previously earned a Master's degree in Clinical Epidemiology from Universitas Gadjah Mada. His scholarly interests include psychogeriatrics, digital mental health innovation, mental health diplomacy, cultural psychiatry, and psychotherapy. In recent years, he has developed a growing interest in existential and meaning-centered psychotherapy, particularly in understanding loneliness, aging, identity, suffering, and the search for meaning within rapidly changing social and technological environments. Influenced by existential thought and cross-cultural perspectives in psychiatry, he is especially interested in how existential themes emerge in older adults, vulnerable populations, and contemporary urban societies. Dr. Lalenoh has participated in numerous international fellowships and academic programs, including activities with the Alzheimer's Association, American Psychiatric Association, World Association for Dynamic Psychiatry, and global mental health initiatives across Asia, Europe, and Africa. His publications and presentations reflect an interdisciplinary approach that bridges psychiatry, public health, digital innovation, and humanistic perspectives in mental healthcare.

Peta McCullagh & Paul McQuillan | 2:25 PM – 3:15 PM | Virtual

Presentation Title:

The Coherence Model: Revealing the Architecture of Conscious Meaning-making - Navigating Hope in a Chaotic World

Presentation Description:

Logotherapy proposes that the will to meaning is a primary motivational force. Yet the path to hope is not always clear. But what if, beneath the complexity of human life, there lay a map that revealed an underlying organisational architecture? The Coherence Model proposes that coherent and incoherent patterns of self-organisation arise from a fundamental, invariant architecture. Coherent systems originate in the inward organisation of self before extending outward in authentic relational reciprocity. Incoherence follows a reverse sequence that progressively polarises toward hyper-fragmentation or hypo-collapse. Recognising this invariant architecture unlocks a clearer path toward coherent hope and understanding.

Educational Objectives:

- Recognise how the constructive engagement of relational opposition contributes to coherent meaning-making, sustainable adaptation, and psychological development.
- Understand how coherence emerges through the ordered organisation of identity, internal meaning-making, and reciprocal relational engagement, enabling sustainable participation across uncertainty and change.

- Apply an organisational framework to distinguish between coherent and incoherent patterns of adaptation by recognising how relational opposition can generate authentic repair and sustainable development or progressive polarisation.

About the Presenters:

Peta McCullagh holds a Master of Counselling from the University of Southern Queensland. Her clinical practice and research into meaning-making, identity, and resilience led to the development of the Coherence Model, a theoretical framework that investigates the invariant organisational architecture underlying coherent and incoherent patterns of human meaning-making. Her recently completed Master's thesis explored meaning-making as a dialectical systems process. Her current research integrates existential psychology with organisational and systems theory to further develop the Coherence Model and its applications to human functioning and flourishing. petamccullagh@gmail.com

Dr Paul McQuillan holds a Doctor of Psychology in Franklian Psychology from the Graduate Theological Foundation, a Doctor of Philosophy on Religious Experience, a Master of Education in Guidance and Counselling, and additional qualifications in Education, Leadership, and Management. He completed the Diplomate with the Viktor Frankl Institute of Logotherapy (USA) in 2011 and is a Life Member of the Viktor Frankl Institute of Logotherapy (USA) and a member of the Viktor Frankl Institute Vienna. Dr McQuillan has taught Logotherapy at the University of Southern Queensland and Ethics at the University of Queensland, and developed the Australian curriculum in Logotherapy. paul@lifechange.net.au

Michael Winters | 2:25 PM – 3:15 PM | Virtual

Presentation Title:

Hope, Love, and Human Encounter in Chaotic Times: Philosophical and Clinical Considerations of Relational Logotherapy

Presentation Description:

Although Frankl proclaims that “love is the ultimate and the highest goal to which man can aspire”, his writings do not explore the philosophical and practical dimensions of love in depth. This workshop offers a relationally informed understanding of Logotherapy grounded in encounter, ethical responsibility, and human dignity. It expands Logotherapy's treatment of love and its clinical applications. The first half connects Frankl's views with existential and phenomenological perspectives on love, especially those of Martin Buber, Emmanuel Levinas, and Jessica Benjamin. It then examines how relational Logotherapy can be practiced in psychotherapy and everyday life.

Educational Objectives:

- Describe Frankl's understanding of love as a form of self-transcendence and meaning-discovery, including its philosophical connections with Martin Buber.
- Trace key relational themes from Buber through Emmanuel Levinas and Jessica Benjamin
- Explain the core principles of Relational Logotherapy as an emerging extension of classical Logotherapy centered on love, encounter, and relationships.

About the Presenter:

Michael Winters, PhD, is a diplomate in Logotherapy. He maintains a private psychology practice in Houston, Texas, USA. He is on the teaching Faculty of the Viktor Frankl Institute of Logotherapy. He was awarded a Doctorate in

Philosophy in Counseling Psychology from the University of Memphis and a Master of Science in Counseling from Purdue University. He also holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Communication from Western Kentucky University.

Joseph Erdos | 3:25 PM – 4:15 PM | In-person

Presentation Title:

Zenlogos: An exploration of the relationships between Eastern Religions, Frankl's Mountaineering and Logotherapy

Presentation Description:

A number of formal papers examine the relationship between Middle Eastern religions, Frankl's life, Logotherapy and Hope. Importantly, Joseph B. Fabry discussed his interaction with Frankl in his paper Logotherapy and Eastern Religions. Michael Holzer and Klaus Haselböck retraced Frankl's Austrian climbs and provide insight into Frankl's climbing environment, partners and its influence on the refinement of Logotherapy in Berg und Sinn. I will also discuss my thoughts on Taoist thinking and mindfulness and will share photos and haikus taken and written on my daily journey to work on my bicycle to discover beauty, meaning and purpose in everyday life.

Educational Objectives:

- Participants will be introduced to the role Eastern religions played in the development of concepts in Logotherapy
- Participants will be able to appreciate the influence of climbing and mountaineering on Frankl's life, his ability to survive concentration camps, and the refinement of Logotherapy
- Participants will be exposed to mindfulness and through it Embrace Hope through the Tao Te ching, photographs and haikus that help us discover meaning and purpose in everyday life no matter how difficult the circumstances may be.

About the Presenter:

My name is **Joseph Erdos**. I have a Bachelor's of Art Degree in Biology and Chemistry, Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmacology and a Doctor of Medicine all from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. I completed an Internship in Internal Medicine, a Residency in Psychiatry and a Fellowship in Molecular Pharmacology at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. I am Board Certified in Psychiatry and Medical Informatics and am an Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Yale University. I have worked in the Department of Veterans Affairs in West Haven, Connecticut since nineteen ninety in various capacities; Chief of Outpatient Psychiatry, Director of the Schizophrenia Clinic, Attending Psychiatrist in the Women's Clinic, Chief Information Officer and Director of Medical Informatics. During my career in the Veterans Affairs I have predominantly treated veterans with combat trauma and post traumatic stress and veterans who have experience military sexual trauma. I began studying mindfulness and Logotherapy as a discipline to help treat post traumatic stress and suicidality and to provide hope and a way forward for these individuals to recover. Joseph.erdosmd@med.va.gov or joseph.erdos@yale.edu

Catalina Arzoz Gutiérrez | 3:25 PM – 4:15 PM | In-person

Presentation Title:

The Invisible Cure: Tragic Hope and the Humanization of Healthcare

Presentation Description:

Modern healthcare has achieved extraordinary scientific and technological advances, yet patients, families, and healthcare professionals continue to experience profound existential suffering. Drawing upon Viktor Frankl's concept of tragic hope, this presentation explores how healing extends beyond clinical treatment through meaning, presence,

responsibility, and authentic human encounter. Participants will examine the distinction between curing and healing and discover how a meaning-centered approach can foster dignity, resilience, and hope even when cure is no longer possible. Through logotherapeutic principles and practical applications, this presentation proposes “the invisible cure” as a pathway toward the humanization of healthcare.

Educational Objectives:

- Explain Viktor Frankl’s concept of tragic hope and its relevance within contemporary healthcare settings.
- Distinguish between curing and healing from a logotherapeutic perspective.
- Apply principles of meaning, responsibility, and authentic encounter to clinical and caregiving relationships.
- Identify practical ways to promote dignity and hope in situations involving illness, chronic conditions, caregiving, and end-of-life care.
- Integrate a meaning-centered approach into professional practice while respecting cultural and personal differences.

About the Presenter:

Catalina Arzoz Gutiérrez is a Mexican psychotherapist, educator, editor, and advocate for Logotherapy and Existential Analysis. She holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Pedagogy, a Master’s Degree in Psychoanalytic Research from AMPIEP, and a Specialist Degree in Logotherapy and Existential Analysis from SMAEL. She is professionally licensed by Mexico’s Ministry of Public Education. She is Director General of Grupo Siendo Humanos, an institution accredited by the International Association of Logotherapy and Existential Analysis at the Viktor Frankl Institute Vienna, and Director of Ediciones LAG. Leticia Ascencio de García, a leading figure in Mexican Logotherapy, entrusted her with continuing her legacy through this publishing house and the renewed Mexican Journal of Logotherapy, of which Arzoz is a founding member. She created and organizes the Mexican Conferences on Logotherapy, conceived as a service to the community and a space for building bridges among institutions and international leaders, faithful to Viktor Frankl’s concept of monanthropism. Each conference explores how Logotherapy can respond to contemporary challenges: the first brought together 16 Mexican institutes; the second addressed meaning-centered education; the third focuses on the medical ministry and humanizing healthcare; and the fourth is planned to explore meaning in the workplace.

Dan Hostetler | 3:25 PM – 4:15 PM | In-person

Presentation Title:

Meaning-First Behavioral Health and SUD Recovery

Presentation Description:

This program explains the presenter’s behavioral health model of treating substance use disorder as a symptom of an underlying loss of meaning, using Logotherapy as the primary antidote to the “existential vacuum.” Through unique assessment, individualized treatment planning, and meaning-focused dialogue, patients are helped to uncover their unique purpose and answer “What is life asking of you?” Evidence-based modalities such as CBT/REBT, motivational interviewing, contingency management, mutual self-help (AA, SMART, Recovery Dharma), spirituality, vocational readiness, and community reconnection are framed as adjunct tools that support this central work of discovering and living out meaning, enabling sustainable abstinence, growth, and service.

Educational Objectives:

- Develop a grasp of Logotherapy as an antidote to the existential vacuum driving substance use disorders.
- Recognize substance use disorder as a maladaptive coping response to underlying losses of meaning, purpose, and connection.

- Strengthen the capacity to help patients uncover personal life purpose and meaning as a central task of recovery.

About the Presenter:

Dan Hostetler holds a Master of Nonprofit Management from North Park University, two state of Illinois recognized professional certifications in alcohol and other drug counseling (CADC and CODP I), and a Diplomate in Logotherapy from the Viktor Frankl Institute of Logotherapy. He currently serves as Chief Behavioral Officer of an outpatient behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment center, where he has developed and implemented education-focused, meaning-centered recovery programming grounded in Viktor Frankl's Logotherapy. Mr. Hostetler is the current President of the Viktor Frankl Institute of Logotherapy and concurrently serves as President of SMART Recovery USA, an evidence-based mutual-self-help program that he prefers to his native AA (Alcoholics Anonymous). He is active in thought leadership and regularly applies Logotherapy in individual counseling, group facilitation, and program design. He can be contacted at dhostetler@gmail.com.

Salvatore Grammatico | 3:25 PM – 4:15 PM | Virtual

Presentation Title:

The Existential Circumplex: A Preliminary Model of Meaning in Life and Self-Transcendence

Presentation Description:

The present study introduces the Existential Circumplex, a preliminary framework for understanding existential functioning through the interaction between meaning in life and self-transcendence. Building on Viktor Frankl's logotherapeutic tradition and circumplex models in psychology, the model conceptualises existential experience as a dynamic field organised around two complementary dimensions. A pilot study (N = 300) explored the psychometric plausibility of the Circumplex Questionnaire of Existential Forces (CQEF) using multidimensional scaling and exploratory analyses. Preliminary findings suggest that existential functioning may display a multidimensional structure related to meaning, relational openness, identity cohesion, and transformative processes associated with hope, resilience, and personal growth.

Educational Objectives:

- Explain the theoretical relationship between meaning in life and self-transcendence within Viktor Frankl's Logotherapy and discuss how these dimensions contribute to hope, resilience, and existential well-being.
- Examine the structure and preliminary empirical findings of the Existential Circumplex, including its eight existential configurations and the use of circumplex methodology to assess patterns of existential functioning.
- Evaluate the potential clinical, educational, and counseling applications of the Existential Circumplex for identifying patterns of existential distress, supporting meaning reconstruction, and informing meaning-centered interventions across diverse settings.

About the Presenter:

Salvatore Grammatico, PsyD, PhD, is a psychologist, psychotherapist, and invited lecturer at the Salesian Pontifical University (Rome). He serves as Head of Healthcare Services at Caritas Rome, coordinating multidisciplinary services for people living with HIV/AIDS, Alzheimer's disease, migrants, refugees, and survivors of torture. His research focuses on meaning in life, self-transcendence, existential functioning, and the integration of psychology, spirituality, and contemporary scientific perspectives. Together with Giuseppe Crea, he developed the Existential Circumplex, a theoretical and empirical model describing existential functioning through the interaction of Meaning in Life and Self-

Transcendence. He is the author of *The Theory of the Inner Everything: A Symbolic Journey through Psyche, Universe and Gospel*, and has published scientific and educational works on psychological assessment, dementia, and existential psychology. His current interests include the dialogue between logotherapy, neuroscience, physics, and Christian anthropology, with particular attention to practical applications in psychotherapy and the care of vulnerable populations.

Rodney Dieser | 3:25–4:15 PM | Virtual

Presentation Title:

Understanding Viktor Frankl's Outdoor Pursuits: The Self-Transcendence Writing/Centripetal Leisure Nexus that Harkens Back to Aristotle's Classical Leisure and Berman's Neuroscience Explanation of How Nature Can Influence Self-Transcendence

Presentation Description:

At a simple activity-observation level, Viktor Frankl engaged with nature primarily through mountain-climbing and solitude. This interdisciplinary paper has three main goals. First, to explain that Frankl's engagement in nature was connected to self-transcendence, which is deeply connected to Frankl's writing and concept of centripetal leisure. Second, and what is new to the Frankl literature, is the proposition that Frankl's self-transcendence writing/centripetal leisure nexus harkens back to Aristotle's concept of classical leisure. Third, and also new to the Frankl literature, is the use of Berman's neuroscience framework to explain how being in nature creates existential self-transcendence reflection.

Educational Objectives:

- Differentiate Frankl's self-transcendence writing/centripetal leisure nexus and its relationship to nature.
- Describe how Frankl's centripetal leisure harkens back to Aristotle's classical leisure
- Articulate how soft fascination concentration in nature allows existential reflection and self-transcendence to energy (a neuroscience explanation of how nature can influence self-transcendence)

About the Presenter:

Rodney Dieser, Ph.D., LMHC is a Professor at the University of Northern Iowa in the Department of Learning, Leadership and Community and is an affiliated faculty member in the Department of Counseling. Dr. Dieser believes in a scholar/researcher-practitioner model of academia, and as such, he has published over 150 articles and eight books and works 10 hours a week as a Licensed Mental Health Counselor at Wartburg College. He is a Diplomate Clinician with the Viktor Frankl Institute of Logotherapy and serves as the Editor of the International Forum for Logotherapy.

Manuela Schlick & Christoph Schlick | 3:25 PM – 4:15 PM | Virtual

Presentation Title:

Cultivating Hope in Teacher Education: A Logotherapeutic Exploration of Meaning and Values

Presentation Description:

Teacher educators play a crucial role in shaping future generations as they serve as multipliers of educational ideas and theories. Drawing on Logotherapy and Existential Analysis, this presentation introduces the concept of Value Dynamics as a framework for understanding how meaning is experienced and sustained in the professional life of teacher educators. Combining conceptual reflections with findings from an international questionnaire-based study, the presentation explores how values and meaning-experience contribute to professional responsibility, resilience, and motivation. The findings illustrate how meaning-centered perspectives can strengthen hope in challenging times and self-transcendence within educational contexts.

Educational Objectives:

- Explain Frankl's three value categories and their relevance to professional meaning. Describe Value Dynamics as a framework for understanding meaning at work.
- Analyze how meaning, responsibility, autonomy, and competence support resilience.
- Identify ways to foster self-transcendence and hope in professional practice.
- Reflect on how meaning-centered approaches sustain professional commitment.

About the Presenters:

Manuela Schlick is professor of English methodology at the University of Education Stefan Zweig Salzburg, Austria, and has 18 years of experience as a teacher educator, teacher, and researcher. She is a trained Logotherapist and counselor and serves as Pedagogical Supervisor for the Institute of Logotherapy and Existential Analysis Salzburg. She leads an international research group on the experience of meaning in education for the Association of Teacher Education in Europe, coordinating research projects involving scholars from multiple countries. She studied Philosophy, English, and Spanish at the Universities of Erlangen, Freiburg, and Munich and holds a PhD in English Language Pedagogy and General Pedagogy from Ludwig-Maximilian-University, Munich. Her publications include *Professional Teacher Language* (2022) and the edited volume *Being and Becoming a Language Teacher Educator* (2025). Manuela applies Logotherapy and Existential Analysis to educational contexts through teacher education, training, coaching, and leadership development. She chairs the ATEE Research Group "Empowering Teacher Education" and serves as RDCs coordinator. Together with Christoph Schlick, she developed and evaluated Value Dynamics in educational settings, reaching more than 4,000 teachers and educators through international projects since 2018. m.schlick@logotherapie-salzburg.at

Christoph Schlick is the founder and director of the SinnZENTRUM Salzburg and the Institute for Logotherapy and Existential Analysis Salzburg. He studied Law and Theology at Karl-Franzens-University Graz, Austria; Paris-Lodron-University Salzburg, Austria; and Pontificio Ateneo S. Anselmo in Rome, Italy. He served as a teacher at Abteigymnasium Seckau and spent more than 20 years as a Benedictine monk at Seckau Abbey, where he also worked as economic director and school developer. In the 1990s, he began his training in Logotherapy and Existential Analysis under Elisabeth Lukas. In 2001, he founded the Institute of Logotherapy and Existential Analysis Salzburg, where he has since trained psychological counselors through more than 20 extensive LTEA programs and provided continuing education and supervision for logotherapists in Austria, Germany, and internationally. Christoph Schlick has lectured at universities and higher education institutions and has developed several logotherapeutic approaches, including the eight dimensions of noos, meaning-of-life relationships, seven steps of reconciliation, and a logotherapeutic approach to trauma therapy. He

has published three monographs, two edited volumes, and numerous papers. His collaborative work includes Imaginative Logotherapy and Existential Analysis and educational concepts such as value dynamics.

ch.schlick@logotherapie-salzburg.at

Tommy Liang | 3:25 PM – 4:15 PM | Virtual

Presentation Title:

Development of a Modified Program with a Treatment Workbook for Meaning-Centered Group Psychotherapy for Chinese Patients with Advanced Cancer

Presentation Description:

A randomized controlled trial showed that meaning-centered group psychotherapy (MCGP) effectively improves spiritual well-being and psychological functioning in patients with advanced cancer. To address cultural barriers and transitoriness of healthspan, a modified 4-week face-to-face MCGP was implemented, featuring a treatment workbook tailored for Chinese patients. This included existential topics, celebrity survivor stories, selected Cantopop, and experiential exercises. Over 12 months, 15 patients participated, resulting in improved spiritual well-being and reduced distress. The workbook serves as an effective, culturally relevant tool for healthcare professionals to support patients in finding meaning during treatment

Educational Objectives:

- Develop culture-sensitivity in the practice of group logotherapy
- Cultivate creativity, courage, and the use of self in delivering existential themes
- Support the use of treatment workbook and an embodied learning approach in existential psychotherapy

About the Presenter:

Dr. Tommy K. Liang, PsyD, RSW, is the service manager at the Hong Kong Cancer Fund, with extensive counseling, teaching and research experience in existentialism, family social work, and cancer care. An Accredited Member of the International Association of Logotherapy and Existential Analysis and a Fellow in Thanatology of the Association for Death Education and Counseling, he has focused his practice with cancer patients and their families on meaning-centered interventions, trauma therapy, and marriage and family counseling. Tommy has published various articles in mental health and psycho-oncology. His notable works include his first monograph, “The Theory and Practice of Running Therapy,” published in 2009, and several presentations at prestigious conferences, including the 2016 World Congress of Psycho-Oncology. His research has included explorations of men’s experiences with depression, peer support initiatives for cancer patients, and case studies on family dynamics in the context of illness. His more recent presentations address topics like a logotherapeutic approach for homebound patients in the 23rd World Congress of the Viktor E. Frankl Institute of Logotherapy in 2021, and “Towards A New Treatment Workbook For Meaning- Centered Group Psychotherapy (MCGP) For Chinese Patients With Advanced Cancer” presented in the Hong Kong Mental Health Conference 2025.

Day Three | Friday, September 25, 2026

Monika Poznańska | 2:30 PM – 3:20 PM | In-person

Presentation Title:

Meaning-Centered Presence: Logotherapy as a Foundation for Psycho-oncological Care

Presentation Description:

This presentation explores Viktor Frankl's Logotherapy as a foundational approach to psycho-oncological care focused on meaning-centered presence. It examines how attentive therapeutic presence, existential reflection, and personal responsibility support resilience, dignity, and spiritual well-being in patients facing cancer. Drawing on clinical practice in individual and group settings, the program illustrates how meaning-oriented interventions help patients and caregivers navigate suffering, loss, and uncertainty across the illness trajectory. Emphasis is placed on practical applications that enhance communication, emotional attunement, and the clinician's capacity to accompany patients in discovering meaning even under conditions of profound stress and vulnerability.

Educational Objectives:

Identify core principles of Logotherapy relevant to psycho-oncological care.

- Apply meaning-centered presence in clinical encounters with oncology patients.
- Integrate meaning-oriented interventions that support dignity, responsibility, and spiritual well-being.

About the Presenter:

Monika Poznańska is a psycho-oncologist and logotherapist based in Kraków, Poland. She provides individual and group psychotherapy for oncology patients grounded in Logotherapy and Existential Analysis, focusing on meaning discovery, responsibility, hope, and the noetic dimension in situations of illness and existential crisis. She holds a Master of Arts degree in Family Studies from the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Kraków and completed postgraduate studies in Psycho-oncology at the Jagiellonian University Medical College in Kraków, Poland. She also completed the full Logotherapy and Existential Analysis training program for clinical practice accredited by the Viktor Frankl Institute in Vienna, Austria. She represents the Krakow Institute of Logotherapy in Poland. terapia.duchowa@gmail.com

Ann-Marie Neale | 2:30 PM – 3:20 PM | In-person

Presentation Title:

Viktor Frankl's Logotherapy as a Vision of Hope for Meaning-Centered Aging

Presentation Description:

Logotherapy is a vision of hope for meaning-centered aging. Dr. Viktor Frankl stated, "life has meaning to the last breath." Perhaps turning 80 is another opportunity for self-transcendence. Dr. Frankl lived to age 92; Dr. (honorary) Eleonore Frankl lived to age 100; and Dr. Edith Eger lived to age 98. By example, they show that meaning in the moment is a gift of living to age 80 and beyond. I share my initial angst and how we can follow in their footsteps. Logotherapeutic methods such as dereflection are discussed. Logotherapy-Lived is a vision of hope that happiness through self-transcendence is possible even with the challenges that aging brings.

Educational Objectives:

- To observe the lives of Viktor and Eleonor Frankl, and Edith Eva Eger at the age of 80 as examples of hope for the elderly.

- Provide how Socratic dialogue can be used to help elderly clients and loved ones discover meaning in the moments of their lives.
- Explain the importance of deflection and paradoxical intention when helping elderly clients and loved ones.

About the Presenter:

Dr. Ann-Marie Neale is a faculty member, education coordinator, and board secretary of the Viktor Frankl Institute of Logotherapy. She earned her PhD in Clinical Psychology from Michigan State University and became a Diplomate in Logotherapy in 2009, after which she began teaching courses through the Viktor Frankl Institute of Logotherapy. Inspired by Viktor Frankl's message of hope, meaning discovery, and self-transcendence, Dr. Neale has dedicated much of her professional work to advancing Logotherapy and Existential Analysis. She received the Rosemary Henrion Memorial Award for Excellence in Educational Leadership in 2017 and the Statue of Responsibility Award in 2019 for her international leadership in promoting the work of Viktor E. Frankl. She is an Accredited Member of the International Association of Logotherapy and Existential Analysis, Vienna. Dr. Neale serves as the Karen Horney Professor of Counseling and Psychology at The Graduate Theological Foundation, where she supervises doctoral theses and teaches courses in Logotherapy, disaster mental health, and psychology of religion. She previously served over 10 years as a disaster mental health specialist with the American Red Cross and is a member of a forensic neuropsychology team. She also serves as an international advisor to the Journal of Logotherapy Studies at the Krakow Institute of Logotherapy in Poland.

Solomon Makola | 2:30 PM – 3:20 PM | In-person

Presentation Title:

An Exploration of Divine Narrative Mentoring (DiNaMe) Framework

Presentation Description:

This paper explores the Divine Narrative Mentoring (DiNaMe) framework, a spiritually grounded mentoring model integrating narrative therapy, psychological insight, and theological reflection. Drawing on Viktor Frankl's logotherapy and narrative therapy principles, DiNaMe guides individuals toward discovering meaning and purpose. The paper examines Makola's theoretical approach and narrative-based mentoring practices, particularly as presented in *Seventy Women and One Man: Meetings with Remarkable Women*. It positions DiNaMe within contemporary psychospiritual mentoring frameworks and highlights its potential to foster personal transformation, resilience, and identity development across diverse socio-cultural and spiritual contexts.

Educational Objectives:

- Explain the core principles of the DiNaMe framework.
- Analyze narratives as tools for meaning, healing, and identity development.
- Apply DiNaMe mentoring strategies to promote personal growth and transformation.

About the Presenter:

Professor Solomon Makola is a South African Counselling Psychologist, Child Psychologist, Psychometrist, academic, and NRF C-rated researcher. He is the Director of Institutional Renewal and Transformation in the Office of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal at the Central University of Technology (CUT), Free State, South Africa. He holds a PhD in Child Psychology from the University of the Free State. His doctoral thesis, *Meaning in Life and Life Stressors as Predictors of First-Year Academic Performance* (2007), reflects his longstanding commitment to Viktor Frankl's logotherapy and the role of meaning in human flourishing. Professor Makola is an Associate Member of the Viktor Frankl Institute of Logotherapy and has actively advanced Frankl's meaning-centred philosophy through research, teaching, clinical

practice, and international conference presentations. His research interests include logotherapy, meaning-centred psychology, forgiveness, positive psychology, integral spirituality, and institutional culture transformation. He is the author of *Find Meaning, Stop Wondering* (2016), *Pimp the Pain: Purpose Inspired Dialogues* (2017), and *Seventy Women and One Man: Meetings with Remarkable Women* (2021). His recent scholarship introduces the Divine Narrative Mentoring (DiNaMe) framework, an integrative model that combines logotherapy, narrative therapy, and spiritual mentoring to promote healing, resilience, identity development, and purpose. Beyond academia, he has delivered more than 1,000 psychoeducational broadcasts on South African national radio, making meaning-centred psychology accessible to diverse communities.

Keisuke Noda | 2:30 PM – 3:20 PM | Virtual

Presentation Title:

Hope Between Mortality and Beginning: Natality as the Ontological Horizon of Meaning in Viktor Frankl

Presentation Description:

Viktor Frankl's logotherapy affirms that meaning remains possible even in the presence of suffering, guilt, and death. Yet the philosophical ground of this hope remains insufficiently clarified. This presentation argues that hope becomes intelligible when human existence is understood not only through mortality but also through natality—the human capacity to begin. Drawing on Martin Heidegger's analysis of possibility and Hannah Arendt's concept of natality, the presentation interprets natality through the lens of Frankl's philosophy of meaning. From this perspective, Frankl's pathways to meaning—creative, experiential, and attitudinal values—emerge as concrete enactments of natality, through which the human capacity to begin discloses meaning even within the limits of suffering, guilt, and death.

Educational Objectives:

- Explain why existential anxiety arising from death, guilt, and suffering does not eliminate the possibility of hope.
- Describe how Hannah Arendt's concept of natality—the human capacity to begin—clarifies hope in Frankl's sense.
- Reinterpret Frankl's three pathways to meaning—creative, experiential, and attitudinal values—as concrete enactments of natality.

About the Presenter:

Keisuke Noda, Ph.D., is Professor of Philosophy and Associate Provost at HJ International Graduate School for Peace and Public Leadership in New York. He earned the Ph.D. and M.A. in philosophy from The New School for Social Research and a Bachelor of Engineering in Applied Physics from Waseda University in Tokyo, Japan. He is a Diplomate in Logo-philosophy from the Viktor Frankl Institute of Logotherapy and has conducted research on Viktor Frankl's philosophy from phenomenological and hermeneutic perspectives. He is the author of *The Limits of Religion and the Meaning of Life: The Perspective of Viktor Frankl* (Art Village, Japan). His other books include *Philosophers I Met in My Dreams: From Plato to Dōgen — A Deep and Enjoyable Tale* (Art Village, Japan, 2025) and *Even So, I Go On Living: Why "Ordinary" People Think About Suicide* (Art Village, Japan, 2010). He also created *Encounters: Philosophy and the Question of Being Human in the Age of Artificial Intelligence* (encounters-philosophy.org), whose Episodes series presents short videos that place philosophical issues into narrative form. k.noda@hji.edu

Tom Edmondson | 2:30 PM – 3:20 PM | Virtual

Presentation Title:

Embracing and Embodying Hope as a Value

Presentation Description:

This paper examines the nature of hope, arguing that it is not a quality to be acquired through sheer will, but rather an inherent value-concept that must be awakened and expressed. Drawing on the existential insights of Viktor Frankl, the author posits that faith, hope, and love exist within the "spiritual unconscious" and cannot be established by command. To bridge the gap between internal awakening and societal expression, the paper utilizes Max Kadushin's theory of value-concepts. This framework illustrates how abstract cultural values (moral "oughts") gain specific meaning through the process of concretization.

Educational Objectives:

- Distinguish between hope as a "willed" acquisition and hope as an inherent, embodied value.
- Analyze the relationship between the "spiritual unconscious" and the process of bringing dormant hope to consciousness.
- Describe the process of concretization—how indefinite values become specific through encounter with real-world situations.
- Define the "mass neurotic triad" (depression, addiction, and aggression)

About the Presenter:

Tom Edmondson, BA from Atlanta Christian College, Master of Theological Studies (MTS) from Candler School of Theology, and Master of Arts in Jewish Studies from Emory University. Ordained in 1992 and transferred to the Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ). Tom earned the Certificate in Pastoral Logotherapy from the Graduate Theological Foundation in 2023. He earned the Certificate in Noëtic Care and Counseling in 2024 and the Diplomate in Viktor Frankl's Logo-Philosophy from the Viktor Frankl Institute of Logotherapy in 2025. In 2026 Tom became an Accredited member of the International Association of Logotherapy and Existential Analysis (Viktor Frankl Institute, Vienna). Books: *Faith Greater Than Our Challenges: What the Apostle Paul and Viktor Frankl Can Teach Us about Difficult Times* published in 2021 by Wipf & Stock, and *Introduction to Pastoral Logotherapy: A Psychology of the Human Spirit for Pastoral Care and Counseling*, forthcoming, Wipf & Stock. Websites and Institute: Pastoral Logotherapy (www.pastorallogotherapy.com), features articles, interviews, and other resources from around the world. In 2026 Tom founded the Atlanta Center for Logotherapy (www.atlantacenterforlogotherapy) which facilitates Logotherapy sessions for individuals and groups, book studies, workshops/seminars, and a curriculum for studying Logotherapy.

Zeynep Esenli | 2:30 PM – 3:20 PM | Virtual

Presentation Title:

Reconciliation and Meaning Through Literature: A Logotherapeutic Reading of Sophocles' Antigone

Presentation Description:

This presentation explores the experiences of an open literature reading group inspired by Viktor Frankl's Logotherapy and Existential Analysis. The group seeks to understand major works of world literature through a meaning-centered and phenomenological perspective, emphasizing the uniquely human capacities for freedom, responsibility, conscience, and self-transcendence. Following discussions on Thomas Mann's *The Magic Mountain* and Goethe's *Faust*, the group turned toward the heroic world of Homer and the tragedies of ancient Greece. In particular, Sophocles' *Antigone* became a powerful example for exploring existential responsibility, moral conscience, reconciliation, and the tension between external conditions and inner freedom. Through a logotherapeutic reading of *Antigone*, the presentation examines how literary dialogue can illuminate Viktor Frankl's understanding of the human person as a meaning-seeking being capable of taking a stand even in tragic circumstances. The discussion highlights how classical literature may serve not merely as cultural heritage, but as a living existential encounter that invites participants to reflect on responsibility, dignity, values, and the possibility of reconciliation. The presentation also introduces the structure and methodology of the reading group itself as a practical and community-based application of logotherapeutic dialogue.

Educational Objectives:

- Explain how Viktor Frankl's Logotherapy and Existential Analysis can be applied to the interpretation of classical literary works.
- Identify major logotherapeutic themes in Sophocles' *Antigone*, including conscience, responsibility, reconciliation, freedom, and self-transcendence.
- Describe how phenomenological and dialogical reading practices may foster existential reflection and meaning-centered dialogue within groups.
- Evaluate the potential role of literature discussion groups as community-based applications of Logotherapy for resilience, human encounter, and meaning discovery.
- Reflect on how classical literature can become an experiential pathway for understanding the existential dimensions of the human condition.

About the Presenter:

Mesude Zeynep Esenli holds a B.Sc. in Mathematical Engineering from İstanbul Technical University and has extensive professional experience in information technologies and the manufacturing industry. She is an Academic Associate member of the Viktor Frankl Institute Türkiye and has been actively engaged in projects focused on resilience, meaningful work, and the existential dimensions of youth unemployment through the framework of Viktor Frankl's Logotherapy and Existential Analysis. As a visually impaired professional and lifelong learner, she has a special interest in the relationship between meaning, literature, and the human spirit. She is an active participant in the "Meaningful Living Initiative" literature discussion movement initiated by Memduh Özmert, where world literature is explored phenomenologically and existentially through Viktor Frankl's understanding of meaning, freedom, responsibility, and self-transcendence. Her current interests include meaning-centered reading practices, existential dialogue through literature, and the role of great literary works in cultivating resilience, reconciliation, and human dignity.

Reza Pishyar | 2:30 PM – 3:20 PM | In-person

Presentation Title:

Meaning-Centred Integrative CBT and Logotherapy for the treatment of PTSD in Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Presentation Description:

This presentation introduces a culturally adapted therapeutic framework integrating Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and Logotherapy to support refugees and asylum seekers experiencing PTSD, grief, displacement, and complex trauma. Designed for individuals facing language barriers, limited literacy, and cross-cultural challenges, the model combines trauma-focused CBT with Viktor Frankl's meaning-centered approach to foster hope, dignity, resilience, and identity. Narrative healing, culturally responsive psychoeducation, visual communication tools, and strength-based interventions enhance engagement and emotional understanding. By integrating evidence-based trauma treatment with meaning reconstruction, the framework promotes both symptom reduction and existential recovery, helping individuals restore purpose and coherence following forced displacement and chronic trauma.

Educational Objectives:

- Understand the psychological impact of forced displacement, trauma exposure, and ongoing stressors on refugees and asylum seekers, including the development of PTSD and complex trauma presentations.
- Identify culturally and linguistically appropriate approaches to the assessment and treatment of PTSD in refugee and asylum-seeking populations, including the role of stigma, low literacy, and somatic symptom presentation.
- Describe evidence-based trauma-focused interventions such as CBT, TF-CBT, Narrative Exposure Therapy (NET), psychoeducation, and grounding techniques in the treatment of trauma-related disorders.

About the Presenter:

Dr. Reza Pishyar is a Clinical Psychologist, Fellow of the Australian Psychological Society (APS) College of Clinical Psychologists, Diplomate Clinician in Logotherapy, and Director of the Viktor Frankl Institute of Sydney, Australia. He serves on the Board of Lectureship at the Viktor Frankl Institute in Vienna and is a Diplomate Clinician in Logotherapy from the Viktor Frankl Institute of Logotherapy. Dr. Pishyar earned his Bachelor's degree in Child Psychology from Shahid Beheshti University, Iran, a Master's degree in Applied Psychology (Health and Clinical) from the University of Newcastle, Australia, and a PhD in Clinical Psychology from the University of Sydney. He completed his Diplomate Clinician qualification in Logotherapy in 2011. His clinical experience includes work with torture and trauma survivors, transcultural mental health services, community mental health teams, and forensic and correctional populations. He is Director of Caspian Clinical Psychology Services and LOGOMIND, organizations focused on clinical practice, training, and the application of Logotherapy and existential analysis. Dr. Pishyar has taught at the University of Sydney and the Australian College of Applied Psychology, delivered community mental health workshops, and contributed to the field through publications, book chapters, and international conference presentations. His work integrates clinical psychology, trauma treatment, forensic experience, and meaning-centered approaches across diverse populations.

Tommy Schaff | 3:20 PM – 4:30 PM | In-person

Presentation Title:

The Inner Immune System: Rehearsing Meaning Before Suffering Arrives

Presentation Description:

This presentation explores how Man's Search for Meaning can help cultivate an "inner immune system" of responsibility, meaning, and hope. Drawing from decades of annual reading, personal loss, applied teaching, and reflection on Viktor Frankl's Statue of Responsibility vision, the program considers how meaning can be rehearsed before crisis arrives. Participants will examine how freedom, responsibility, and self-transcendence can help human beings respond to suffering, rejection, grief, uncertainty, and ordinary responsibility with dignity and hope.

Educational Objectives:

- Identify Viktor Frankl's concepts of meaning, freedom, and responsibility as resources for responding to suffering with hope.
- Describe the "inner immune system" as a practical metaphor for rehearsing meaning before crisis arrives.
- Apply Logotherapeutic principles to ordinary forms of suffering, including grief, rejection, uncertainty, loss, and responsibility.
- Reflect on responsibility as a personal practice rather than only a social or philosophical ideal.

About the Presenter:

Since 1986, **Tommy Schaff** has begun each year by reading Man's Search for Meaning, a practice that has shaped his commitment to responsibility, meaning, and hope. He formerly served as chairman of the Statue of Responsibility Foundation, inspired by Viktor Frankl's vision that freedom must be balanced by responsibility. Tommy Schaff is the Founder of Major League Influence, where he coaches financial service professionals, business owners, and leaders in ethical influence and meaningful growth. He is one of six North American Cialdini Method Certified Trainers and owns

Retirement Next Generation. Tommy earned a Bachelor of Science in Business from the University of Minnesota. His email address is tschaff@majorleaguesales.com.

Charles McLafferty | 3:20 PM – 4:30 PM | In-person

Presentation Title:

In our imperfection lies hid the secret of our indispensability; In the noëtic is found the font of hope

Presentation Description:

It's an opening into the world of meaning—sometimes subtle, often scary, but curiously inviting. A growing sense there's something more to life but... what? A particular type of call to a Suicide and Crisis Helpline and Tolstoy's reported suicidal ideation are used as examples. Personal and transcendent hope correlate with Frankl's dimensional ontology. For these cases, conflicts between dimensions reveal the core of the problem, as well as acknowledgement that they represent a qualitative stage of growth rather than regression. One solution is to help the individual to align personal hope with transcendent hope.

Educational Objectives:

- Understand the difference between “personal hope” vs “transcendent hope”
- Relate personal hope and transcendent hope to Frankl's dimensional ontology
- Understand that discovery of the noëtic dimension may in itself create crisis and conflict, which can include an overwhelming sense of imperfection, or profound existential questions of whether life has meaning

About the Presenter:

Charles L. McLafferty, Jr., PhD has lectured internationally and served on the faculties of the University of Virginia and the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He has earned an educational Diplomate from—and is currently on the faculty of—the Viktor Frankl Institute of Logotherapy (US). He is the founder and president of Purpose Research, which seeks to incorporate meaning and purpose into the research, theory, and practice of the help-ing professions. He has edited and published more than a dozen books on logotherapy by authors such as Joseph Fabry, Elisabeth Lukas, Paul Wong, Ann Graber, and Geri Marr-Burdman. As a National Board-Certified Counselor (US), he volunteered for five years at a regional crisis center as part of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network and for which he developed a logotherapeutic in-service training module. His focus is on the uniquely human and spiritual dimensions of the person in considering the whole human being.

Dida Kimor | 3:20 PM – 4:30 PM | Virtual

Presentation Title:

Unveiling Eternal Hope

Presentation Description:

Drawing on Viktor Frankl's dimensional ontology, this presentation argues that hope is not conditional but eternal-inherent in the Noetic (Spiritual) Dimension of the human being. When we misidentify with our body-mind system, we forget our true essence and fall into despair. Awakening to our Noetic Dimension- what Frankl calls the authentically human layer of existence- reveals hidden inner resources capable of transcending even the most extreme suffering. Through the lens of Logo-Philosophy and Existentialism, and illustrated by testimonies from Holocaust survivors and the current war in the Middle East, the presentation affirms that hope, rightly understood, is timeless! Eternity entering into time gives us the courage to be!

Educational Objectives:

- Realizing new truths by widening our horizon of understanding the Noetic Dimension.
- Finding hope in our inherent connection to Transcendence, even in tragic Situations.
- Shedding new light on Logotherapy with ideas from Existentialism like: The Courage to Be.

About the Presenter:

Dr. Dida Kimor is a PhD in Philosophy (Haifa University), a Logotherapist (Diplomate in Clinical Logotherapy, accredited by the Institute of the United States of America, Dallas), and a Dance therapist (Haifa University). Also holder of two M.A degrees, in Comparative Religion and in Philosophy (both Cum Laude), with a background in Philosophical Counseling. Her main areas of research are Logo-Philosophy and the Noetic Dimension, Research of consciousness, Existentialism, Spirituality, and Spiritual Development. She has been teaching in the various programs of Logotherapy in Israel, since their beginning, in 2007 (Gordon College, Haifa University, Tel-Aviv University, and Viktor Frankl Institute of Israel- Hebrew and English). She acts as a counselor and is one of the founders and an active board member of the Israeli Association for Logotherapy. Dida has presented works in academic conferences both in Israel and at the World Congresses. She took part in organizing international conferences of Logotherapy in Israel, especially The Scope of the Human Potential, in 2025. Lately she has served as the scientific editor of the new Hebrew translation of Man's Search for Meaning.

Sávio Moreira Emmerick | 3:45 PM – 4:30 PM | Virtual

Presentation Title:

The Transmorbid Character of the Human Spirit: an experience of a Psychologist in a Psychosocial Care Center

Presentation Description:

The transmorbid character of the spirit proposed by Viktor Frankl is part of the noetic human dimension. Even though there are severe psychopathologies, this dimension remains its integrity and is included in the treatment of people's mental health. This study presents a work experience with psychotic disorders persons that involved meaning-seeking behavior, searching of values, and caring for others. Despite the severe psychotic symptomatology and the clinical direction based on patients' deficits, this work reaffirmed the importance of the spirit transmorbid character that may be promoted by care dignity-centered and hope-oriented to flourish persons with severe mental illness.

Educational Objectives:

- Explain the concept of the transmorbid character of the spirit as described by Viktor Frankl based on the dimensional ontology of Logotherapy and Existential Analysis.
- Recognize clinical practices dignity-centered based on the Logotherapy to support the noetic dimension persons with psychotic disorders, even of severe psychopathy.
- Develop a critical thinking about the deficit-centered clinical and biomedical treatment approaches that don't consider the noetic dimension of psychotic disorders people.
- Apply the concept of human spirit transmorbid character into their own clinical or professional practice hope-oriented and meaning-centered care for persons with severe mental illness.

About the Presenter:

Sávio Moreira Emmerick is a doctoral student in Psychology at the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), Brazil, where his research applies Viktor Frankl's Logotherapy and Existential Analysis to the care of persons with severe mental health conditions. He holds the credential of Specialist in Logotherapy and Existential Analysis, conferred by the Viktor Emil Frankl Logotherapy Association (Associação de Logoterapia Viktor Emil Frankl – ALVEF), Curitiba, Brazil. As a clinical

psychologist, he works at a Psychosocial Care Center (CAPS), providing Logotherapy-informed care to individuals living with psychotic disorders. His clinical and academic work centers on the transmorbidity character of the human spirit, examining how meaning, dignity, and the noetic dimension remain accessible to persons in the presence of significant psychological suffering, and how Franklian principles can sustain resilience and hope within psychosocial rehabilitation settings. His doctoral research is supervised by Professor Ana Cristina Barros da Cunha, Full Professor at the Institute of Psychology, UFRJ. He looks forward to sharing this clinical experience with the Viktor Frankl Institute's global community at the 25th Anniversary World Congress.

Ana Cristina Barros da Cunha is co-author of the study presented.

Kshitij Sharma | 3:45 PM – 4:35 PM | Virtual

Presentation Title:

Discovering meaning through evolution: A new epistemological access point in Logotherapy.

Presentation Description:

This presentation explores the compatibility between evolutionary theory and Viktor Frankl's Logotherapy in addressing rising existential frustration, noögenic neurosis, and nihilism among individuals with non-metaphysical orientations. Drawing from evolutionary psychology, existential philosophy, and meaning-centred psychotherapy, the presentation argues that meaning can be understood within evolved human functioning without reducing it to biological determinism. Integrating thinkers such as Frankl, Nietzsche, Sapolsky, and Kierkegaard, the presentation proposes that an evolutionary reinterpretation of meaning may offer secular individuals an accessible pathway into meaning-centred interventions while preserving hope, agency, and existential responsibility.

Educational Objectives:

- Examine the relationship between evolutionary perspectives and Viktor Frankl's Logotherapy in understanding meaning-oriented human functioning.
- Explore the role of existential frustration, noögenic neurosis, and nihilism in contemporary secular populations.
- Understand how meaning-centred interventions may remain therapeutically relevant within naturalistic and non-metaphysical worldviews.

About the Presenter:

Kshitij Sharma is a Registered Clinical Psychologist in India (Rehabilitation Council of India). He earned his Bachelor of Journalism and Mass Communication degree from Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (2014–2017), followed by a Post Graduate Diploma in Advertising and Marketing Communication from Apeejay Institute of Mass Communication (2017–2018). He later completed a Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology from Amity University, Noida (2020–2022), and a Master of Philosophy in Clinical Psychology from the National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities, Department of Clinical and Rehabilitation Psychology and Research (2023–2025). His academic and clinical interests include existential psychology, evolutionary perspectives on human behaviour, schizophrenia-spectrum disorders, suicide research, and meaning-centred psychotherapies. He is also currently completing the Meaning-Centred Interventions course through the Viktor Frankl Institute of Logotherapy. His current work explores the integration of evolutionary theory with existential and meaning-oriented approaches to psychotherapy.

Kshitijsharma0902@gmail.com

Clara Martinez | 3:45 PM – 4:35 PM | Virtual

Presentation Title:

The Existential Drone: A tool to facilitate self-distancing in child and adolescent psychotherapy

Presentation Description:

In this paper, a clinical tool is proposed for use in psychotherapy with children and adolescents in individual sessions, with the aim of facilitating the mobilization of the noetic resources of self-distancing and self-transcendence as proposed by Dr. Viktor Frankl. The clinical tool is called: “The Existential Drone.” This device features several activation modes: emotional, reflective, introspective, projective, contemplative, retrospective, intuitive, and relational. These are particularly useful in the initial psychotherapy sessions, where identifying therapeutic goals is essential. It can also be used at any point in the therapeutic process when considered appropriate, especially when noetic resources are restricted due to hyper-reflection, hyper-intention, anxiety states, depressive episodes, or trauma.

Educational Objectives:

- To develop the modes of self-distancing as a noetic resource from the Logotherapy of Viktor Frankl.
- The tool of the Existential Drone facilitates the deployment of the noetic resource of Self-Distancing.
- To show the clinical applications in child and adolescent psychotherapy of the Existential Drone tool.

About the Presenter:

I am a Colombian clinical psychologist, logotherapist, and existential analyst, dedicated to supporting children, adolescents, and adults from a humanistic perspective centered on meaning, resilience, and development. I lead the Faros de Sentido Network for Logotherapy and Childhood. I am a doctoral candidate in Psychology with a Cognitive-Existential emphasis at the University of Flores in Argentina, where I completed postgraduate studies in Logotherapy and Existential Analysis. I am pursuing a master’s in creative writing at Central University of Colombia, integrating writing as a therapeutic and educational tool. I combine clinical practice with teaching, research, and training in the Americas, Europe, and North America, giving lectures on logotherapy, childhood, resilience, education, and mental health. I belong to the Resilio Research Group at Pontificia Universidad Javeriana. I am the author and coauthor of publications, including Logotherapy in Action, Paths for Meaningful Parenting, From the Abyss of Depression to the Peaks of a Life, Inner Strength, and Emotional Seasons. Beyond my professional work, I enjoy traveling, photography, and literature. I love lighthouses because they represent hope and guidance. Writing is a passion, and I am currently working on my first novel, convinced that stories can illuminate paths and open new possibilities of meaning.

Diplomate Colloquium

Thursday, September 24 | 3:25 PM–4:15 PM

President of The Viktor Frankl Institute of Logotherapy: Daniel Hostetler, MNM, CADC

Diplomate Colloquium Committee Chair: Ann-Marie Neale, Ph.D.

During this live-streamed colloquium, students will share a synopsis of their Diplomate Projects with colleagues, fellow students, members of the Viktor Frankl Institute of Logotherapy, and attendees at the 25th Silver Jubilee World Congress on Viktor Frankl's Logotherapy. Time permitting, they answer questions about the process they undertook, what they learned about Logotherapy and how they will apply this knowledge in clinical, business, and educational settings as well as in their personal lives. It is hoped that their experience will foster discussion about the future of Logotherapy. Finally, we anticipate that this forum will encourage others to enroll in our educational program and pursue the Diplomate Credential. In accordance with the ethical principles of the use of case material, personally identified information has been altered (American Psychological Association 2002). Diagnostic Impressions for any case presentations follow the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders Fifth Edition -TR* (DSM-5-TR, American Psychiatric Association 2022).

Welcome and Overview

President: Daniel Hostetler

Diplomate Colloquium Committee Chair & Moderator: Dr. Ann-Marie Neale

Student Presentations

Student from Connecticut, USA: Joseph J. Erdos, MD, Ph.D. (In-person)

Title: *The Influence of Eastern Religions, Mountaineering in Fostering Hope and the Development of Logotherapy*

Diplomate Logo-Philosophy Supervisor: Ann-Marie Neale, Ph.D.

Educational Objectives:

- Differentiate between somatogenic (physical), psychogenic (mental), and noögenic (spiritual) sources of distress—such as depression—to determine the appropriate boundaries and methods for pastoral care versus psychotherapy or medical treatment.
- Differentiate between physical, mental, and spiritual manifestations of distress in pastoral settings to effectively assess congregant needs, prevent iatrogenic harm, and execute appropriate referrals between pastors, physicians, and mental health professionals.
- Contrast the concept of pastoral counseling as "accompaniment" with traditional advice-giving, demonstrating how coming alongside individuals helps them discover their own unique logos without being diverted by the counselor's personal anecdotes or solutions.

About the Presenter:

My name is **Joseph Erdos**. I have a Bachelor's of Art Degree in Biology and Chemistry, Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmacology and a Doctor of Medicine all from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. I completed an Internship in Internal Medicine, a Residency in Psychiatry and a Fellowship in Molecular Pharmacology at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. I am Board Certified in Psychiatry and Medical Informatics and am an Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Yale University. I have worked in the Department of Veterans Affairs in West Haven, Connecticut since nineteen ninety in various capacities; Chief of Outpatient Psychiatry, Director of the Schizophrenia Clinic, Attending Psychiatrist in the Women's Clinic, Chief Information Officer and Director of Medical Informatics. During my career in the Veterans Affairs I have

predominantly treated veterans with combat trauma and post traumatic stress and veterans who have experience military sexual trauma. I began studying mindfulness and Logotherapy as a discipline to help treat post traumatic stress and suicidality and to provide hope and a way forward for these individuals to recover. Joseph.erdosmd@med.va.gov or joseph.erdos@yale.edu

*Student from Washington State, USA: **Dennis Kukuk** (Virtual)*

Title: *Sacralizing Logotherapy: The Heightening Influence of Ignatian Spirituality*

Diplomate Clinician Supervisor: Ann-Marie Neale, Ph.D.

Educational Objectives:

- Compare and contrast Logotherapy with Ignatian Spirituality.
- Formalize my personal therapeutic approach using Logotherapy as a foundation.
- Develop an on-line self-help app using my approach.

About the Presenter:

For most of my life, I've lived in eastern Washington and northern Idaho. Here, I met my wife and together we raised a family of two boys, both of whom are now married with children of their own. I attended Gonzaga University and Eastern Washington University, earning graduate degrees in Theology and Counseling Psychology, and obtaining my Mental Health Counseling Licensure for the State of Washington. For over 40 years, I served the Gonzaga Prep community as a theology and psychology teacher and as a college and personal counselor. During this time, I also served as a private mental health counselor and field supervisor for both Gonzaga University's Counselor Education Program and for the State of Washington's mental health certification process.

*Student from Turkey: **Onur Gökçen**, MD (Virtual)*

Title: *From Psychiatric Practice to Logotherapy: Theoretical Foundations and Clinical Application Through Two Cases*

Diplomate Clinician Supervisors: Memduh Nezihi Özmert, M.Sc.; Cynthia Wimberly, Ph.D.

Educational Objectives:

- Describe how the inclusion of the noetic dimension can broaden psychodynamic and psychiatric case formulation without replacing existing clinical understanding.
- Identify how self-distancing, self-transcendence, and value-oriented inquiry may open additional therapeutic possibilities in clinical practice.
- Explain how supervised reflection on two clinical cases helped distinguish psychologically conditioned patterns from the patient's remaining freedom to take a responsible and meaningful stance.

About the Presenter:

Dr. **Onur Gökçen** is a psychiatrist based in Türkiye. His clinical background includes psychodynamic approaches to understanding psychological distress and relational patterns. Through his Diplomate training and supervised clinical work in Logotherapy, he has been exploring how the noetic dimension—including freedom, responsibility, conscience, values, and the human capacity to take a stance—can broaden psychiatric formulation and therapeutic practice. His current work focuses on the integration of Logotherapy and Existential Analysis into psychiatric and psychotherapeutic practice, drawing on reflections from two supervised clinical cases.

*Student from Austin, Texas, USA: **Teresa Lanza di Scalea**, MD, Ph.D. (In-person)*

Title: *De-Reflecting from Wellness to Pause on Self-Transcendence: Four questions for modern psychiatry inspired by a Logotherapy-informed workshop for Psychiatry Residents*

Diplomate Clinician Supervisor: Janeta F. Tansey, MD, Ph.D.

Educational Objectives:

- Participants will be able to list at least two ways in which the tragic triad is observed in psychiatry today
- Participants will be able to learn at least one way in which a psychiatrist (or psychiatrist in training) can discover meaning in his/her work
- Participants will be able to identify at least one concrete tool that can be used for de-reflection and attitudinal modification, either for personal reflection or when assisting trainees or colleagues interested in pausing on the meaning of their work
- Participants will be able to identify at least one instance when, for a psychiatrist, seeking Homeostasis would be inappropriate, and instead tension needs to be preserved for healing and growth

About the Presenter:

Dr. **Teresa Lanza di Scalea** is a board-certified psychiatrist in private practice in Austin, TX, and an affiliate faculty member at the University of Texas at Austin, where she teaches psychiatry residents. She earned her MD in 2002 from the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Rome, Italy, and completed a psychiatry residency at Tor Vergata University of Rome in 2006, followed by a PhD (dottorato di ricerca) in Neuroscience from the same Institution. In 2008, she moved to the US due to family relocation and completed a US psychiatry residency, graduating from Brown University in 2015. She earned her Academic Associate Certificate in Logotherapy in 2025.

Student from Georgia, USA: Rev. Tom Edmondson (Virtual)

Title: *Practical Applications of Viktor Frankl's Noëtic Concepts in Pastoral Care and Counseling*

Diplomate Logo-Philosophy Supervisor: Ann-Marie Neale, Ph.D.

Educational Objectives:

- Differentiate between somatogenic (physical), psychogenic (mental), and noögenic (spiritual) sources of distress—such as depression—to determine the appropriate boundaries and methods for pastoral care versus psychotherapy or medical treatment.
- Differentiate between physical, mental, and spiritual manifestations of distress in pastoral settings to effectively assess congregant needs, prevent iatrogenic harm, and execute appropriate referrals between pastors, physicians, and mental health professionals.
- Contrast the concept of pastoral counseling as "accompaniment" with traditional advice-giving, demonstrating how coming alongside individuals helps them discover their own unique logos without being diverted by the counselor's personal anecdotes or solutions.

About the Presenter:

Tom Edmondson, BA from Atlanta Christian College, Master of Theological Studies (MTS) from Candler School of Theology, and Master of Arts in Jewish Studies from Emory University. Ordained in 1992 and transferred to the Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ). Tom earned the Certificate in Pastoral Logotherapy from the Graduate Theological Foundation in 2023. He earned the Certificate in Noëtic Care and Counseling in 2024 and the Diplomate in Viktor Frankl's Logo-Philosophy from the Viktor Frankl Institute of Logotherapy in 2025. In 2026 Tom became an Accredited member of the International Association of Logotherapy and Existential Analysis (Viktor Frankl Institute, Vienna). Books: *Faith Greater Than Our Challenges: What the Apostle Paul and Viktor Frankl Can Teach Us about Difficult Times* published in 2021 by Wipf & Stock, and *Introduction to Pastoral Logotherapy: A Psychology of the Human Spirit for Pastoral Care and Counseling*, forthcoming, Wipf & Stock. Websites and Institute: Pastoral Logotherapy

(www.pastorallogotherapy.com), features articles, interviews, and other resources from around the world. In 2026 Tom founded the Atlanta Center for Logotherapy (www.atlantacenterforlogotherapy) which facilitates Logotherapy sessions for individuals and groups, book studies, workshops/seminars, and a curriculum for studying Logotherapy.

*Student from Minnesota, USA: **Richard E. Close**, DMin, PsyD, LPCC, LICSW (Virtual)*

Title: *Changing Recovery with Logotherapy: Using the Logobridge for Conceptualizing and Treating Complex Trauma*

Diplomate Clinician Supervisor: Julius Rogina, Ph.D.

Educational Objectives:

- Three perspectives on the nature of complex trauma for the work of logoconceptualizing.
- Self-transcendence as the logodiagnostic conceptual crosswalk from medical necessity to noetic necessity.
- Assisting clients in building and using their Logobridge throughout the logotherapeutic treatment process.

About the Presenter:

Richard E. Close, DMin, PsyD, LPCC, LICSW, practices as a trauma specialist and clinical supervisor at Natalis Counseling and Psychology Solutions in St. Paul, Minnesota; and is an Associate Professor in the MA in Counseling and Psychological Services Program at St. Mary's University of Minnesota. He is an EMDRIA-Certified EMDR Therapist, certified clinical pastoral counselor, and an ordained priest in a Celtic Christian Order. He is credentialed by the Viktor Frankl Institute of Logotherapy as a Clinical Diplomate in Logotherapy (2025), and a trained Adlerian counselor. As both priest and clinician, he has spent a life-time career practicing, teaching, and publishing at the intersection of counseling psychology and pastoral theology.

Opportunities to Connect at the World Congress

Wednesday

Social and Welcome Reception

Begin your congress experience at the Staybridge Suites Social Hour for hotel guests with a variety of free appetizers and drinks at our happy hour. Then, continue connecting at the congress Welcome Reception with complimentary non-alcoholic beverages or alcoholic beverages available for purchase.

Thursday

Breakfast

Staybridge Suites guests join for a complimentary hotel breakfast to start your day with fellow logotherapists.

Lunch Discussion Groups

Join other Logotherapists for a meaningful and focused lunch discussion group. On Thursday the discussion groups will be divided by topic/interest:

- ☐ Clinical
- ☐ Faith, Religion, and Logo-Philosophy
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Education

Evening

Gather at the Staybridge Suite for informal social networking or join others for an evening of fun exploring Chicago.

Friday

Breakfast

Staybridge Suites guests join for a complimentary hotel breakfast to start your day with fellow logotherapists.

Lunch Discussion Groups

Join other Logotherapists for a meaningful and focused lunch discussion group. On Friday the discussion groups will be divided by region of the world:

- ☐ North and South America
- ☐ Europe
- ☐ Africa and the Middle East
- ☐ Asia and Australia

Evening

Enjoy a social catered meal and conversation at the Friday evening 25th Anniversary Jubilee banquet.

Saturday

Morning Farewell Breakfast & Chicago Experience

Start the closing day of the congress over breakfast with fellow Logotherapist before embarking upon exploring Chicago.

Things to Do in Chicago

Rosemont sits minutes from O'Hare and just a short ride from downtown Chicago. Below are a few ways to make the most of your time in the area.

Local area insights from the Staybridge Suites [Website](#)

Sights & Attractions

[Fashion Outlets of Chicago \(Rosemont\)](#)

[Art Institute of Chicago](#)

[Millennium Park & Cloud Gate \("The Bean"\)](#)

[Navy Pier](#)

Getting Around

[CTA \(Chicago Transit Authority\) — trains & buses](#)

[Metra — Rosemont/O'Hare area to downtown Chicago](#)

Optional Congress Outing

Details for the optional Saturday Chicago outing will be announced during the Congress.

Have a favorite spot near Rosemont or Chicago? Share it with fellow attendees in Whova.