

International Journal for School-Based Family Counseling

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This inaugural issue of the *International Journal for School-Based Family Counseling (IJSBFC)* represents a landmark occasion for the Institute for School-Based Family Counseling (SBFC). Over the last six years, its promotion of SBFC within the international arena has taken place mainly through the annual Oxford Symposium in SBFC. At each, participants have addressed applications of SBFC in a worldwide range of contexts. These contributions are of great significance to SBFC in terms of developing theory, research, and professional practice. To date, however, there has not been a vehicle through which these contributions can be formally disseminated.

The establishment of the *IJSBFC* provides such a vehicle. In order to set and maintain appropriately high standards, the *IJSBFC* has an international Editorial Board, and a group of senior professionals in the SBFC field who act as Consulting Editors. All submitted articles are peer reviewed anonymously – not a rapid process when the pool of such consultants is relatively small. All articles are also carefully assessed in terms of their relevance to SBFC – which may require further work when such relevance is tenuous. Presentations to Symposia provide a natural source of submissions for *IJSBFC* publication, and we are currently working through a number of articles presented on different occasions.

The articles in this initial issue have been selected, either because they address core aspects of SBFC, or because they illustrate applications in the international arena. Thus, Brian Gerrard provides an overview of trends and research possibilities in SBFC. Michael Carter and Bill Evans examine issues in the implementation of SBFC. Maria Marchetti-Mercer evaluates the value of SBFC in an incident of school violence in South Africa. Michael Carter and Elizabeth Perluss discuss aspects of training in SBFC. Hans Everts describes the application of SBFC to immigrant settlement in New Zealand. Between them, they provide much food for thought. It should be noted that several articles are far longer than advocated in the Guidelines for Authors. We felt that this was warranted by the value of defining and exploring core issues in SBFC by those who have been involved in its development over many years. This should be of help to others who are newcomers to SBFC. It is expected that future articles in the *IJSBFC* will conform more closely to the Guidelines.

For convenience of downloading, each article is presented as a separate PDF file.

The publication of this issue has been greatly help by the enthusiastic and highly professional contributions of many people, listed above. On behalf of the Institute, I would like to thank the members of the Editorial Board for setting out a clear and robust structure for the *IJSBFC*. I wish to thank the Consulting Editors for their thoughtful and constructive feedback to authors. I thank the current and future authors of articles for their creative and valuable submissions, which will benefit us all. Finally, I want to thank the Institute for its backing of the entire venture. The 2008 Symposium gives us the chance to trial presentation of the *IJSBFC* in its current form, and to discuss the best way in which it can serve the helping professions as an electronic journal.

Hans Everts, Senior Editor, August 2008.