

In memory of Hans Strupp, professor emeritus

As members of the psychotherapy research group from Ulm University we would like to also remind our SPR-colleagues that Hans Strupp became a highly esteemed mentor as early as 1970 when Horst Kächele wrote a first letter to him asking for permission and support in using his intervention catalogue. He generously gave both.

Hans attended the first international conference on Psychoanalytic Process Research in 1985 in Ulm delivering a paper on „Problem-treatment-outcome congruence: A principle whose time has come“ which would become the lead article in the so-called blue book (Dahl et al. 1988). At our workshop dinnerparty Hans was sitting besides the lord mayor of Ulm talking about his years as a school boy at a gymnasium in Frankfurt. Happily Hans, born 1921 in Frankfurt, could leave Nazi-Germany in time together with his mother in 1939.

In 1986 he was awarded the degree of a honorary doctor of medicine by the Ulm university in 1986. We still vividly remember his enthusiastic lecture in front of the medical faculty when he spoke about psychotherapy being more of a pedagogical enterprise than a medical intervention. The following lines we have found on an internet page; they render exactly what Hans in his talk conveyed to us then:

„Psychotherapy is basically a human relationship. It is not a treatment in the medical sense, or in the way treatment is ordinarily understood, where someone administers a treatment to someone else. But it is a relationship in which the two people involved in treatment work together and the result of which, we hope, is an improvement in the patient's mental health“ (<http://www.learner.org/discoveringpsychology/22/e22expand.html>).

Horst Kächele, Erhard Mergenthaler, Helmut Thomä

Strupp HH, Schacht TE, Henry WP (1988) Problem-treatment-outcome congruence: A principle whose time has come. In: Dahl H, Kächele H, Thomä H (eds) Psychoanalytic Process Research Strategies. Springer, Berlin Heidelberg New York Tokyo, p 1-14