The XXXII Interamerican Congress of Psychology in Guatemala

The 32nd Interamerican Congress of Psychology (Guatemala, June 28-July 2, 2009) held under the auspices of the 14th International Congress of Psychology (Oslo, Norway) was attended by 2000 persons representing 35 countries. Ten of them were from Canada.

Guatemala has a relatively small number of psychologists (5,000 with 1,650 certified to practice). Under the leadership of Dr. Maria del Pilar Grazioso, Guatemalan psychologists organized one of the best SIP congresses we ever attended.

The main theme was “Psychology: A Path Toward Peace and Democracy.” There was a special focus in the scientific programme on health and quality of life, social violence and human rights, gender, political leadership, organisations and effects, and consequences of poverty, impact of natural disasters, organisational and labour challenges, and education and training, and assessment.

The purpose of the Guidelines is to provide an ethical framework for supervision that enhances the learning experience. Psychologists recognize that supervision is a specialized area of psychological activity that has its own foundation of knowledge and skills. The Guidelines document has several unique features. First, it applies to all areas of psychological activity, thus expanding their usefulness beyond today’s emphasis in the supervision literature on only clinical practice. Second, it primarily addresses relationships rather than specific good practice guidelines, such as how many hours of supervision are required, or the content of supervisory meetings. Third, supervisors and supervisees are considered to be mutually responsible for maintaining ethical relationships.

Fourth, all the guidelines are linked to the four ethical principles of the Canadian Code of Ethics for Psychologists. Respect for the Dignity of Persons, Responsibility, Caring, Integrity in Relationships, and Responsibility to Society.

The Ethics Guidelines can be downloaded from the CPA website at http://www.cpa.ca/cpasite/userfiles/Documents/CESupGuideRevApproved7Feb09revisedfinal.pdf