

## **Project Committee on Clinical Observation and Testing**

### **Members (in alphabetical order) since 2014:**

Altmann, Marina (Chair, Uruguay)  
Bernardi, Ricardo (Uruguay)  
Fitzpatrick-Hanly, Margaret Ann (Canada)  
Glover, William (US)  
Gullestad, Siri (Norway)  
Leibovich de Duarte, Adela (Argentina)  
Leuzinger-Bohleber, Marianne (Germany)

Bender, Donna (Consultant)  
Cierpka, Manfred (Consultant)  
Hurvich, Marvin (Consultant)

## **Introduction**

After a period of development, the Committee has created a model called Three-Level Model for Observing Patient Transformations (3-LM). The Project Committee on Clinical Observation welcomes all analysts who are interested in the creation of one or more IPA Clinical Observation Groups in their own psychoanalytic societies, and encourages them to contact us for more information (e-mail: [ipa.clinical.observation@gmail.com](mailto:ipa.clinical.observation@gmail.com)).

The 3-LM is a heuristic or a guide for refining, conceptualizing and systematizing clinical observations about patient transformations. It aims to enhance clinical observations, making them more accurate and more useful for the evaluation of theories and theory building through the sustained analysis of clinical material. The term “transformation” is used here in its most common sense, meaning a change or an alteration.

“Observation” includes listening to unconscious communication (analyst as participant) and the observation of clinical facts (analyst as observer, taking a “second look” at the material).

### **The 3-LM:**

- Is focused on the patient (in the context of his/her relationships)
- Is focused on transformations
- Observes one same clinical material from 3 different levels:
  - Phenomenological description of the analytical process
  - The main dimensions of change

- The analyst's theoretical hypotheses about change

We invite you to watch a 45-minute video explaining the model at the following link: <http://youtu.be/2R4a1vFAG78>

## IPA Clinical Observation Groups

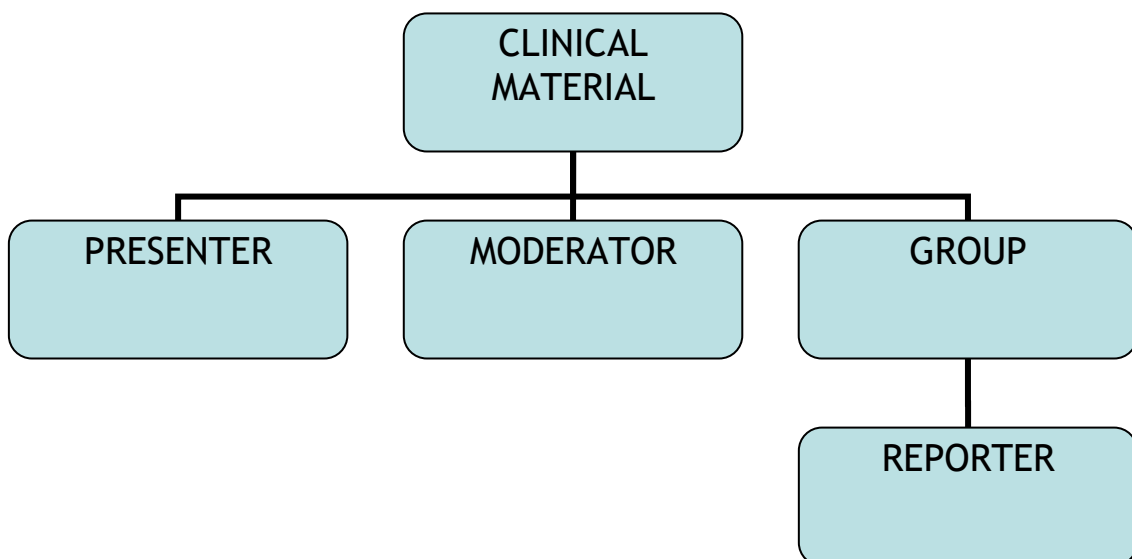
IPA Clinical Observation Groups are being formed by the initiative of analysts belonging to any IPA psychoanalytic society who commit to work with the 3-LM. The Committee offers supervision and guidelines and reporting will be asked.

The formation of a relatively small group is recommended. According to our experience, the ideal maximum number of participants is 10-12. If a group is larger, we recommend dividing it in subgroups which may want to compare results after the activity is finished.

The 3-LM may be used to observe clinical material from one case in one 11-hour meeting (minimum time required), or in several meetings of a minimum duration of 2 hours.

Groups have been formed in numerous cities and countries in the 3 IPA regions and in different languages. During Prague Congress, for example, 10 groups were formed in 4 languages.

## Clinical Observation Setting



Before starting the activity, you will need to assign one Presenter, one Moderator, and one Reporter.

## **Clinical Material**

The 3-LM has been designed to evaluate the transformations of the patient and therefore proves to be especially interesting and useful when it is applied to a clinical material that presents some kind of doubts regarding the nature and/or degree of the changes in the patient.

It is important to: a) prepare the clinical material in a way that provides the necessary information for the discussion; b) respect the confidentiality rule. The presenter will have to be careful to modify all the information that could serve to identify the patient; c) take at least 3 different moments of analysis where transformations can be observed; d) the clinical material will be the result of the transcription, or the notes taken by the analyst, and it will include interventions of the patient and interpretations from the analyst, differentiating them clearly through fonts or symbols.

### **3-LM for Training**

The 3-LM is being used in Argentinian Psychoanalysis Society (SAP, Argentina) for training candidates.

In the Uruguayan Psychoanalytic Association the 3-LM has been used with candidates for helping them to write their final papers.

### **Book Publication**

The Committee is currently (2014) working on a book to be published by the IPA containing the theoretical information about the Three-Level Model and its application in different contexts and groups.

Contact e-mail: [ipa.clinical.observation@gmail.com](mailto:ipa.clinical.observation@gmail.com)