We are very proud to introduce two new members of the editorial board of our Journal Theory and Practice in Medicine: Pierre Flor-Henry and Thomas Stompe. Both of them were asked and gave their permissions to be included in the editorial board. I am very lucky to know both of them in person. Both of them contributed a big influence on my psychiatric carrier and made a profound impression as professionals and persons.

Pierre Flor-Henry (1934, March 1st) is a Canadian psychiatrist, researcher, lecturer, and professor. His most important initial contribution was the demonstration in the study of epileptic psychosis, that schizophrenia relates to left and manic-depressive states relate to right hemisphere epilepsies (Epilepsia, 1969).(1,2)
Pierre Flor-Henry was born in Passy, Haute Savoie (France), where his mother was director of the sanatorium „Roc des Fiz” and his father was one of the architects who built the sanatorium where his parents practised medicine (Plateau d’Assy, France). Flor-Henry graduated from the Faculty of Medicine (1957), followed-up by a Ph.D. in Medicine (M.D. Edin,1966) from the University of Edinburgh. Subsequent degrees and specializations were earned from the University of London, in the United Kingdom and in Quebec, Canada. His full title is Pierre Flor-Henry M.B., Ch.B., M.D. (Edin), Acad. D.P.M. (Lond), F.R. Psych., C.S.P.Q. (Psych).

Flor-Henry’s general medicine practice took him through Western, Central, and Eastern Canada since 1958 till 1963. Returning to the United Kingdom, he specialized in psychiatry, epilepsy, electroencephalography and clinical neurophysiology at the Maudsley Hospital (1963-1968). He started at Alberta Hospital Edmonton in 1971 as a consulting psychiatrist. In 1976 he became a Clinical Professor, Department of Psychiatry, University of Alberta. In 1977 he added the Clinical Directorship of Adult Psychiatry. In 1993 Flor-Henry undertook the Directorship of the Clinical Diagnostics and Research Centre (CDRC). All four positions have been held concurrently through the present day.(5)

Much of Pierre Flor-Henry’s clinical and research is conducted in the CDRC which he established and directs. The CDRC is dedicated to offering clinical psychophysiological and neurophysiological assessments that contribute to the diagnosis and treatment of patients. The philosophy of the CDRC is to provide continuous improvement in the provision of assessment and treatment services through fundamental research and program evaluation. The CDRC provides a variety of brain activity tests that is unique to a psychiatric facility in its breadth and scope. Assessments include clinical EEG recordings, electrocardiograms, multi-channel EEG brain mapping as well as auditory, somatosensory and cognitive evoked potential recordings.(3,4)

Other assessments include recordings of autonomic nervous system modalities such as skin conductance and digital pulse volume. Basic research is conducted in the analysis of brain electrical activity in order to improve the understanding of abnormal cerebral mechanisms associated with mental illness and to improve the quality of assessment and treatment. The Alberta College of Physicians and Surgeons in Canada awarded the Clinical Diagnostics and Research Centre full accreditation status as an electroencephalography and evoked potential neurophysiology laboratory.

In recent years, Flor-Henry has engaged in multi-channel EEG investigations using source localization (LORETA) in a variety of psychiatric disorders: schizophrenia, mania, depression, multiple personality, chronic fatigue, fibromyalgia, and transsexualism. Also, he has investigated in a similar way, differences in EEG organization of normal males and females, of cerebral activity during verbal and spatial cognitive tasks, and of male/female difference in the psychoses.(3,4,5)

The publication and presentation of Flor-Henry’s findings from 1969 onwards has triggered an enormous amount of research internationally, on laterality and psychopathology. Flor-Henry’s research has extended his early findings to the study of the patterns of cerebral disorganization in a variety of mental disorders with neuropsychological and quantitative EEG approaches: e.g. in depression, schizophrenia, mania, psychopathy, sexual deviation, hysteria, multiple personality, obsessive compulsive disorder, and, in normal controls (task, age, and gender effects). In addition to his extensive empirical research, he has written, edited, and published a number of books integrating the findings in these areas along with theoretical reviews on the implications of disrupted lateral hemispheric organization in psychiatric conditions.(5,6)

In 2007 Dr. Flor-Henry was named the 2007 recipient for the Career Contribution Award from the EEG and Clinical Neuroscience Society. This award was given in recognition of his lifetime contributions to clinical neurophysiology in psychiatry.

Prof Flor-Henry has visited Lithuania in 1997. For two weeks he was lecturing course on schizophrenia, hysteria, psychopharmacology for Lithuanian psychiatrists. He was also consulting the patients.

My professional development has also been greatly influenced by Prof Pierre Flor-Henry in Edmonton, Canada. He showed me the highest standard of psychiatry practice – as a science and as an art. Under his guidance I spent three Sabbatical leaves (each one of six months duration) at Alberta Hospital in Edmonton. Presenting cases to Prof Flor-Henry was the most serious examination experience in my life. I couldn’t sleep the nights preceding these presentations, because I tried to ensure that my preparation complete and accurate till the last word and that my English sufficiently articulate, if not elegant in expression. I also had an opportunity to know him as a person. Three things must be told about his extraordinary personality. Prof Flor-Henry used to drive from Alberta Hospital home backwards and forwards during the day in order to make an injection for his cat, which was suffering from diabetes. Together with his wife Gloria, both music lovers, they have a piano and a violin at home. Once, while waiting for the other people to come, Prof Flor-Henry was playing for me Mozart for 45 minutes. It were the Concertos of Mozart. I was not able to control my emotions and I was crying. What a moment in life! In Yokohama, Japan, during Psychiatric Congress I introduced Prof Flor-Henry to my friend and colleague from Finland Antii Pakaslahti. They started to discuss about hysteria. Later on Antii told me: “Look, there are twenty thousand participants from all over the world, but he is so unique, you cannot compare him with anybody”. What a personality!.. Still working and driving car all by himself. His old watch and famous pipe are always with him.
Thomas Stompe (1959, February 1st) is a professor in psychiatry at Vienna University, Austria. He is an expert in cultural psychiatry and forensic psychiatry. Thomas went to Pakistan for three years, where he was studying features of Muslims’ depression and compared it with depression in the Western Europe, following the path of comparative psychiatry studies initiated by Emil Kraepelin in 1904. Thomas Stompe has performed a lot of research and studies in comparative psychiatry. He is the author of numerous scientific publications. Prof. Stompe has organized an international group of psychiatrists who are interested in cultural influences on the psychopathology. He is an author of many publications on psychopathology description. (7-21,23).

Since his pre-school years Thomas was fascinated by old or strange cultures. This fascination has stayed with him for the whole life. After graduating his school, at first Thomas planned to study cultural history, but after few months he decided to study medicine in order to become a psychiatrist. Thomas Stompe is fully in love with his profession.

In 1990 Thomas met Dr. Haroon Chaudhrty from the University Clinic in Lahore, Pakistan. He has completed part of his training in psychiatry at the University Clinic in Vienna. In 1992 they decided to establish the Vienna Research Group in Cultural Psychiatry. During the following years, Prof. Stompe has visited Pakistan several times in order to coordinate their collaborative research projects.

Their first published research findings generated considerable interest in the scientific community. The collaborative research group has expanded over the years, and now comprises psychiatrists from eight countries: Austria, Poland, Lithuania, Georgia, Pakistan, Ghana, Nigeria, and Namibia. They have completed part of their training in psychiatry at the University Clinic in Vienna. In 1992 they decided to establish the Vienna Research Group in Cultural Psychiatry. During the following years, Prof. Stompe has visited Pakistan several times in order to coordinate their collaborative research projects.

Their first published research findings generated considerable interest in the scientific community. The collaborative research group has expanded over the years, and now comprises psychiatrists from eight countries: Austria, Poland, Lithuania, Georgia, Pakistan, Ghana, Nigeria, and Namibia. Thomas visited Lithuania twice. First visit was in 2004, when he had lectures on Errotomania at the Parliament House of Lithuania, at the International Psychiatric Conference of Lithuanian Cultural Psychiatry Association. For the second time he came to Lithuania in 2008. As my supervisor and my dissertation on cultural psychiatry counselor he attended the dissertation defence procedure.

I am grateful to prof. Stompe for being the one who inspired me to do a research on phenomenology of schizophrenia, he gave me the key-questions, and was supervising during the whole process. Prof. Stompe’s aristocratic origins, he is the only son of Austrian aristocrats’ family. In order to make a good contact with his patients, he used to visit Vienna’s pubs, learning their slang. Prof. Stompe is a father of five kids. Thomas is lover of poetry, good literature and Chopin... His vocation as psychiatrist is very authentic.

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