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## **Letter from the President**

We are pleased to send you the second edition of Forum for the 2006-2009 term. Initially, we had hoped to do an issue of this yearbook each year but have only been able to produce two and hope this extended issue compensates.

First of all, I would like to thank our Editors Teresa von Sommaruga Howard and Lars Tavvon. All of the editorial work that they do on the journal is as volunteers and I want them both to know how much I appreciate the time and effort they have put in to produce this and our other Forum this term.

This is also my last letter to you as the President of IAGP. Recently someone asked me how I felt about finishing my term. Since I have been planning the General Assembly meeting for the Rome Conference, I have been reviewing my experience in this office. One of the most important things that I have learned as I have traveled and talked to people all over the world is how important IAGP is to so many people as a symbol and standard bearer in our field and how it provides a feeling of belonging with others who understand the excitement, the trials and the tribulations of being a group leader.

I have been very moved by the willingness of the members of the Executive committee and the Board of Directors to take time away from their work, spend their own money to travel to different continents, spend two days locked in airless hotel rooms all because they believe in the worth of this organization.

Clearly the IAGP as reflected by our name change and the proposed new ethics guidelines is in a time of transition, in a way we are a new organization and I think about the need for us to be open to the world of groups in many difference forms, not just traditional group psychotherapy and to continue to build on the changes we started making last term under Christer Sandahl's leadership. I hope that you enjoy reading this issue of Forum and will be inspired to join in many other IAGP activities.

**Frances Bonds-White, Ed.D. President (2006-2009)**