The Practitioner-Applicant-for-Trainer (PAT) process was created to provide a clear educational process for certified practitioners who wish to become certified as a trainer, educator, and practitioner (TEP) and to allow PATs to credit training hours to individuals who wish to become certified as practitioners.

**QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FORMS AND THE PROCESS**

**Q: What are the process and time lines for the annual updates?** Annual updates are due July 15th. There is instant enrollment for the new PATs and they can be admitted anytime between January 10th and July 15th. The first annual update is not due until the next year (e.g., if you enroll on April 10th 2007 your first update is not due until April 15th 2008). The time period for the annual update runs from the time of the last update to the time of the current update. Some people, because of vacation and/or work schedules, file their annual updates earlier than July 15th. The annual updates should run consecutively. For example, if the first update was from April 25, 2007 until May 15th, 2009 then the second update would be from May 16th to the current date (no later than July 15th).

**Q: What if I miss the deadline?** Any PAT who fails to submit the annual update and pay the annual renewal fee by July 15th will be fined a $100.00 late penalty fee. If the annual update and fees are not submitted by September 1st then the PAT will be automatically terminated from the PAT process.

**Q: Why is the Board so rigid about the deadline?** Members of the PAT Review Committee fly in to Washington from all over the country at their own and Board expense. These people give up a weekend of their time to review the Annual Updates. If your Annual Update is not in it cannot be reviewed. If your Annual Update is not reviewed your PAT status cannot be renewed. It’s as simple as that.

**Q: How do I document the training offered to others, and consultation and professional development received?** You must use the format for documentation as outlined on the "Annual Update Forms." You may transfer the format from the forms (e.g., "Annual Summary of Training Hours," "Annual Summary of Consultation," and "Annual Summary of Professional Development," to your word processor. You must provide the Board with the essential information as listed on the printed forms even if you create your own documents on your word processor. Your name, date of submission and consecutive page numbers must be printed on the bottom of each page.

**Q: How long must I submit an annual update?** PAT candidates must submit an annual update until they have successfully passed both the written and the on-site examinations for TEP. An annual update is due each July 15th until the PAT has passed both exams.

**Q: What if I want to quit?** You may just want to take some time off (see next section)? You can terminate the process at anytime. Simply send a letter stating that you are withdrawing from the PAT process and include one last "Annual Update" that covers the time between your last update and the date of your termination. Your primary trainer must also send a letter stating that you are withdrawing from the PAT process. Any PAT hours that you credited to psychodrama trainees before terminating the PAT process will be honored by the Board. If, at some future date, you decide to reapply you will have to begin at ground zero.
QUESTIONS ABOUT THE LENGTH OF TIME TO COMPLETE THE PROCESS

Q: What if it takes me more than three years to finish? O.K. You don’t have to finish in three years. Just send in the annual PAT updates. Make a plan for completion. Trust in the process. Send your plan in.

Q: What if I want to take a year off? That’s cool. Send in the yearly update, make sure your primary trainer signs off, pay the annual renewal fee and simply state that you took the year off.

QUESTIONS ABOUT PSYCHODRAMA TRAINEES

Q: Can I be a primary or secondary trainer? No! Only TEPs can be primary or secondary trainers. You can be the third professional reference for practitioner candidates.

Q: How much credit do psychodrama trainees receive when I am co-leading with someone else? It is the responsibility of the presenter to be clear about how many hours the trainee can credit for practitioner certification. In order for students to receive credit, the PAT must lead or co-lead the training. If another person is conducting the training, the PAT may not grant training hours to students. For example, if the PAT sponsors and stays in the room while a non-PAT teaches their students, the students cannot credit training hours from the PAT. If a PAT offers an eight-hour workshop and only provides active training for four hours while the other four hours are from others, than the students can credit four hours. If a PAT and a non-PAT co-lead a session with both individuals actively involved in all phases of the training than the students may credit hours from the PAT.

Q: When I become a TEP, can my students count my PAT training hours with me as TEP training hours? Training hours that you provided before successfully completing your written and on-site TEP examinations are credited as PAT Hours. Hours that you provide after successfully completing the TEP examinations are credited as TEP Hours.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SECONDARY TRAINER

Q: It's difficult to find a Secondary Trainer? It is extremely difficult to find a secondary trainer six months before the exam, but it is relatively easy to find a secondary trainer during the first year as a PAT. Your secondary trainer does not have to be in your geographical vicinity. With a little planning and organization you can choose a secondary trainer who lives far from you. You can videotape your training sessions and have your secondary trainer review them. Your secondary trainer can observe your presentations at regional or national conferences, etc. You can receive supervision over the phone or by e-mail.

QUESTIONS ABOUT PAT TRAINING HOURS OFFERED TO TRAINEES

Q: I do a lot of training. Must I report all those hours? The Board is only concerned with training hours that are offered for credit to individuals towards meeting the requirement of 780 hours of training for certification as a practitioner. If you have too many training opportunities you simply do not have to offer all these hours for credit. This will most likely occur either in demonstration sessions or in training that is voluntarily provided without remuneration. The PAT may also offer many hours of general professional training that is not specifically related to the professional practice of psychodrama, sociometry and group psychotherapy. It is the responsibility of the PAT and the Primary Trainer to determine whether the proposed training meets one of the seven identified competencies (e.g. history, philosophy, methodology, sociometry, ethics, research/evaluation and related fields) and whether or not the training will be offered for credit towards psychodrama certification.

Q: I'm having trouble offering enough hours for credit. Yes, it is a challenging process. You must have spontaneity, creativity, perseverance, patience, talent and good fortune. According to Moreno, only the creative and spontaneous will survive. You may need training in marketing. This is may be an excellent opportunity to do pro bono work for non-profit agencies.
QUESTIONS ABOUT SUPERVISION HOURS RECEIVED

Q: Must I really maintain the required ratio of supervision required for training hours offered? Absolutely! If the PAT is offering credit to applicants for certification as practitioners, then the PAT must receive the required hours of supervision. The supervision ratio is one hour of supervision for every three hours of training for the first 144 hours of training workshops. Thereafter, the ratio is one hour of supervision for every 8 hours of training conducted. Annual Updates must meet the established minimum ratios. Annual updates that do not meet the minimum ratio will be returned for correction!

Q: Supervision is difficult to arrange and is costly! You are not required to offer more than 144 hours of training in a three-year period. You are required to obtain supervision for training hours that are offered for credit. If you are doing more training than the minimum then you must be making the big bucks. If you’re not making the big bucks do not offer more than 144 hours of training for credit.

Consider the following options! The Board does not require you to have face-to-face supervision for each and every session. You can videotape your training sessions and have your primary trainer review them. You can receive supervision over the phone or by e-mail. With your primary trainer’s consent you can receive supervision from your secondary trainer. You can meet in a small group with other PATs and have a daylong supervision session each month. Be Creative!

Q: Is there any room for spontaneity regarding the Required Ratio of Supervision and Training? Yes! The primary trainer and the PAT may decide that more supervision is needed in the early phases of the PAT’s development as a trainer. Using a progressively responsible process the PAT would receive supervision at a greater ratio in the first year and less in the third year, but the overall ratio will be one hour of supervision for every three hours of training. The primary trainer and the PAT may also decide to continuously exceed the minimum ratio for supervision and training. Consequently, it is permissible to have more supervision hours than is required for the training hours, but it is never permissible to have less supervision hours than the minimum required ratio.

QUESTIONS ABOUT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Q: What constitutes professional development? One hundred hours (100) of professional development are required for PATs. The PAT and the primary trainer should meet and develop a plan of continuing education for professional development as a trainer and educator. Professional development refers to those activities and training events which will enhance the PAT’s effectiveness as a trainer and educator.

Professional development will generally involve workshops, classes, seminars, and training in which the PAT is the trainee. Routine examples of professional development includes training to broaden one’s practice as a trainer (e.g., hypnotherapy, family therapy, etc.), enhance effectiveness as a trainer (ethics, marketing, curriculum development, etc.) and training to keep abreast of new developments in the field (e.g., Playback Theater, Archetypal Psychodrama, Advances in Sociometry, etc.). Training hours received from participation in regional and national conferences of the ASGPP usually count towards professional development. Professional development may involve personal therapy. However, the PAT may only count a maximum of 25 hours of personal therapy towards the 100-hour requirement. Articles and books published may be counted for a maximum of 15 hours towards the 100-hour requirement.

The following activities are not professional development:

*Presentations and papers delivered by you at conferences and meetings (These could be training hours offered by you to others).

*Incidental or random development of one's career or practice.

*General education activities, such as preparing for licensing exams or obtaining a professional graduate degree.
QUESTIONS ABOUT CO-LEADING

Q: What are the rules when I am co-leading with someone? If the PAT and the other person (e.g., TEP, PAT, or non-PAT) are equally actively responsible for co-leading the training then the PAT may credit all the training hours. If however, the training is divided into segments with sequential trainers, then the PAT may only credit those hours when the PAT was actively responsible for the training. Whichever option you choose remember that you must also receive supervision for those hours.

QUESTIONS ABOUT WHETHER I AM DOING THE RIGHT THING

Q: This process is too hard! Yes, it is a rigorous process. Consider your motivation for becoming a trainer. If you are doing this because psychodrama is your bliss and you truly want to be a trainer - then it is relatively easy.