

# Open invitation goes out for mass meeting of UK hypnotherapists

By  
EJCH Reporter

**R**enewed attempts to try to bring Britain's hypnotherapists under one national organisation are planned for this summer.

Therapists from throughout the United Kingdom are invited to a mass meeting in London to consider proposals for a single register and the establishment of uniform standards of training and practice.

The open invitation follows last November's "Hypnotherapy Workshop" (reported in the January edition of the EJCH) at which a working party was appointed to examine a range of options for nationally recognised qualifications.

Among the possibilities which have come under review as a longer term objective was the prospect of National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) for hypnotherapy.

## National Register

Those behind the November meeting – chaired by the Complementary and Alternative Medicine Steering Group – believe they have now made sufficient progress to present their proposals to an open meeting of the profession.

The organisers hope to put before the assembly proposals to institute a single unified body to represent hypnotherapy, lay down training requirements and establish a National Register.

## Media Comment

Their hope is that this will create a "recognised" body for direct negotiations with the UK government.

According to one member of the working party the need for such a body "has become imperative with the recent upsurge in negative media comment and increasing reports of possible government legislation."

The meeting will be on Saturday, June 24 (10.30am – 4.30pm) at the Amadeus Centre, Shirland Road, Maida Vale, London.

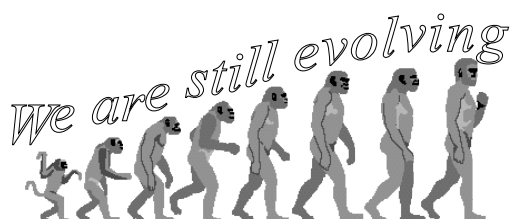
*Could be the most important event in the recent history of British hypnotherapy claim organisers*

The organisers hope that as many therapists as possible will attend. Those interested or wishing further information are invited to send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

**The Steering Committee for Hypnotherapy,  
6A Portsmouth Road, Woolston,  
Southampton SO2 9AA**

Those unable to attend in person are being encouraged to apply for postal consultation by also sending a SAE to the above address.

"This could be one of the most important events in the recent history of British hypnotherapy," claimed one member of the steering committee.



*Little by little the EJCH is developing its own distinctive style. One we hope will set it apart and ahead of other publications in this field. Among the main features of the Journal is its openness and accessibility. We want all our readers, every one of you, to know that this is your Journal. We welcome your contributions, in particular news items concerning clinical hypnosis, from anywhere in the world. So please write to the News Editor, EJCH, 16 Connaught Street, LONDON W2 2AF, United Kingdom.*

# Therapists help TV inquiry into potential misuse of hypnosis as political concern grows

## Corporation of Advanced Hypnotherapy concern over confabulation

**One of the United Kingdom's hypnotherapy organisations has decided to affiliate itself to the recently established British False Memory Society.**

The Corporation of Advanced Hypnotherapy took the decision amid mounting concern over reports of therapists "creating" bogus memories of childhood abuse among their clients.

According to the BFMS approximately one quarter of the alleged "false memory" cases on its files involved hypnosis.

Announcing its decision to become a group member of the Society, the C.A. Hyp, which is based in Southport, England, claimed its own training procedures were specifically designed to guard against the creation of confabulated memories.

"The therapist should never evaluate for the client or encourage them to confront or blame anyone else, but should enable them to work on and resolve their own difficulties," stated a spokesperson for the Corporation.

● See major EJCH report on the history and development of the False Memory Movement by Bob Marsden

**British hypnotherapists have been assisting with a television investigation into the growth of stage hypnosis and its potential dangers.**

LWT was scheduled to broadcast the results in the "London Programme" on Sunday, May 1.

The programme follows increasing publicity and public concern over allegations of serious misuse of hypnosis in some stage acts.

British newspapers have carried reports of alleged sexual abuses and

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The TV inquiries had shown a significant increase in stage hypnosis around London and South East England.

But there were serious questions over whether the licences required by law from local authorities are being properly obtained.

In the Commons, Labour MP Colin Pickthall suggested the government should begin monitoring the medical effects of stage hypnotism.

Mr Pickthall, MP for West Lancashire, also wanted to know what research the Department of Health had conducted into hypnosis and its consequences for health.

Junior Health Minister Tom Sackville pointed out that within Britain's National Health Service both hospital medical staff and general practitioners were able to arrange for patients to receive complementary therapies such as hypnosis "where they are satisfied that a clinical need for the treatment exists and if the resources can be made available locally, subject to the patient's consent to the treatment."

The Minister added: "It is widely accepted that hypnosis has a valuable role as an adjunct to medical and psychological treatments and is legitimately practised by a range of reputable therapists."



*"Widely accepted that hypnosis has a valuable role"* – UK Health Minister Tom Sackville

one death linked to involvement in a stage act.

Assistant producer Joe Houlihan told EJCH that the programme had been investigating the potential dangers by acts which are "taken to extremes."