

# Reflections at the End of My Term as ITAA President

by Chitra Ravi

**I** look back on the past 22 years of my involvement with transactional analysis and recognize the influence it has had on my life. It is no wonder that I decided to serve on the board of the South Asian Association of Transactional Analysts (SAATA) for many years before I became the cochair of the ITAA International Board of Certification (IBOC) and then a trustee on the ITAA Board of Trustees. But I never imagined that I would be invited to take up the role of ITAA President, as I was during the 2019 Raleigh Conference. Two strong-willed women, Diane Salters and Elana Leigh, urged me to consider it, and I ultimately responded to the trust that they had in me.

Now it is with humility and a sense of pride that I write this article as I finish my term. These 2 years have presented a kaleidoscope of emotions and experiences for me. The actual experience of being in the role is quite different from imagining how it would be. “The buck stops here” was often an internal dialogue, along with many instances of holding the dilemma of how and what needed to be done and the implications of actions, which is something quite unimaginable. I have felt exhilarated, dejected, stressed, and jubilant, just to name a few emotions. Yet I cannot but help acknowledge the deep expansion, learning, and trust that I developed in my



*EATA President Sylvia Schachner (center) joined current ITAA President Chitra Ravi (right) and ITAA President-Elect Thorsten Geck (left) at the ITAA Board of Trustees meeting to discuss joint plans*



The ITAA Board of Trustees during its meeting near Dublin on 7 July 2023. In person, standing (from left): C. Suriyaprakash, Robin Fryer (ITAA managing editor), Marguerite Sacco, Steff Oates, Prathitha Gangadharan, Thorsten Geck, Chitra Ravi, Sylvie Monin, and John Oates; virtually via Zoom (from left top): Lucy Freedman, [man taking photo], Anne Tucker, (from left bottom): Cristina Caizzi, Rema Giridhar, Michelle Thomé. Not shown but attended virtually: Paula Rodriguez.

own capabilities and those of others. I have felt so honored to serve the TA community and the ITAA membership.

I begin by thanking Diane and Elana for their unconditional support. They showed me the light when things looked bleak and were available as the solid pairs of ears whenever I felt the need. I also thank incoming ITAA President Thorsten Geck for difficult conversations that we have had and being available to do any task that I ask of him. I see him as being strong in his new role in the coming 2 years as he becomes the first president of the new professional association. I have full confidence in his ability to lead the ITAA from the front. And I will fully support him in my role as past president.

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Dublin for our final round was the icing on the cake. The joy of being together and how magically the air cleared of any qualms or misgivings between members was truly invaluable. I will always cherish that time.

The board is supported and held by the administration and office of the ITAA. I truly thank Robin Fryer, who is the “voice of wisdom” of the BOT; her challenges and reminders of procedure and policies is invaluable. Anytime something needs to be published in *The Script*, she works it out with patience and persistence. Her contributions go way beyond her incredible role as the managing editor not

No task or project that I have faced would have been possible without the energy, commitment, zest, and belief of the entire board of trustees. I am so glad to have had this team with me. We were not without our fair share of challenges and sometimes difficult dynamics, but the principles of open communication worked their magic in sorting out anything that needed to be dealt with. This year, meeting in person on 7–8 July near

only of *The Script* but of the *Transactional Analysis Journal* as well.

Susan Lockwood in her years with us was one of the most efficient persons to hold the fort of administrative and finance work. I often wondered how she found time to sleep or eat! And when she left and we signed up with Huntington Association Management, with Susan’s help, they took over and have worked with all the shifts and changes that we have demanded of them, even if there were some hiccups along the way. I have often reflected on how it is for the admin teams of our nonprofit organization to work with a board who are volunteers. We board members also have our own professional work, and we come and go every few years as board members. It can be challenging for both sides, I know.

One of the things I am happiest about is that the ITAA’s collaboration with EATA has deepened in the past few years. My predecessors brought this important relationship to its full bloom, and I have looked at how best I could sustain and strengthen it. EATA and ITAA have our differences, which we bring to our dialogues so as to look at how best to work together respectfully. Dialogues with Peter Rudolf and



Treasurer John Oates moves to the head of the table with Sylvia Schachner (left) and Chitra Ravi (right) so that trustees viewing the meeting virtually could see them better.



*ITAA Regional Representatives Prathitha Gangadharan (Asia-Pacific) and Marguerite Sacco (Africa/Middle East)*

Sylvia Schachner have been at times intense but always valuable. The mutuality that we experience is something that I honor and will remember and cherish.

Apart from sharing webinars, newsletters, and our presence at each other's executive and board meetings, I want to also acknowledge some additional key initiatives involving ITAA and EATA:


- The cancellation of the 2020 Birmingham World Conference



remained a looming shadow over us. But in putting our heads together, the presidents of ITAA, EATA, FTAA, UKATA, and IARTA and the treasurers of ITAA and EATA looked at how to add some additional closure

- The Common Mission Statement is ready to be adopted and published by both EATA and ITAA. We await the establishment of the new professional association (C6) for this to be done because the statement carries aspects of “professional” that are not legally applicable to the “public benefit” organization (C3) the ITAA is today.
- The TA World Council of Standards (TAWCS) meeting held in June 2023 focused on establishing how both EATA and ITAA could redefine mutual recognition by respecting each association’s unique contexts and therefore differences in holding and operationalizing training and certification. This will pave the way for TAWCS meetings to be highly fruitful and to become a forum for sharing best practices and other exchanges.

The committees of the ITAA have been in dialogue either with me or one of the trustees and are involved in constantly exploring ways to improve our systems, manuals, and processes. We have often engaged in discussions with deep trust, knowing that both parties seek to arrive at decisions for the health of the larger TA community and the ITAA.

I end with a deep sense of gratitude to our membership and how you have placed your trust in us, the Board of Trustees, to carry out the work that we do. 



*ITAA Vice President of Operations Sylvie Monin*



*ITAA Vice President Professional Standards C. Suriyaprakash*



*ITAA Vice President Research & Innovation Steff Oates (right) presents Chitra Ravi with gift of appreciation for her service as ITAA President*