

C O N F E R E N C E R E V I E W

Reviewed by Roxanna Erickson-Klein, PhD, LPC

Gerald Edelman opened the Conference with his address to a large audience in the convention center. While technical difficulties made hearing his words challenging, especially in some areas of the large arena, the Foundation made up for the lapse by offering each participant a free downloadable MP3 of the event. Using language that was simple to understand, yet profound in depth of understanding, Edelman clarified the extent to which life experience becomes encoded within our consciousness and affects our perceptions. While the overarching concept is somewhat within reach of the average educated individual, Edelman's explanations brought out an awareness of how much remains to be known. His explanations fostered appreciation for the extent to which researchers, each contributing a small piece of understanding, can collectively advance knowledge far beyond the possibilities of any single individual. As such, these openings promote the sense of interconnectedness for the benefit of humankind. It was truly a privilege to be in the presence of Edelman, whose work has been so pivotal to what is known today.

OVERVIEW

Reviewed by Roxanna Erickson-Klein, PhD, LPC, Dallas, Texas

Similar to previous years, polls at the opening ceremonies showed that the audience was comprised of individuals who appreciated the experience of earlier Evolution Conferences, and had returned for more. Evolution Conferences are truly extraordinary in that they bring together people from around the world in all stages of learning and professional development. Within the theme of commonalities and differences, an underlying understanding prevailed -- that no single approach overrides all others. A spirit of shared learning and interchange of knowledge permeated the large halls. Jeff Zeig's choice of keynotes ranged from Gerald Edelman, who researches the physiology of neuroscience, to Alanis Morissette, an award-winning singer/songwriter, and it mirrored the countless possibilities available to explore one's own view of psychotherapy. Overall, the variety of offerings, the opportunity to explore one's own horizons, and the buoyant atmosphere made Evolution 2013a rich professional adventure.

CLINICAL DEMONSTRATIONS**Clinical Demonstration 5: Marsha Linehan, PhD***Chain Analysis of Dysfunctional Behaviors*

Reviewed by Roxanna Erickson-Klein, PhD, LPC

In Marsha Linehan's stellar presentation she demonstrated how clients come in with problems that are often not nearly as simple or linear as initially expressed. At first, the problem seemed straightforward, but as the questions pertaining to the analysis proceeded, the concerns revealed a multitude of ways it was tied to other aspects of the patient's life. Though the demonstration may have intended to illustrate simple sequencing, it evolved into management of nebulous concerns, not unlike those that clinicians are likely to see in the office. Linehan's response of maintaining focus and direction was a powerful view of what is needed to keep a session on task, moving in a therapeutic direction.