

## UPDATE FOR NARTH CLINICAL MEMBERS LIST

By Marc Dillworth, Ph.D., Clinical Member Facilitator

The NARTH Clinical Members Discussion List welcomed a special guest in April: Dr. Rogers Wright, the co-author of *Destructive Trends in Mental Health*. We were honored to have him take the time from his busy schedule to join us online. The discussion just started at the end of March. So if you are interested in joining quickly, you may be able to view the conversation.

In this discussion, NARTH members are asking the questions and Dr. Wright is responding to them. During this session, he has told us how he keeps himself going when he is facing harassment about the contents of his book. It has been helpful to me to see his fighting spirit in the face of political correctness and intimidation. He is an example to all of us who stand for free choice in the treatment of homosexuality.

As in past discussions, the debate had gotten heated. Some clinical members have challenged the validity of parts of the book. Dr. Wright has done an excellent job of defending his positions. Debate and heated discussion is part of the clinical members discussion list. I believe it is a good thing because it sharpens one's cognitive abilities and skills as psychotherapists. Members include

leaders in the field of homosexuality, experienced mental health professionals and professionals wanting to learn about the field. Join us and get connected with other mental health professionals in the field of treating unwanted same sex attraction. All licensed mental health professionals are invited to join the ongoing conversation.

Recent topics have included a heated debate on "Why Psychology Must Change" by David Blakeslee, Ph.D. Another more clinically-related discussion was about a research study done by former NARTH Sigmund Freud award winner Warren Throckmorton, Ph.D. The title of the study was "Counseling practices as they relate to ratings of helpfulness by consumers of sexual reorientation therapy." The last topic was led by Joseph Nicolosi, Ph.D., president of NARTH and Dean Byrd, Ph.D., former vice president of NARTH, who answered some questions given to them by the clinical members. This has sparked a lively debate. Some of the questions were: Can a former struggler of homosexuality be an effective psychotherapist? Is it possible to emotionally re-engage the classic, "disengaged father"? We expect more lively debate in future online discussions.