

Psychoanalysts Ignore Developmental Factors, Accept “Gay Gene” Research

*by Johanna Krout Tabin, Ph.D.
NARTH Scientific Advisory Committee*

Members of NARTH might be interested in a brief discussion that occurred in an e-mail round robin of Section V (Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy) of Division 39 (Psychoanalysis) of the American Psychological Association.

One psychologist wrote that she was proud of guidelines she helped to write for the American Psychological Association to instruct the profession in how to perceive homosexual patients. Essentially, these guidelines follow the current political correctness of encouraging homosexuality. This attitude is based on the idea of homosexuality as a biologically-driven alternative lifestyle that should be respected as normal, unchangeable, and equivalent to a heterosexual outcome.

I responded with a succinct review of the scientific work on the biological research. Studies on male twins by Bailey and Pillard was one of those studies that helped to foster the current “politically correct” attitude. But as I explained, the data from that study actually *contradict even the modest conclusions* drawn by those researchers for a degree of heritability of homosexual behavior.

I further explained that gay activists and the media had seized

upon publication of this study, exaggerating the supposed influence of heredity to the point of making it seem to be the determining cause of a homosexual orientation. Furthermore, this misinterpretation of the data quickly became confused with civil-rights issues, which represent a different matter entirely.

The psychologist who helped to write the A.P.A. guide ignored my account of the facts, and simply pleaded with the other psychoanalysts for support of the guidelines, with its “biological and unchangeable” approach.

Two other experienced clinicians wrote in support of my view, saying essentially that the purpose of treatment was not just to *accept at face value*, but to *understand* behavior and the developmental factors that produced it. They pointed out that behavior develops not just from genetics, but in a broader psychosocial context. One of them gave an example of a patient of his whose developmental problems would reveal to any reasonable person why he struggled with sexual-identity confusion.

The membership did not respond further, apparently concluding, “enough said about this subject.” ■

Save the Date

**NARTH’s Conference 2000
“Treatment: Impact and Change”**

**November 17-18-19, 2000
Washington, D.C.**

(Details to follow in the mail)