Applications invited for research funding 2013 to 2016: “Effectiveness of systemic therapy and counseling” provided by the German Association for Systemic Therapy, Counseling and Family Therapy (DGSF), but open also to non-German researchers

Systemic psychotherapy and counseling are widespread psychosocial interventions. Their evidence base is strong, but further outcome research will support attempts to increasingly integrate the approach in all important fields of psychosocial and health practice. The German Association for Systemic Therapy, Counseling and Family Therapy (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Systemische Therapie, Beratung und Familientherapie, DGSF) has therefore set up a research fund of 140,000 € to stimulate research projects on the effectiveness of systemic psychotherapy and counseling in healthcare and in youth welfare.

Background: DGSF is a large professional association for the advancement of Systemic Therapy and Counseling. The DGSF General Assembly decided in October 2012 to use 140,000 € of the association's assets during the following three years (2013 – 2016) to promote research projects that explore the efficacy and effectiveness of systemic interventions. General criteria: The DGSF research fund supports research projects (including pilot projects and parts of larger projects) that appear to be particularly relevant for the financing of Systemic Therapy and Counseling in Germany in the next ten years. Highest Priority is given to the following topics:

- **In Health-Care:** Efficacy studies on systemic therapy for anxiety disorders in adults (1st priority), for anxiety disorders in children and adolescents (2nd priority) and for conduct disorders in children and adolescents (3rd priority)
- **In Youth care:** Efficacy studies on Systemic Therapy / Counseling with endangered children and adolescents, particularly on outreach family therapy, socio-pedagogical assistance (in German: Sozialpädagogische Familienhilfe”), multisystemic, multidimensional or multi-family therapy / counseling.

Projects that can be funded include:

- Smaller Pilot studies that prepare for larger rct-studies funded elsewhere
- Controlled efficacy studies on systemic therapy / Counseling in controlled studies that compare ST/ SC with other recognized evidence-based treatment or Counseling approaches
- Modifications of / add-ons to ongoing or planned efficacy studies in non-German-speaking countries, that allow to make results of these studies compatible with the criteria of German licensing authorities (WBP, G-BA, DRV, Youth care regulation boards and others)

Applications should methodologically correspond to the current level of evidence based studies. These include e.g. prospective designs, standardized data collections, control groups and follow ups. Funded projects should ideally be completed and published by 2016. A four-member council of scientists and DGSF board members will decide on the best application(s).

**Applications** should be submitted to the DGSF office until **July 1st, 2013**.
Notes for the Application

Applications should be structured as follows:

Part I: The applicant

1. Name and institution of the applying researcher / research group
2. Previous research experience / clinical experience with the topic of the study

Part II: The research project

1. Goals and objectives of the study
2. Current status of research
3. Hypotheses to be tested
4. Description of the systemic intervention(s) the efficacy of which is to be examined (as concretely and clearly as possible)
5. Study design: sample and sample size, treatment and control groups, time points for outcome measurement
6. Instruments for data collection
7. Procedures to evaluate the data
8. Proposed way of presenting the results
9. Time schedule of the whole project
10. Funding requested for his project
   a) Funding by the applying agency, funding requested from DGSF, funding requested from other sources
   b) Funding for womanpower / manpower, funding for other expenses (e.g. travel, material, licenses…)

Applications should be submitted to the DGSF office until 1 July 2013.

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