



New Senior Trainer Brings Broad Experience

Meet Rosalie Thomas, RN, Ph.D., licensed psychologist and Trauma Recovery Humanitarian Assistance Program's new senior clinical consultant. Thomas brings a depth of experience in treating with EMDR, training clinicians to train others, and in EMDR leadership. Her skill set and wide network of relationships in the EMDR community will be a tremendous asset to Trauma Recovery/HAP. Rosalie will provide consultation and support on all clinical matters and she will be the trainer of trainers for the next generation of trainer candidates.

Thomas heard about EMDR therapy while training as a supervisor for American Association of Marriage & Family Therapists (AAMFT). In 1992, she trained in EMDR Basic 1 and 2 with Dr. Francine Shapiro, the developer of EMDR therapy. Their relationship evolved from teacher, to mentor and friend. She treated trauma in her Gig Harbor, WA private practice for many years, and has since retired. Following her own training, she was invited to train as a trainer by the EMDR Institute and joined the Institute's faculty.

Serving a Trauma Recovery International Mission

Rosalie first teamed up with Trauma Recovery/HAP at the request of Steve Silver, PhD and former programs chair, who was leading a multi-phased project in Bangladesh and looking for medical skills to join his Trauma Recovery team. This was Thomas' first work in Asia. She went on to become a Trainer of Trainers for EMDR Asia to help build local EMDR training capacity by training more local EMDR consultants and facilitators. She feels local trainers are critical to delivering more culturally appropriate training by adapting sessions to meet the needs of their local community.

Joining the Home Team

Thomas joined the Trauma Recovery staff in early 2020 to help meet the mounting demand for EMDR basic training and support a strong training faculty. Among her goals in this role is recruiting and retaining a diverse Trauma Recovery faculty and including cultural competence training into the curriculum, so therapists can effectively treat the communities HAP's agency partners serve. She says success will depend on respect and teamwork. "Everyone has something to offer. You just need to find their gifts and bring them to the team," she said.

In addition to her Trauma Recovery responsibilities, Rosalie serves as co-facilitator of the EMDR Global Alliance, a facilitator and regional trainer for the Institute, trainer of trainers for EMDR Asia and sits on the board of the EMDR Foundation. In 2016, she was co-recipient, with Dr. Sushma Mehrotra, of Trauma Recovery/HAP's Liz Snyder Award for Humanitarian Services.