

Laurie Anne Pearlman, Ph.D.
Biographical Summary

Laurie Anne Pearlman received her Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Connecticut in 1987. She co-founded the Traumatic Stress Institute/Center for Adult & Adolescent Psychotherapy in 1986 and the Trauma Research, Education, and Training Institute (TREATI) in 1996. She is currently an independent trauma consultant based in Massachusetts. Dr. Pearlman is a member of the complex trauma task force of the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies, a fellow of the American Psychological Association, and senior psychological consultant for the Headington Institute.

Dr. Pearlman has devoted her career to promoting the understanding of traumatic stress, its impact on survivors and those who work with survivors, and its amelioration. She has pursued these goals through research, psychotherapy, theory-building, professional training and consultations (including clinical and research supervision and organizational consultations), court evaluations, and community and crisis intervention work, at the national and international levels. She has worked with individuals, groups, psychotherapists, humanitarian staff, front-line social service providers, clergy, and others who assist traumatized populations.

Dr. Pearlman has received awards for her clinical and scientific contributions from the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies (ISTSS) and the Connecticut Psychological Association; for her work in media and trauma from ISTSS; and for contributions to professional practice from the American Psychological Association Trauma Division. She has published numerous articles, chapters, and books on psychological trauma, including its assessment (*Trauma and Attachment Belief Scale Manual*, 2003), and on the deleterious impact of working with survivors known as vicarious traumatization, a term coined in the 1990 article she co-authored on the topic.

In recent years, Dr. Pearlman's goal has been to apply clinical and scientific knowledge about traumatic stress to large groups of people. Her work with Professor Ervin Staub in East Africa since 1999, as well as the publication in 2000 of the trauma training curriculum, *Risking Connection*, represent efforts to make sophisticated information about traumatic stress available to people to use without the on-going assistance of highly trained professionals. She is currently collaborating on a book for therapists and counselors about treating survivors of sudden, traumatic loss.