In Press and coming soon:

**BREAKING NEWS: SCIENCE DISCOVERS PAS and DECLARES IT PSYCHOLOGICAL CHILD ABUSE; GARDNER’S FINDINGS AFFIRMED!**

By Linda J. Gottlieb, LMFT, LCSW-R

In advance of this article, I would like to address of number of issues that will set the stage for my coming comments in support of Richard Gardner’s findings:

There is a very small, although very vocal, group of naysayers who dispute Gardner’s alienation model, known as PAS.

Note first: none of the naysayers dispute that children are suggestible and are frequently coached—especially in divorce situations—to reject a parent for no justifyable reason. And whether they call it the aligned child, enmeshed child, alienated child—a rose by any other name is still a rose. And notice, virtually all the naysayers use the word or words “alienation” or “parental alienation” in their theory about this observable family dynamic. In the end, a rose by any other name is still a rose.

Indeed, the small group of naysayers carry no more credibility nor can they claim scientific support for their nuanced differences with PAS than can those who dispute climate change. PAS is settled science. If there are any doubts, let’s apply Bayesian analysis to Gardner’s concept of PAS and to his 8 manifestations of an alienated child and require that all the countering belief systems do likewise. After that assessment, let’s see what theory comes out on top!

Even the two initial naysayers of the PAS model—upon whom most critics rely—recognized that an alienated—or their aligned child—manifests the 8 symptoms that Gardener identified as indicative of an alienated child. Who are these alleged credible experts who dispute the 8 manifestations of an alienated child and—even more important—what criteria do they employ to identify their alienated child?

Evidence for a valid theory is its ability for prediction. My alienation expert colleagues and I know what an alienated child is going to say before they finish their thoughts: for example, when an alienated parent arrives to watch them at their games, the parent is *stalking* them. When an alienated parent gives them a gift, it is a *bribe*. What child—other than an alienated child—thinks like this? I wrote in my book that you would think all these children attended the same theatrical camp to learn these notions.

Let us compare the credentials of the naysayers to those of child psychiatrist, Richard Gardner. To become a child psychiatrist, one must:

a. Earn a Bachelor's Degree.

b. Prepare for Medical School.

c. Earn a Medical Degree.

d. Complete an Internship and Residency.

e. Get a Physician's License.

f. Become Board Certified in General Psychiatry

g. Consider Board Certification in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

i. Pass Board Certification as did Dr. Gardner

Imagine the hubris of his critics, who have far less credentials, criticizing his findings!

Dr. Gardner was an esteemed faculty member of Columbia University in the position of Clinical Professor of Child Psychiatry. Where do his critics claim faculty Status?

Dr. Gardner wrote more than 40 books and 250 articles—mostly all peer-reviewed. What peer-reviewed publications do his critics claim to have written?

When selecting an expert, you also a professional, and a professional is someone who:

1. Demonstrates respect and civility—especially publically, for those who have differing ideas on a subject.
2. Rarely—if ever—calls out an expert publically—at least not before extending professional courtesy and respect by discussing their differences privately and providing a heads up.
3. Critiques an expert’s ideas but *never* engages in ad hominine attacks.
4. Always places the best interests of a clinical issue above self-interest and self-aggrandizement.
5. Will first consider the ramifications to a clinical issue above a personal agenda and thereby act accordingly.

I have co-authored, with 12 highly respected alienation experts, an article entitled, “How to Select a Alienation Expert.” This article is posted on this website for your review.

Chose wisely when selecting and heeding the advice of someone offering opinions on PAS or Parental Alienation. Your children depend upon your wise selection!