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Betreff: Aeschi 9 Follow Up and analysis  
Datum: 11. Juni 2017 15:48:26 MESZ  
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Dear Koni

Here are some reflections about Aeschi 9!

The format that we developed and have used all these years is completely a winner. The brief presentations set up the videos that lead into lively discussion by all involved. I would say by the end that perhaps 90% had actively participated in various discussions. There were medical students there who were very funny and quite bright. I lament to some degree how Americanized the meeting has become. There really is now no foreign presence and much of the content is strictly focused on American mental health care (such as it is). There is no doubt that there is a craving for this kind of meeting, with its intimacy and lack of egos, which everyone finds so utterly refreshing. The setting and the hotel really work quite well and create the proper atmosphere for the Aeschi spirit to thrive. People seemed to really enjoy themselves and marvel at how different this meeting was in comparison to others they attend. There is a clear desire for this kind of intimacy, support, and collaboration. For my part, Aeschi is an oasis that exists within an otherwise dismal state of mental health care in the US that is bad and only destined to get worse under our miserable president's incompetent leadership. And while I thoroughly enjoy the meeting, it is completely disconnected from reality in so many ways.

As I think back, I believe the two of us were done with the final conference at Aeschi and the completion of the book. But clearly, others are not done with this kind of meeting and it lives on in a different but nonetheless admirable and high-quality way within the Mayo Clinic version of the meeting. Your presence was sorely missed--especially by me--but we soldiered on, and the founding father role was somewhat displaced on to me. I did my best to not overplay that and keep the focus on others. You and I did not discuss in depth your reasons for not being there, but your presence was frankly everywhere even though you were not! Aeschi is your creation with a lot of help from me (and others of course). The ideas of Aeschi are still very much alive and growing in a modest but distinctly important and undeniable way. I am certain there will be much pressure on you to attend Aeschi 10 in 2019, so you can begin to mull that prospect over in the next two years!

For my part, I can't imagine not going--nothing compares really and it always feels like coming home to me. Anyway, that is my take on Aeschi 9.

I hope all is well! Best wishes until we next meet...

With love and appreciation,

Dave