To begin, I thank Dr. I-Yin Yen for her concise and targeted introduction to my article. This summary helps facilitate understanding of my paper and I appreciate her efforts.

In addition, I thank Dr. Ming-Zong Lee for sharing his insights. I concur that the crux of the problem is not that differences exist between people; rather, the challenge stems from people using these differences to stigmatize others and treat them as if they are inferior because of being different. Therefore, to promote inclusive leisure services we must counter these negative perceptions as we move beyond intolerance and even tolerance to arrive at point where we appreciate, embrace, and celebrate our differences. We must model this degree of embracement and teach community members about these values.

As Dr. Lee identifies, people interpret leisure in different ways depending on a variety of factors including cultural influences. There is value in engaging in cross-cultural dialogues that help to identify shared characteristics of leisure engagement. A more global understanding of leisure helps position us to provide more inclusive leisure services.

Dr. Lee’s comments of the value of self-actualization reminds me of the many ways leisure helps us to achieve balance in our lives. As ancient
philosophers have taught us, leisure includes times of contemplation and reflection as well as times when competence and achievement occur. Various scholars describe benefits of cultivating *casual leisure* as well as *serious leisure*. I appreciate the thoughtful analysis provided by Dr. Lee; such reflections are beneficial in increasing awareness and understanding that is far reaching.

I thank Dr. Ping Yu for the analysis of my paper. I am pleased Dr. Yu agrees that one fundamental ethical principle across the world is to work to include all people in community leisure experiences. As Dr. Yu identifies, it is unfortunate that some professionals are not fully aware of unjust situations of people who experience oppression and implications of this injustice on their ability to experience leisure. My intention with this paper and future work is to help professionals and citizens develop such an understanding; I hope that this new awareness, in conjunction with developing a sense of ethics, compels people across the globe to take action to remedy the situation and promote inclusion.

Inclusive leisure services not only benefit people who experience oppression but also have a positive influence on oppressors. A valuable virtue for all of us is to have compassion as we work to understand another’s challenges accompanied by the desire to alleviate these negative conditions. When we attempt to demonstrate compassion, we feel a sense of purpose and are uplifted as we work to achieve a goodness that is greater than our own sense of self-interest and pleasure.

I appreciate insightful reflections presented by Dr. Yu and I am committed to share these ideas of inclusion as widely as possible. As we learn to be ethical, demonstrate compassion, and are empathetic, we are likely to increase our understanding of the lives of diverse people who encounter
Reflections of Appreciation to Drs. I-Yin Yen, Ming-Zong Lee, Ping Yu, and Li-Jung Lin

oppression. My hope is that as a result, of this increased understanding, we will be more inclined to provide inclusive leisure services. This is my hope and the message I try to convey in this paper: to encourage everyone to embrace diversity and include all individuals and groups in leisure services as we recognize each person’s value to our respective communities.

The phrase proposed by Dr. Yu, “We are family” is helpful. For families to function and exist in a positive manner give-and-take occurs among its members. This balancing act requires members to juggle the many logistics and challenges that at times occur when one or more family member experiences oppression, isolation, or discrimination. While engaged in this balancing act, in addition to these challenges, there are experiences that result in positive transformation of family members. I apply the idea of a balancing act to leisure service providers as well. As we consider challenges encountered by diverse families we are better able to develop supportive leisure services for each family member while simultaneously celebrating the positive experiences families encounter.

I appreciate comments made by Dr. Li-Jung Lin, especially her recognition of the changes of societal expectations from the ancient Greeks limiting leisure to an elite few to expectations today by such documents as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights identifying leisure to be right of all people. It is helpful to apply the notion of inclusion to all people and work to include those who exist on the margins of society. Such groups go beyond people with disabilities and include those with limited economic resources who may be living in poverty, people of a culture (e.g., ethnicity, race, religion, sexual orientation) not shared or practiced by those in privilege, and older adults, to name a few.
I concur with Dr. Lin’s points that facilitating inclusive leisure can be challenging. As a result, we must all work together to acquire the necessary resources and then structure programs to encourage people to engage in activities that facilitate leisure. Even though it may be challenging, we must remain vigilant in our efforts to support all citizens so they experience inclusive leisure often resulting in them feeling they have happy lives. The rewards of inclusive leisure far exceed those experienced in segregated contexts because of the connections participants make to members of their community that contribute to them flourishing. To achieve the purpose of inclusion, all human service providers must work together to ensure that we structure services in ways that maintain the respect of each person and promote dignity for all.

I believe Dr. Lin’s advice is valuable for us to continue to work to expand the knowledge and skills of human service professionals so we all feel competent in empowering those who have often been disempowered. Working to change the public’s attitudes and behaviors to embrace those people who might be different from them in some way is another valuable strategy to promote positive change towards inclusion.

I appreciate receiving feedback on my paper. Reading colleagues’ reflections has increased my understanding of the complexity of the topic. I value the opportunity to engage in a dialogue in such a forum and hope readers appreciate this collegial interaction as well. It is helpful if we continue to collaborate across cultures and professions to share knowledge so that we develop service delivery strategies that support inclusive leisure.