Pair up in threes.
—Yogi Berra

Because psychoanalysts have an ever-expanding appreciation for the many factors that contribute to the psychoanalytic treatment process, they no longer view themselves simply as the receiver of the patient’s transferences. When patient and analyst meet in the consulting room, they bring along with them a blend of intra-psychic and external ingredients—including counter-transference—that make up the analytic soup.

Candidates in psychoanalytic training must contend with even more sources of indirect countertransference reactions than experienced graduate analysts, due to aspects of the training experience itself. The author contends that minimum graduation requirements for supervised analyses are one such source of indirect countertransference. Four clinical examples of control analyses demonstrate this form of indirect counter-transference during the assessment, opening, middle, and termination phases.

These examples are followed by implications and recommendations for didactic psychoanalytic training curricula, countertransference awareness, supervision of control cases, institute governance policies and procedures, publication of clinical material, and future research.