

EHPS 2017

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"The real act of discovery consists not in finding new lands, but in seeing with new eyes."

Marcel Proust

The 31st Annual Conference of the European Health Psychology Society (EHPS) is hosted by the University of Padova (Italy), which is one of the oldest universities in Europe, founded in 1222. We hope that this conference will offer the delegates from different countries the opportunity to experience the sensation of the university's long and important tradition, while at the same time we hope that this prestigious university will embrace the vitality of the Health Psychology community. A vitality that becomes apparent in the large number of participants and the richness of this year's conference programme.

We received more than 900 contributions from academics and practitioners in health psychology from 47 countries. The scientific programme is comprised of six 27 symposia, four roundtables, 48 sessions of 304 oral presentations, which include three state-of-the-art presentations, and 60 interactive poster sessions of 373 posters. Furthermore, six high-quality pre-conference workshops are being offered.

The conference theme this year is "Innovative ideas in Health Psychology." The aim has been to go beyond the traditional contributions and introduce new concepts and methods. Contributions were submitted under 21 conference tracks, including: eHealth and mHealth; Individual Differences and Health; Coping with Chronic

Disease; Health Psychology and Ageing; Social Support, Caregiving, and Health; Health Behavior Change; Occupational Health; Health Services Research; and Methodology.

The theme of the conference is evident in the variety of keynote talks. We are delighted to welcome four renowned keynote speakers. Prof Fabio Lucidi (University of Rome) will give a keynote entitled "Social cognitive mechanisms regulating doping intention and use: research and intervention", Prof Sherry Pagoto (University of Massachusetts) will talk about "Healthcare social media (#HCSM): A new approach to studying and promoting health behavior", Prof Rory O'Connor's (University of Glasgow) talk will be on "Suicide as (health) behaviour: towards a psychological understanding of suicidal behavior", and Prof Annmarie Cano (Wayne State University) will talk about "Partner responses to emotional disclosures of pain-related distress: Thinking outside the operant box." We have no doubt that each one of them will enlighten us, providing cutting-edge perspectives on health psychology issues.

The 27 symposia cover a wide range of topics including novel approaches to behaviour change and evidence synthesis, ePain, women's health in socio-cultural context, dyadic processes to promote well-being, social exchange processes and health behaviour, innovative ideas in physical activity and online computer-tailoring, innovative qualitative research. The roundtables deal with health psychology and big-data medical research, training healthcare professionals in novel health psychology strategies, and tools for complex research design.

We hope that the participants will take the

opportunity to meet up with colleagues and return home with a lot of innovative ideas.



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