



EHPS president's message

Dear EHPS members and colleagues,

On the eve of the 23rd conference of EHPS, to be held in September 2009 in Pisa, Italy, we approach the end of the first year of the term of the current EHPS Executive Committee. *The European Health Psychologist* has been an excellent resource for scientific information, original discussions and societal news, and during the past year the editorial board has been developing it further. The September 2009 issue of *The European Health Psychologist* is awaited with interest, as it comes out also in a colourful printed version, thanks to the support of Taylor & Francis. This issue gives us an opportunity to introduce the new EC and summarize some of the activities of the Society and the Executive Committee during its first year. You will also receive detailed formal reports comprising all EC activities several weeks before the Members' Meeting in Pisa.



Irina Todorova
President
European Health Psychology Society

As one of the major events of the Society are its conferences, much of our efforts have been devoted to organizing current conferences, reviewing proposals and ensuring future venues for the annual EHPS meetings. The high activity related to conference proposals and decisions regarding venues led us to the decision that one member of the Executive Committee needs to take on the role of Conference Officer and ensure continuity of information and procedures. Our current officer is Paul Norman, and he has been following closely all the steps that need to be taken to prepare proposals, coordinate venues and finalize decisions about conferences. We were so excited to be able to work with Paul Norman as President-Elect considering his long-standing experience in EHPS that we quickly came up with many roles for him, all of which he graciously accepted!

The Pisa 2009 EHPS conference is now imminent, and we are excited to see the nearly 1200 submissions it has received. Thanks to the President of the Conference, Mario Guazzelli, the Scientific Committee with its chairs Stan Maes and Franco Bonaguidi, and the Track chairs; to the Organizing Committee, with its chair and co-chair Carmen Berrocal Montiel and Claudio Gentili, and to many more local organizers who have made this conference such a treat! In addition to the keynote lectures, the parallel and poster sessions, many people are contributing additional ideas and activities to the conference. For example, the *Meet the Expert* initiative, this year is being organized by Evie Kirana and Angeliki Bogosian. CREATE has organized another three day pre-conference workshop on the topic of *Advancing the science of behaviour change: Methods and theories*, facilitated by Susan Michie, Falko Sniehotta and David French, and organized by Stephan Dombrowski, Nelli Hankonen, Natalie Mallach, Jana Richert, and Amelie Wiedemann. Angeliki Bogosian and Panayiota Andreou have organized the SYNERGY workshop: *Pragmatics of running clinical trials: Design, management and the processes of change*, that is being facilitated by Rona Moss-Morris, Trudie Chalder, Alison Wearden, and Gijs Bleijenberg. We also have several diverse half-day *pre-conference workshops*, facilitated by Werner W. Wittmann, Alessia Franchini, and Adriana Baban.

The preparations for the 2010 Conference in Cluj, Romania are underway, expertly supported by Adriana Baban as Conference President, Britta Renner as Liaison Officer and Paul Norman as Conference Officer and Chair of the Scientific Committee. The venue has been set, and the details are being planned. Adriana Baban, and her colleagues from the Babes-Bolyai University, will host the reception at the end of the Pisa conference, to introduce the interesting 2010 plans and invite you all to attend! Additionally, we have excellent proposals for an EHPS conference in Crete for 2011 and in Prague for 2012. We look forward to presenting these proposals for your approval at the Members' Meeting in Pisa.

It has now been four years since the launch of the new EHPS review journal, *Health Psychology Review*. Joop van der Pligt as Editor and Denise de Ridder, Alexander Rothman and Brian Oldenburg as Associate Editors, have made an invaluable contribution to the success of this new journal and through it, to the EHPS and to the discipline of Health Psychology. On behalf of the EC and the EHPS members, I would like to extend a very warm and appreciative thank you to them and to all consulting editors and reviewers, who made the initial years of the journal such a success. The idea for such a journal had been discussed many times in the past, but this team has now made it a reality, and ensured that it is full of high quality reviews and theoretical papers. We have sent you a call for nominations of the new editor of *Health Psychology Review* for the next term, and will announce the results shortly. ►

The EHPS journal *Psychology & Health* has also been increasingly successful and visible. The Editors Rona Moss-Morris and Lucy Yardley and the team of Associate Editors, have worked tirelessly with the many contributions, resulting in an increase to 10 issues per year. Not only that, but the editors are happy to announce that the impact factor of the journal has now risen above 2.00 for the first time (to 2.083)! In addition, the editors have ensured that the journal is now indexed on Medline.

The Honours Committee, elected during the last two Members' Meetings, has launched the first cycle of nominations and selection of new EHPS fellows this year. The process is now near completion and the results will be announced at the Members' Meeting in Pisa 2009. We encourage you to nominate new fellows next year – a call will be issued in the fall (self-nominations are welcome).

The vibrancy and creativity of the Society and its subdivisions has continued to flourish during this year, thanks to the varied and selfless contributions of many members. EHPS currently has 454 members, of which 87 new members, from 37 countries worldwide. We now have National Delegates from 31 countries, including three new delegates. Elvira Cicognani has creatively undertaken the coordination of the National Delegate activities, has invited new delegates, and has proposed and implemented several interesting new ideas. For example, for the first time, the National Delegates are organizing a round-table at the Pisa Conference, to discuss topics of professional interest to health psychologists in Europe. Additionally, she proposed to re-design the EHPS website, to include a webpage for each member country.

The financial situation of the Society has been quite solid and was further solidified after the well attended joint EHPS and DHP Conference in Bath, 2008. Sustaining the membership and financial stability of EHPS is possible thanks to the expertise of our Membership Officer and Treasurer Manja Vollmann, and we are all very comfortable knowing that she is overseeing our income and expenses, as well as the website. This stability has motivated us to fund some new initiatives, and we will be proposing further ideas for cross-national networking in the months to come. For example, this year we have increased the number of conference and workshop grants offered, and have increased the upper limit for the grants. I extend a very appreciative thank you to this year's grants committee Holger Schmid, Britta Renner and Amelie Wiedemann, who had the difficult task to select among all the excellent grant applicants! Congratulations to the recipients!

Additionally, CREATE has proposed several new initiatives, which EHPS will support. These include two tandem grants, each for two young researchers from different countries to visit one another to work on a joint project. Also, there will be two visiting scholar grants, which will each allow a young researcher to visit a senior researcher in another country. As Education and Training Officer, Holger Schmid has contributed to the organization of all the grants, workshops and other education activities mentioned above. He has now initiated a survey among the National Delegates, which will be conducted with the help of Elvira Cicognani, to create a resource for health psychology professional criteria and programs in different countries throughout Europe.

The Executive Committee has been working in a mutually supportive and constructive manner during the past year, with each member not only actively pursuing their own responsibilities according to their roles, but creatively contributing to all matters we have had to address. Britta Renner's extensive experience in EHPS has been a solid base for our work this year, as she has offered extremely helpful input which has permeated every activity of the EC. None of all that is listed above would have been possible without the sustained, precise and timely input of our Secretary Yael Benyamini, who supports every activity of the EC and thus it is impossible to list her specific tasks. Vera Araujo-Soares is also a member of the EC, and has been on maternity leave during this year. We cannot wait to welcome her back from leave in August (and to delegate to her the new role of Communication Officer)! Our work has also been supported by our office assistant Franziska Unholzer, our web manager Aljoscha Triendl.

In conclusion, I would like to thank every member of the EC for their valuable contributions to the EHPS! I have been extremely lucky to work with such a team with so much experience and such a collaborative spirit, thank you to all!

Please contact all members of the EC with questions and suggestions, and please continue to be involved in EHPS initiatives, consultations, sub-divisions and committees, as members' input is invaluable for the diverse functioning of the Society. *I'd like to invite all members and potential future members to the EHPS Members' Meeting in Pisa, which will take place on Thursday, September 24th, 2009, from 13.40 -15.10 hrs.* ■

Irina Todorova
EHPS President