

## ehps executive committee reports



**Manja Vollmann**  
Treasurer and  
Membership Officer

I am a post doc at the research unit "Psychological Assessment & Health Psychology" of the University of Konstanz, Germany. My research interests span the fields of personality psychology, health psychology and social psychology. My main research focus is on personality traits (e.g., dispositional optimism) which promote mental and physical health. I am particularly interested in the social processes such as social integration and social support that mediate the beneficial health effects of dispositional optimism.

In 2008, I began my term as EHPS membership officer & treasurer. As membership officer I am responsible for maintaining good membership records by recruiting new members and by encouraging current members to continue their membership. I am concerned with supporting members during the application and renewal process, dealing with membership requests and preparing the receipts of the membership fee. As treasurer I am responsible for managing the financial issues of the society. My primary tasks are to oversee incoming and outgoing bank transfers, to prepare the annual budget and to report the financial situation to the EC and the membership.

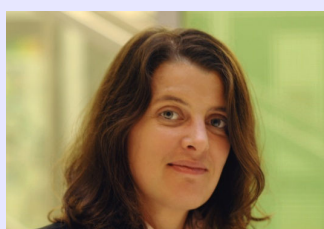


**Yael Benyamini**  
Secretary

I am an Associate Professor at the School of Social Work of the Tel Aviv University in Israel. My research focuses on subjective perceptions of health and illness, from global assessments of one's health status to perceptions of specific health threats, with a special focus on women's health issues. A decade ago, this research has led me to the EHPS conferences and activities. Since then I have attended most conferences and many of the workshops and am grateful for the opportunity they provided to meet colleagues who contributed to my knowledge and thinking and often became friends, who I look forward to meeting again each year.

I have been serving as the EHPS secretary for the past three years. In this role, I take part in the planning and decision processes regarding the many EHPS activities, I am in charge of the formal aspects and documentation of various meetings and activities and in general of making sure that everything runs as smoothly, efficiently and productively as possible. In the past years, I have organized several member consultations, along with other EC members. Most of these consultations turned out to be a great way for members to be more involved and for the EC to learn more about members' views. Unfortunately, open discussions can also lead to bitter feelings among members from many countries (as was the case with the discussions regarding the conference venue for 2010). I hope that in the future we will only make the most from members' increased involvement and continue to be a society of all its members so that together we can pursue our aim of promoting health psychology in Europe.

My involvement as secretary led me to realize that we are no longer a small society but rather a very active and constantly growing and evolving one. Therefore, we must ensure continuity of the knowledge and expertise gained while planning and carrying out our diverse activities and not "re-invent the wheel" time after time. I am constantly looking for ways to work more efficiently in the present and to ensure smooth transition to the future. For example, I have identified gaps in our operation and consequently proposed new EC roles (Conference Officer, Communications Officer). I have also formed a system for organizing the many EHPS documents and am actively seeking new and updated documents and ways to keep the system current and useful.



**Britta Renner**  
Past President

I am Professor of Psychological Assessment & Health Psychology at the Psychology Department of University Konstanz since 2007. My current research includes risk perception and risk communication. In particular, I am interested in cognitive and affective processes underlying risk perceptions, in the impact of risk communication on risk perceptions, and the impact of risk perceptions on health behavior. Further research projects focus on motives for and self-regulation of health behaviors change such as eating and physical exercise.

I am currently Past-president of the EHPS, and I was President during the period of 2006-2008. As Past president I contribute to all activities of the EC, including being liaison officer for the 2010 EHPS Conference in Cluj-Napoca, Romania and serving on the Grant Subcommittee. I am also Chair of the German Psychological Society's Division of Health Psychology (2007-2009). ►



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**Holger Schmid**  
*Education and Training  
Officer*

I am a Professor and head of the Institute of Social Work and Health at the University of Applied Sciences in Olten. I have studied psychology at the University of Freiburg in Germany and at the University of Freiburg in Switzerland. Since 1995 and up to 2007, I have worked at the Swiss Institute for the prevention of alcohol and drug problems in Lausanne in the field of health promotion and drug prevention in young people. My research interests are in health psychology, health and health behaviour of young people and in evaluation research.

Many causes for the actual financial crisis have been proposed, and we may probably never know the true aetiology of it. However, lessons learned from it are rather straight forward: The most important thing to invest in is education and training. The EHPS has always been dedicated to education and training and since my first attendance of the EHPS conference in Leipzig in 1992 has been an important source of the developments in Health Psychology to me. I am grateful that I can in some way contribute to this in my function as education and training officer. With the pre-conference workshops, as well as the tremendous work of CREATE and SYNERGY the EHPS is strongly committed to developing members' research and professional skills. I personally was very happy to see so many good applications for the grants, with which the society can support mainly young researchers, and that we were able to increase the number of grants for this year - despite the crisis of the world's economy.



**Paul Norman**  
*President Elect*

I am a Reader in Health Psychology at the University of Sheffield. My main research interests focus on the application of social cognition models to the prediction of health behaviour and psychological adjustment to serious illness. I have been a member of EHPS for over 15 years and have attended most of the society's conferences over this time. I previously served on the EC as Secretary from 1996-2000 and was Editor of Psychology and Health from 2001-2006.

I was elected as President-Elect of EHPS in 2008. Over the past year my main activities have been in relation to the organisation of our annual conference. In particular, I was involved in the organisation of the consultation of members regarding the venue for the 2010 conference, I have been appointed as Chair of the Scientific Committee for the 2010 conference in Cluj-Napoca, and have overseen proposals for the 2011 and 2012 conference venues. I am also serving as chair of the committee to appoint a new Editor-in-Chief for Health Psychology Review.

EHPS continues to grow. The 2009 conference in Pisa is set to be one of our largest conferences to date. The society is in a relatively strong financial position and I have been supportive of the efforts of the current EC to invest some of our surplus in grants for attendance at the conference and the CREATE and Synergy workshops, as well as funding new initiatives to support research dialogue and collaborations between EHPS members. After the Bath conference, it was necessary to organise a consultation of members regarding the venue for the 2010 conference. I feel that such consultation exercises are useful for gauging members' opinions when we are faced with more detailed and/or contentious issues and when it is not possible to have a full discussion (and resolution) of such issues in the conference Members' Meeting.



**Elvira Cicognani**  
*National Delegates Officer*

I work as Associate Professor of Social and Community Psychology at the Faculty of Psychology of the University of Bologna, Italy, where I teach Health Promotion in community contexts. I have been a member of the EHPS since 1999 and a member of the Executive Committee of the Italian Health Psychology Society from 2002 to 2006. My research interests focus on health risk behaviours and prevention approaches in school and community contexts; coping and well being; participation in health; the role of community contexts on individuals' health and well being; qualitative research methods and participatory action research.

As National Delegate Officer my role is to facilitate and co-ordinate the work of National Delegates (currently around thirty), to promote networking, and to ensure meeting opportunities during the annual conferences. I think that National Delegates are an important resource both for the EHPS and for their own National Societies: they may contribute - from their own unique national experience - to a wider knowledge and discussion on key issues for this discipline and profession, and are a potentially formidable network for exploring opportunities for collaborative research. ■