

president's message

Welcome to the 27th conference of the European Health Psychology Society in Bordeaux!

Welcome to the conference issue of the *European Health Psychologist*. This issue marks the 8th anniversary of the *European Health Psychologist* and I would like to congratulate the Editors, Rik Crutzen and Emely de Vet and their team for their excellent work of establishing the *EHP* as an indispensable outlet for societal updates, scientific debate, and thought-provoking communications. The printed conference issues have become a valued feature of our annual scientific conferences, all issues of the quarterly *EHP* can also be downloaded from the website.

This year, the 27th annual scientific conference of the European Health Psychology Society returns to Bordeaux, where we already met in 1997. The conference will be hosted by the conference president Bruno Quintard and the local organising team, the Francophone Association of Health Psychologists and the Psychology Department of the University Bordeaux Segalen.

The programme of the conference reflects the rapid development of health psychological science in the EHPS. The 27th conference will be a showcase of cutting edge research, theoretically innovative studies, rigorous evaluations, and work that matters to policy and practice communities; addressing key issues in the psychology of health and health care, designed to have impact on both, the development of scientific knowledge and the well-being and care provision of the population. The pre-conference workshops reflect the direction of scientific development in health psychology covering theory and practice,

dissemination of science, systematic reviewing and implementation of interventions, thus covering the process of research from conception to implementation. I would like to thank the facilitators for sharing their expertise and the Synergy team for organising these excellent pre-conference workshops. Further pre-conference highlights are the workshops of CREATE (EHPS subdivision promoting education and collaboration for early career researchers working in the field of health psychology; www.ehps.net/create) and SYNERGY (Collaboration and innovation in theory and research in the EHPS; www.ehps.net/synergy). The CREATE workshop 'Intensive Longitudinal Methods in Health Psychology' addresses the timely need in health psychology to better understand changes and intra-individual variability over time and will be facilitated by Gertraud Stadler, Niall Bolger (Columbia University, NY) and Jean-Philippe Laurenceau (University of Delaware, DE). Gerjo Kok and Rob Rutter will facilitate the Synergy workshop 'Methods for Changing Environmental Conditions for Health: influencing organisations, key actors and stakeholders'. This workshop demonstrates how far health psychology has come: Our science has gone beyond the mostly individual based research we have seen in the past and has thoroughly progressed towards the translational research agenda. I am delighted about the excellent programme that the scientific committee chaired by Holger Schmid has brought together for this conference. Four outstanding keynote speakers; Mark Conner

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(UK), Lutz Jäncke (Switzerland), Stan Maes (the Netherlands) and Crystal Park (USA) will set highlights in the areas of health behaviour, brain science and self-regulation, quality of life and care and religion. A look through the programme shows numerous excellent sessions, symposia, posters and individual papers leaving delegates with an excellent cross section of quality research in the EHPS. The conference theme is *Well-being, Quality of Life and Care-giving* which is reflected in a range of presentations of highly applied and interdisciplinary work. Applied health psychology is an interdisciplinary science.

The EHPS is expanding. This year we will again reach a new all time high in members with about 600 members from Europe and all over the world. This reflects the relevance of the EHPS as a home for researchers in health psychology, as well as our excellent reputation for science, training and networking. The critical mass of members allows us to increase our impact and to support a range of initiatives to support our members. In addition to the annual conference and workshop grants, we also fund research visit grants for early career researchers (tandem, visiting scholar) as well as a Networking Grant that was introduced recently to fund colleagues from different European countries to meet to develop research ideas.

For an annual full membership fee of only 75 Euros (ca. \$100) or a reduced fee of only 25 Euros members receive 12 issues of *Psychology & Health* (2011 Impact Factor: 2.126), two issues of *Health Psychology Review* (IF: 2.062), discounted conference fees and access to a considerable range of networking and training activities. The EHPS is international. The organisers of the 27th annual conference received almost 950 submissions from 64 countries! We welcome the delegates and speakers from all over the world. We are

delighted that you are contributing actively to the quality of our conference and we are delighted about the opportunity to further our knowledge in collaboration.

EHPS and its flagship journals become increasingly attractive to researchers worldwide and we are delighted to see that the membership is growing worldwide. For example, over the last two years, the country with the fastest growing number of members has been Australia. In 2014 we will start an initiative to increase membership and thereby the readership of our journals in the US and Canada and we invite countries with more than five members to elect a national delegate. We believe that our journals and conferences can only benefit from participation of leading researchers across the world.

In addition to an excellent scientific programme, EHPS conferences are wonderful opportunities to meet old and new friends, network, discuss and exchange ideas. Many international research collaborations have started at EHPS conferences and people have made friends and meet inspiring acquaintances. A delightful social programme, the French summer, companionship and the cultural, culinary, geographic and architectural treasures of Bordeaux will hopefully contribute to the experience and help to inspire and entertain before and after the scientific sessions.

I would like to thank on behalf of the EC, the colleagues who have been working so hard to prepare this conference for us. Merci beaucoup to Bruno Quintard and the local organisers, the scientific committee, Paul Norman, the EHPS liaison officer, the organisers of CREATE and Synergy and of course, to you, the delegates and presenters. *Enjoy the conference!*

Falko Sniehotta, President of the EHPS