ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Issue 3 September 2004

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President's Message

Dear Colleagues,

Following our very successful conference in Helsinki, I am delighted to start my two year term of office as President of the EHPS. Our Society has developed a deservedly high reputation for its contribution to science, primarily through our annual conferences and our journal, *Psychology and Health*, which has increased its Impact Factor to 1.3. High quality training continues to be provided by EHPS, through our *Create* and *Synergy* workshops. In 2004, the workshops addressed the issues of "Predicting and Changing Health Behaviour: Conducting and Publishing Theory-based Research" and "Illness Representations".

We have built a reputation as a friendly and supportive organisation, which is key to involving more people in building the future of the Society. I would like to thank all those who put their names forward in the recent election for the Executive Committee, and to those who have offered to contribute their time and energy in supporting the work of the new Executive Committee. We have an excellent team committed to developing the activities of the EHPS, and I look forward to our work together.

I would like to pay tribute to the work of our past President, Teresa McIntyre. Under her leadership, we have formalised many aspects of our Society, which was necessary given its growing size and complexity. We are now a legal organisation, with:

- Articles and By-laws (available on the website), which constitute the basis of our democracy
- An efficient membership and financial system
- More detailed and extensive procedures for conference organisation
- Improved arrangements with Taylor and Francis, the publishers of *Psychology and Health*
- More developed and defined roles for the National Delegates
- An improved quarterly Newsletter.



Susan Michie

If we are to make the most of the opportunities that our increased professionalism can bring, and effectively achieve our aims, we need to increase our size and the number of active members within the Society. Our National Delegates can play a key role in this, by increasing the profile of EHPS in national meetings, newsletters and websites, and by letting us know how EHPS can be supportive in developing health psychology within their countries.

Surveys have shown that the main reason that people are not members of organisations is that they have not been asked to join. This is something that we can ALL put right. If each of us persuaded one colleague to join EHPS within the next year, we would double our membership. There are many opportunities for EHPS, but we need the active involvement of more than the EC to achieve them. With this in mind, I am proposing to develop working groups, involving both EC members and others who have come forward offering their help. I am aware that the CREATE workshops have produced a large number of enthusiastic EHPS members whose talent and energy is the future of EHPS. My current suggestions for working groups are:

- 1. Recruitment
- 2. Education and training
- 3. Newsletter
- 4. Publications
- 5. Research collaboration

If anyone would like to play a part in this work, or has ideas about its development, please let me know. I welcome all views, supportive or critical!

Our links with the International Society of Behavioral Medicine were strengthened last month with a multidisciplinary symposium jointly sponsored by the two Societies at the ISBM conference in Mainz, Germany. I met with Antti Uutela, the new President of the ISBM, and we agreed to continue the joint sponsorship of symposia at our conferences and to write an article for the Newsletter of each other's Society.

I hope you have August 31st –September 3rd 2005 in your diary: our next conference in Galway, Ireland, with the theme of "Enhancing Individual, Family & Community Health". I have had the privilege of visiting Galway twice, once to teach on the Health Psychology Masters program, and once to attend the inaugural conference of the Health Psychology Division of the Irish Psychological Society. The combination of high academic standards and warmth of welcome is an irresistible mixture! I look forward to meeting you there, if not before.

With best wishes,

Susan Michie,

President, EHPS.

Elections for the EHPS Executive Committee 2004-2006

In accordance with the Articles and Bylaws of the European Health Psychology Society, the election process for the members of the Executive Committee took place between March 2004 and June 2004. The Secretary sent out to members a Call for Nominations for all EC positions (President-elect and five members-atlarge), except those of the President and the Past President. The Call for Nominations together with the Articles and Bylaws were also included in the March issue of EHPS Newsletter. The call was open from 23 March until April 26, 2004. The EHPS Secretary received one nomination for each position of President-elect (Britta Renner), Secretary (Adriana Treasurer/membership Officer (Christel Salewski), which meant that these officers were deemed elected, in accordance with the EHPS Articles and Bylaws. For the three positions of Ordinary Members, the Secretary received nominations for four nominees. Consequently, forms and voting procedure referring to the elections for Ordinary Members of the Executive Committee were sent to the members. Marie Johnston (Scotland) and Stan Maes (Holland) accepted to be the scrutineers for this election. The election process of the Executive Committee ended in June 17th 2004 and the results were communicated at the Member's Meeting, June 23rd, during the conference in Helsinki. The three elected ordinary members are Pilvikki Absetz (Finland), David French (UK), and Irina Todorova (Bulgaria). The new Executive Committee would like to thank to the EHPS members for their active contribution to the election process.

Adriana Baban EHPS, Secretary

EHPS Conference 2005 - Galway, Ireland

We are pleased to announce that the 19th Annual Conference of the European Health Psychology Society will be held at the National University of Ireland, Galway from August 31st to September 3rd, 2005. This year's theme will focus on 'Enhancing individual, family and community health.'

Keynote speakers will include:

- Shelley Taylor, Department of Psychology, University of California, Los Angeles.
- James Pennebaker, Department of Psychology, University of Texas
- Marie Johnston, Department of Psychology, University of Aberdeen
- Jack James, Department of Psychology, National University of Ireland, Galway.

The submission of abstracts for oral presentations will take place from January 2^{nd} to February 14^{th} 2005. Abstract submissions for poster presentations will take place from January 2^{nd} to April 30^{th} 2005.

Further details of the conference can be obtained from: www.ehps2005.com or alternatively you can contact us at: conference@ehps2005.com



Submission deadline: February 14th, 2005

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Helsinki Harbour



Midsummer Celebration

Annual Conference of the EHPS 2004 Helsinki, Finland

The 18th EHPS conference was held in the main building of the University of Helsinki, Finland, near the historical centre of the city and within walking distance of the harbour at the Baltic Sea -- a befitting context for a conference on Good health-person and context. Interestingly, in the past few years (think of Lisbon and Kos), water has been a recurrent element of the context of our conference. In Helsinki, the nearby sea made us feel good and healthy, perhaps because in Western culture the ocean is associated with pleasant, relaxing times. It was in this context that researchers from 36 different countries, ranging from Sudan to Iran and from Japan to Brazil, gave a total of 339 presentations, including keynote addresses, symposia, and posters.

As usual, during the EHPS annual conference, a large group of scientists gets together to present the newest developments in the area of Health Psychology, to entertain, elaborate, or discuss new data sets, hypotheses and theories. What unites the group is their common struggle for better ways to explain, modify or maintain behaviour; they strive to develop parsimonious models of health behaviour and disease—the sort of model likely to please a demanding William of Occam.

This year, the conference contents were remarkably rich and diverse. Over four days, six invited keynote speakers, both from within and from without the usual boundaries of Health Psychology, challenged dominant views and stimulated alternative ways of thinking; conference attendees could thereby appreciate the advantages of conceptual cross-fertilization. Another set of presentations invited us to rethink constructs used to understand health behaviour and disease. A few examples are "implementation intention," "coping planning," "illness perceptions," "quality of life," and "social support". Anyone who before the conference had aimed at better understanding these constructs could after the conference discuss, explain, or critique them in a more informed way.

Another important feature of the programme was the roundtable discussion sponsored by EFPA on the subject of the European Diploma in psychology and its consequences to European psychologist. The EHPS affirmed its goal of promoting a long lasting, mutually rewarding connection between the fields of research and practice.

To close the working day, nothing could be better than a poster session. During these sessions, researchers listened to each other's ideas, provided encouragement and feedback to young investigators, discussed ongoing projects, and planned collaborative studies for the future—and all of this while drinking a cup of tea or coffee and tasting some traditional cakes from the delicious Helsinki pastry! The poster sessions have certainly helped to bridge the gap between different Universities and countries. Poster prizes were awarded, and this year for the first time grants to attend the EHPS conference were offered.

The end of each intensive, working day would eventually lead us in procession to the Academic Restaurant. What better place to reinforce new relationships and further strengthen the feeling that we were all integral parts of a large research team? Moreover, at the dinner table we also recharged the batteries for the new day, a day that would come just after three hours of darkness. For those of us not living at such northern latitudes, it was strange to



Alexander II Church



University of Helsinki

see as much daylight when leaving the hotel in the morning as when returning to the hotel at night. Our eyes suggested that no time had elapsed, but our bodies reminded us otherwise!

The social program also was well thought out. In the morning of the 21st a sightseeing tour revealed the city's beauty. This first day closed with a reception party in a beautiful, classically decorated room at the City Hall. Two days later, the Conference Party started at 7:00 pm with a romantic boat trip to the island of Tenalji von Fersen. During the trip, mouths open in amazement and cameras constantly clicking were a common occurrence. Looking away from the boat we could see a magical landscape: the sky was clear of clouds, the sea was calm, and we found ourselves immersed in different shades of blue.

The short boat trip to the island prepared our eyes, mouth, and stomach for the pleasures to come. A gourmet dinner awaited us at Suomenlinna Fortress. The setting could have come directly from a fairy tale. Some conference attendees called home exclaiming, "I am in a heavenly island, in a beautiful fortress, having a dinner cooked by a brilliant chef!" Some danced till midnight and then, like Cinderella, left the island wishing to return another time.

At the Closing Ceremony we listened to the grand premiere of the EHPS choir. Composed by the most tuned-up and willing voices of our conference delegates, this international choir pleased even the most demanding of the conference delegates – an extraordinaire feat if we remember that they had only three opportunities to rehearse the repertoire.

This year's Annual EHPS Conference was marked by new developments. At the Members Meeting the members expressed their satisfaction with the attainment of EHPS three main strategic goals, the formalisation of the Society's working procedures, the improvement of the quality of services and products, and membership growth. In addition, the members approved the conference procedures, which, in the future, will greatly facilitate and clarify the communication between the EHPS board and the local organizers.

Since the conference, the participants have voiced much positive feedback. In particular, first-time participants stated that the conference provided an excellent opportunity to establish links between a diverse group of people interested in psychology and health around the world. The conference's Scientific and Organising Committees are to be commended for preparing a high quality programme and for not forgetting any detail, no matter how small. We take this occasion to thank each and every one of the conference attendees; without them this feeling of a "job well done" would not be possible.

We look forward to seeing you all at our next conference in Galway and hope that EHPS will continue to grow as a healthy research family.

On behalf of the Newsletter Team Vera Araújo-Soares



Report on the 6th Annual CREATE Workshop 2004 Helsinki, Finland

CREATE (http://www.ehps.net/create/) is a subdivision of the European Health Psychology Society (EHPS). Our aim is to provide further training and collaboration for early career health psychologists. In this regard, we have formed an international network of young researchers who provide mutual support and expertise. The network aids in identifying and discussing common research interests and concerns. In order to provide further training and education, CREATE organises an interactive workshop each year.

This year's 6th CREATE workshop was entitled *Predicting and changing health behaviour: Conducting and publishing theory-based research.* It took place in Helsinki, Finland between the 18th – 20th June 2004, immediately before the 18th EHPS conference. Paul Norman and Peter Harris from Sheffield University, UK, two outstanding experts on the topic, were the facilitators for the workshop. Thanks to our local organizer Pia Pajari, we had an excellent workshop venue: the National Public Health Institute (KTL) of Finland.

The focus of this year's workshop was on advancing the participants' knowledge and skills in (1; yksi) predicting health behaviour, (2; kaksi) changing health behaviour and (3; kolme) publishing research. Lively discussions either within smaller working groups or with all workshop participants were stimulated by the excellent talks of our facilitators Paul Norman and Peter Harris as well as the different backgrounds of research interests among participants. Furthermore, thanks to our facilitators and the participants from Finland, knowledge was not only increased in terms of psychological theories, but also in rudimentary Finnish language skills (i.e., counting).

CREATE participants were 41 PhD students and early career researchers from 16 countries (Germany 10; England: 6; The Netherlands: 6; Ireland: 3; Bulgaria: 2; Finland: 2; Norway: 2; Scotland: 2; Belgium; Poland; Portugal; Romania; Spain; Sweden; Swiss & Turkey: 1 each).

Before the start of the workshop Paul Norman and Peter Harris provided the participants with a list of references to prepare for the workshop and during the workshop there was ample opportunity to learn more about both classic and new health-psychology papers and also internet resources relevant to writing up and publishing research as well as interacting with the media.

On the first day the topic of "predicting health behaviour" was approached with talks, vivid discussions, and creative working groups. As a result we became experts regarding the rationale for theory development and theory-driven research in health psychology and the advantages of general versus specific theories. In the various working groups we had the opportunity to have hands on insights into operationalisation and measurement issues as well as testing and developing theories.

On the second day we learned more about how to change health behaviour with theory-based interventions. In various groups we then developed a range of theory-based interventions and discussed how to evaluate the behavioural impact



and possible cognitive mediation of the proposed interventions. Finally, we had a lively discussion how to best translate research findings into practice.

The last day focussed on publishing research and we gained insights through talks, discussions and group work about the steps involved in writing research papers, choosing a target journal and the submission and review process. Finally, we tried our best to translate an article into a catchy media release.

This CREATE workshop was unique as it addressed both an important field in health psychology (i.e., health behaviour change) and how to publish research. Participants who were new to the field benefited from the various presentations, working groups and discussions and those already familiar with theories of health behaviour change could further broaden their experience. Last but not least the workshop also provided excellent networking facilities with the possibility of establishing strong research links in Europe.

Working with Paul Norman and Peter Harris significantly contributed to the participants understanding of both predicting and changing health behaviours. We also have learned a lot about writing up and publishing papers and we are confident that the workshop participants will fill the future volumes of the various health psychology journals. Sadly, despite the support of Paul Norman and Peter Harris, England did not win the UEFA EURO 2004.

The evaluation of the workshop was very positive and it can be concluded that this again was a successful and productive CREATE workshop. This year's workshop was organized by Vera Araújo-Soares (Portugal); Wiebke Goehner (Germany); Inez van Korlaar (Netherlands); Gisela Michel (Switzerland); Marie Carmen Neipp (Spain); Pia Pajari (Finland), Urte Scholz (Germany); Falko Sniehotta (Germany) and Jochen Philipp Ziegelmann (Germany). Next year the workshop will be organized by Karen Grogan (Ireland), Inez van Korlaar, Magda Mazurkiewicz (Poland), Marie Carmen Neipp, Pia Pajari, Urte Scholz, and Jochen Philipp Ziegelmann.

The organisers are currently in the process of planning the next CREATE workshop to precede the EHPS conference in Galway (Ireland) on August $28^{th} - 30^{th}$. We are sure that we will promote again a high level workshop with the aim to bring young researchers together with leaders in the field and enhance and broaden their skills and competences in the field of health psychology. The topic, facilitators and further details about this forthcoming event will be announced in the near future on the CREATE website (www.ehps.net/create).

See you all next year in Galway, Ireland.

On behalf of CREATE

Jochen Philipp Ziegelmann and Urte Scholz

Illness Representations: Synergy 2004



This year's Synergy workshop on Illness Representations (IR) was held preceding the EHPS conference in Helsinki. Nineteen participants from eight countries discussed predominantly applied IR topics for three days, their work being facilitated by John Weinman and Keith Petrie.

Applications of the IR approach were chosen as the main theme of the workshop because there is growing evidence of the theoretical value of this approach in research on chronic and/or severe conditions (Hagger & Orbell, 2003; Kaptein et al., 2003), but up to now there is much less knowledge about how to design, conduct and evaluate IR-based interventions (Petrie et al., 2003). Therefore, most of the discussion and practical work in the workshop was centred on three topics: 1. measurement issues, 2. intervention techniques to change different dimensions of IR (beliefs about identity, causes, timeline, control, consequences etc.), 3. developing IR intervention programmes, e.g. for conditions like MI.

- 1. Concerning *measurement issues*, the pros and cons of interviews and questionnaires, the mostly used assessment methods, were discussed. Also, new developments like a short form of the IPQ-R (Moss-Morris et al., 2002) were presented. Moving one step further, participants worked on assessment methods that have as yet not or only seldom been used, resulting in a recommendation to develop a "tool box" containing diverse assessment tools like questionnaires, interviews, drawing techniques, projective as well as objective tests, or Q-sort measures to name only a few. A tool box like this could be flexibly used to develop measurement strategies for different measurement demands.
- 2. Interventions techniques that can change different dimensions of IR were elaborated in detail. For each dimension, target changes as well as appropriate methods to reach the changes were described. For instance, aims of changing dysfunctional emotional representations could be: to enhance optimism as a personal resource, to facilitate expression of emotions, to overcome negative emotions, and to regulate emotions effectively. As possible methods for reaching this aims relaxation techniques, techniques from cognitive behaviour therapy or expressive writing were identified. The discussion about intervention aims and techniques made it obvious that although a huge pool of intervention techniques exists and is described in clinical psychology literature, transfer of this knowledge to IR-based interventions has hardly been described or evaluated.
- 3. To elaborate measurement and intervention issues further, workshop participants worked on *intervention programmes* and evaluation strategies for three different health care problems: a) Why are some people not reassured by a negative test result from a clinical investigation? b) Why do some people not adhere to preventive medication (e.g., asthma or hypertension patients), c) Why do some people find it difficult to return to work following major illnesses (e.g., MI)? For each health care problem possible maladaptive illness representations were described and intervention programmes designed. Role plays of typical situations concerning the three health care problems revealed very clearly the practicability of the planned interventions.

To disseminate the ideas about IR-based intervention programmes the resulting intervention programmes were presented in the Synergy symposium which was held on the first day of the EHPS conference.

References

Hagger, M.S. & Orbell, S. (2003). A meta-analytic review of the common-sense model of illness representations. *Psychology & Health*, *18*, 141-184.

Kaptein, A.A., Scharloo, M., Helder, D., Kleijn, W.C., Van Korlaar, I.M. & Woertman, M. (2003). Representations of chronic illness. In L.D. Cameron (Ed.), *The self-regulation of health and illness behaviour* (pp. 97-118). London: Routledge.

Moss-Morris, R., Weinman, J., Petrie, K.J., Horne, R., Cameron, L.D. & Buick, D. (2002). The revised illness perception questionnaire (IPQ-R). *Psychology & Health*, 17, 1-16.

Petrie, K.J., Broadbent, E. & Meechan, G. (2003). Self-regulatory interventions for improving the management of chronic illness. In L.D. Cameron (Ed.), *The self-regulation of health and illness behaviour* (pp. 257-277). London: Routledge.

Christel Salewski

Call for a Special Interest Group on Occupational Health Psychology

Dear EHPS members

Occupational Health Psychology (OHP) is an important element of Health Psychology. Therefore OHP could potentially hold a more dynamic place within the EHPS. With this in mind, we would like to propose the formation of a Special Interest Group in OHP. The purpose of such group would be as follows:

- To organise workshops promoting research in OHP
- To identify the important issues in OHP in the format of a round-table discussions
- To build a network of OHP researchers in the EHPS and explore opportunities for EU funding

Those who are interested in forming such a group could send emails the following address: monty5429@hotmail.com, after which a formal proposal will be submitted to the EHPS. The intention is to hold the first meeting of such a group at Galway 2005.

Dr. Anthony Montgomery Department of Economics Aristotles University Thessaloniki, Greece



HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY SECTION IN FINLAND

- began as a Task Group in 1991, official section of the Finnish Psychological Society since 1994
- maintains a network of persons with interest in health psychology
- informs network members about seminars, conferences and meetings through e-mail
- publishes a newsletter "Terveyspsykologiauutiset" twice a year
- organises meetings and workshops on current topics in health psychology
- contributes in planning educational programmes in health psychology
- collaborates and exchanges information with other scientific and professional societies and health authorities
- works as a member organisation in European Health Psychology Society

BOARD 2004

Virpi Laakso (chair), Anna-Mari Aalto, Pirjo Koskinen-Ollonqvist, Jukka Marttila (secretary, EHPS national delegate) and Ritva Nupponen

For further information, please contact Jukka Marttila, Diabetes Center, Kirjoniementie 15, 33680 Tampere, Finland, tel: +358 3 2860311, e-mail: jukka.marttila@diabetes.fi.

Country Profile: Health Psychology in Finland

Psychologists in Finland

4 500 psychologists, 80 % employed in public sector (health care, social services, occupational psychology and labour services, child and family counselling).

Education for registration

- a comprehensive MPsych programme implemented by six universities under the guidelines of a special decree
- -5-6 years of studies, ca. 225 ECTS units, with training in professional and clinical skills and 5 months of guided practice
- a registered MPsych has the professional rights and responsibilities in all fields of psychology (Law 1994)

Post graduate education for the registration as Special Psychologist (LicPsych)

- 4 years of part time studies (107 ECTS units inc. thesis); national university programmes in collaboration with research institutions since 1994.
- one of the specialities is health psychology

Health Psychology

About half of the psychologist at the public sector are employed by local health care centres, hospitals, mental health services and rehabilitation organisations, 1/3 with additional part time activities in consultation and psychotherapy.

Main institutions in the field of health research:

- universities
- National Public Health Institute
- Rehabilitation Foundation
- The UKK Institute for Health Promotion Research
- Institute of Occupational Health
- STAKES
- Social Insurance Institution

Psychological Organizations

ψ Finnish Psychological Society

- founded 1952
- organisation for researchers, psychologists, teachers etc. with general interest in psychology
- 1 600 members, scientific journal: Psykologia
- sections for special interests including Health Psychology
- ψ Finnish Psychological Association
- founded 1957
- professional organisation of psychologists in Finland
- ca.5 000 members (including students and pensioners), professional journal: Psykologi

The deadline for receipt of abstracts is October 30, 2004.

The deadline for the receipt of abstracts is October 27th, 2004

The deadline for the receipt of abstracts is October 5th, 2004

Conference Announcements

International Society for Theoretical Psychology Conference

June 20 - 24 2005 Graduate School of Business, Breakwater Lodge University of Cape Town Waterfront Campus Cape Town South Africa.

> Prof Vasi van Deventer. email: vdevesh@unisa.ac.za fax: +27-(0)12-4293414 phone: +27-(0)12-4298088 website: http://www.istp2005.org

63rd Annual Meeting of the American Psychosomatic Society

March 2-5 2005 Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

> <u>info@psychosomatic.org</u> www.psychosomatic.org

2005 Society for Behavioral Medicine

Annual Meeting & Scientific Sessions
Behavioral Medicine and Public Health: Promoting the Health of Individuals,
Families, Communities, and Populations

April 13-16 2005 Marriott Copley Place Hotel Boston, Massachusetts

> info@sbm.org www.sbm.org

International Society for Critical Health Psychology 4th International Conference

Sheffield UK March 29th to April 1st 2005

Keynote Speakers:

Richard Alderslade, World Health Organisation Kerry Chamberlain, Massey University, New Zealand Jonathan A Smith, Birkbeck, University of London, UK Jane Ussher, University of Western Sydney, Australia Lorna Warren, Sheffield University, UK

> Paula Nicolson <u>p.nicolson@sheffield.ac.uk</u> http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/ssh/ischp

Rethinking Inequalities and Differences in Medicine

April 29 – May 1 2005 Vanderbilt University Nashville Tennessee, US

http://people.vanderbilt.edu/~matthew.ramsey/mhs-cfp.pdf

Call for Papers

The Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology

Special Section On:

"Benefit-Finding or Growth following Highly Stressful or Traumatic Life Events"

The deadline for submissions of manuscripts is June 1st, 2005. Final editorial decisions will be made by early 2006, with an anticipated publication date of mid- to late-2006.

Questions or inquiries regarding the special section should be directed to the section co-editors, Vicki Helgeson (<u>vh2e@andrew.cmu.edu</u>) and Crystal Park (<u>clpark@uconnvm.uconn.edu</u>).



A Note from the Newsletter Editor

Dear Colleagues,

In line with our strategy for developing thematic working groups, I am happy to introduce an expanded newsletter working group. Currently I am preparing the newsletter with Vera Soares and Falko Sniehotta, who have made important contributions to this issue. Please join me in welcoming them and thanking them for their help.

We would like to draw your attention to the pieces from this summer's Conference in Helsinki, including the country profile from our host country, Finland. We will also be including updated information on the upcoming conference in Galway, Ireland in the next issues. As always, we look forward to your suggestions for improving the newsletter and contributions to its content.

Irina Todorova EHPS Newsletter Editor

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