

Introducing the new EHPS Executive Committee Members 2024-2026

Please find information about the Executive Committee who will serve the Society from 2024 to 2026. You will find brief biographies of each member, highlighting their professional backgrounds and research interests. Please read through the biographies and learn more about the people who will be representing your interests. We look forward to a productive and collaborative partnership with all our members.



President: David French (UK)

I have been Professor of Health Psychology since 2009, and have worked at the University of Manchester for the past 12 years. My main research interest is in developing and evaluating interventions with reach to promote health and wellbeing. Current projects include: (a) developing and evaluating programmes to assess breast cancer risk in younger women to allow access to prevention and early detection services, (b) assessing how changing the built environment changes behaviour, and (c) assessing the acceptability and implementation barriers to fewer, higher-dose radiotherapy schedules to reduce carbon footprint of medical treatment.

I am delighted to be elected President of EHPS, given that I have been a regular contributor to the EHPS since attending my first conference, in Dublin in 1996. Since then, I have been involved with the EHPS in a number of roles, including being one of the four founding members of the CREATE

(Collaborative REsearch And Training in the EHPS) initiative: www.ehps.net/create. I was jointly responsible for organizing the first three annual training workshops adjacent to the EHPS Annual Conference (1999, 2000, 2001), before handing over to new organizers.

My focus over the next two years will be to engage the membership in plans to invest the money that the Society has accumulated, to further the aims of the Society. We are in the happy position of being able to afford to do this, and with an enthusiastic membership who are full of energy to promote health psychology research and practice. I will also aim to support the executive committee to develop their own initiatives to improve the functioning of the Society to meet these aims.



Past President: Wendy Hardeman (Netherlands/UK), she/her

I am Professor of Behavioural Science at the School of Health Sciences, University of East Anglia (UK). I am co-Director of the Norwich Institute of Healthy Ageing, a multi-agency partnership conducting inclusive community-based research to improve health and wellbeing across the lifespan. My research programme focuses on the co-production and evaluation of theory- and evidence-based behaviour change interventions, especially in partnership with communities of high socio-economic disadvantage. For instance, the piloting

and evaluation of creative and social approaches (e.g., making a collage, cooking outside) to engage seldom heard communities in behaviour change research (CHERISH). I co-authored the Behaviour Change Technique Taxonomy v1 and the UK Medical Research Council guidance on process evaluation of complex interventions.

The EHPS has been a continuous and positive presence throughout my academic career. I have met many good friends and future collaborators ever since my first EHPS conference (Florence, 1999). I chaired the Scientific Committee of the EHPS/British Psychological Society Division of Health Psychology 2016 conference in Aberdeen, Scotland. As President-Elect I chaired the EHPS Mentoring Task and Finish Group which developed the EHPS Ari Haukkala Mentoring Programme, which is being rolled out across the membership.

After a two-year term as EHPS President I am delighted to be Past President for the next two years. My priorities are to lead on future conference planning with Easy Conferences and the local organising teams, to support the President and President-Elect in their roles and the Executive Committee in new and ongoing initiatives.



President-Elect: Gozde Ozakinci (UK/ Turkey)

I have received my BA in Psychology at Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey, MSc in Health Psychology at University College London, and PhD in Psychology at Rutgers University, USA. My work in health psychology is diverse: I have worked on the psychological aspects of cancer experience from genetic testing for BRCA1/2 mutations to mammography experience to helping people who have had cancer with their fears about cancer

coming back. Supporting people with their fears about cancer recurrence is a major focus of my work. In addition, I have been working on community-based physical activity efforts studying the role of social prescribing in health promotion. Lastly, I have been working on the intersection of health and environmental psychology understanding how our health and environmental behaviours can be in conflict and designing messages to support both.

I have been involved with British Psychological Society, Division of Health Psychology-Scotland for over 10 years as a secretary then as the Chair (2020-2022). During this time, I have worked with our committee and also wider Division of Health Psychology committee to ensure that efforts of the members working on broad issues have reached other members, health psychology community, public, and policy makers. Despite my tenure as the Chair coinciding with the initial phases of the COVID-19 pandemic, we were able to work cohesively and effectively. We have organised multiple professional development events led by researchers and practitioners, responding to what the community wanted and needed. I have also established links with a member of the UK parliament again raising the profile of health psychology and its members. I have also been member of the UK Society of Behavioural Medicine and served in their executive committee from 2021 to 2024. I have had two roles: social media officer coordinating our efforts to use X effectively to disseminate information relevant to members and public and, I was the Scientific Chair of the annual scientific meeting committee for the 2023 UKSBM conference in Birmingham. This was the first time we were meeting in person following the pandemic and was very successful in bringing the community together. We have received particularly positive feedback from early career researchers who found a supportive and academically stimulating environment as they embark on their careers.

I serve in the Editorial Board of Health

Psychology Review. I have also been an Associate Editor with Journal Behavioral Medicine and PLOS One in the past. I have also served in scientific advisory committees of several funding bodies.

EHPS is a society that is held very dearly in the hearts of its members having often established their relationship with the society at the early stages of their careers. This is a major strength of the society and I would like to contribute to its continuing success. The training and networking needs of the early career health psychology researchers and practitioners are at the forefront of my mind and efforts. Having had connections with a variety of societies, I would love to see if there are programmes that we could explore in offering more options and opportunities to early career members.

While there have been strong efforts to work closely with policymakers which enhanced the profile and understanding of health psychology, I would love to work with the committee on efforts to increase public's understanding of health psychology and its potential. I believe there are opportunities for health psychologists to have more roles in non-academic settings such as voluntary sector and this might be something that I would hope that EHPS members would work with the committee to enhance career options for health psychologists as well as profile of our profession. In addition, I have always enjoyed participating in our annual scientific meetings and contributing to its success is one of my major goals.



Secretary: Laura König (Austria), she/her

I completed my PhD in Psychology at the University of Konstanz in 2018. Afterwards, I held postdoctoral positions at

the Universities of Konstanz and Cambridge and was Junior Professor of Public Health Nutrition at the University of Bayreuth (2020-2023). Since 2023, I am Professor of Health Psychology at the University of Vienna. My research focuses on promoting health and well-being at the population level, e.g. using digital and choice architecture interventions, as well as the study of research participation effects. Amongst others, I am associate editor for Health Psychology Review and editorial board member of Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine. In 2022, I received the EHPS Stan Maes Early Career Award.

I am passionate about both open science and science communion, which I consider vital aspects of my work. Since 2022, I am one of four editors-in-chief of The Inquisitive Mind Germany, a popular science magazine and blog. I also enjoy passing on my knowledge and skills in these areas to the next generation of researchers. Amongst others, I facilitated the 2023 CREATE workshop (see Bösch and Edgren, 2024, for a report) and currently mentor two groups of early career researchers who are putting their skills into practice in small-scale projects funded by the EHPS-UN committee.

I have been an active member of the EHPS for many years. I was secretary (2015-2017) and chair (2017-2019) of CREATE, co-chair and social media officer of the Digital Health and Computer-tailoring SIG (2019-2023), German national delegate (2018-2023), and Associate Editor for the European Health Psychologist (2020-2022). Together with Val Morrison, I co-chair the Scientific Committee for the 2025 EHPS conference in Groningen.

As EHPS Secretary, I am now responsible for liaising with other academic societies such as the European Federation of Psychologists' Association (EFPA). I furthermore just launched a Task and Finish Group to develop a new communications strategy to improve how EHPS is communicating with its members and beyond. I am also keen to continue existing initiatives and to collect ideas for new initiatives for how to strengthen the voice of

health psychology in practice and policy to ensure that our work has lasting impact.



Treasurer: Michael Kilb (Germany), he/him

I completed my PhD at the Health Psychology Lab of the University of Mannheim (Germany), where I examined the influence of social media on health behaviors, especially eating behavior, and the potential of social media for health behavior interventions. Currently, I am a postdoctoral researcher and project lead at the Institute of Child Nutrition at the Max Rubner-Institut (MRI), Federal Research Institute for Food and Agriculture. Here, my research focuses on food-based dietary guidelines (FBDG) for children and adolescents, both from an international and national perspective. Specifically, we compare available FBDGs in Europe and examine the awareness and practical applicability of the current German FBDG for children and adolescents. Through my work at the MRI, I am also providing policy advice for the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture via writing scientific reports and policy statements and participating in expert discussions. I am also involved in different research projects in the field of child nutrition, covering psychosocial influences on children's and adolescents' eating behavior as well as the early prevention of childhood obesity. Furthermore, I am interested in long-term health behavior change, habit formation, and digital health.

Throughout my research, I worked with experimental methods and intensive longitudinal data (experience sampling and daily diaries), and systematic review methods. In my teaching at the University of Mannheim, I covered the topics of health behavior interventions, obesity etiology,

prevention and intervention, and biological foundations of health behaviors, among others. I am also contributing to science communication in health psychology (in my web blog and as a member of the blog team of In-Mind.org).

I joined the EHPS Executive Committee in 2022 in the role of the EHPS Treasurer, in which I am responsible for handling the finances of the Society. I was also part of the Scientific Committee for the 2024 EHPS conference in Cascais/Estoril, Portugal. Currently, my biggest task as a treasurer is coordinating the switch of the EHPS bank accounts to a more sustainable bank. In the Executive Committee, I aim to particularly incorporate the perspective and needs of early career researchers into the decision-making processes of the Society. Before joining the Executive Committee, I experienced the EHPS mainly from the view of a participant. Since the beginning of my PhD, I regularly attended the EHPS conferences, including several CREATE workshops. I love being part of this inspiring society and community, and the annual conferences are truly my academic highlight of the year, both in terms of content and networking with health psychologists from across Europe.



Grants Officer: Angelos Kassianos (Cyprus), he/him

I completed my PhD in Health Psychology at the University of Surrey (UK) in 2014. I am currently a Lecturer in Health Psychology at the Cyprus University of Technology, and the Director of the Behavioral Science in Health - BSiH Lab (www.bsihlab.com). I have previously worked as a researcher in the UK (UCL, University of Cambridge, Imperial College London

etc.) and the US (Harvard Medical School as Fulbright Visiting Scholar in 2015). My research interests include the behavioral science contribution to disease prevention, early diagnosis and the development and evaluation of theoretically informed digital interventions for health behaviour change and collection of patient-reported outcomes.

During the COVID-19 pandemic I have led or co-led several studies to understand the experience of the illness, the contributing factors to self-protective measures and hesitancy to vaccination, including the project COVID-19 IMPACT in which we collected data from more than 10,000 people internationally.

I currently lead or co-lead several research projects funded by European (e.g., EU4Health, Erasmus+) and national grants. At the same time my teaching is focused on mixed research methods, psychometrics and health psychology theories and methods.

I have been a member of EHPS since 2012 and have participated in all conferences since then. I have been an active member of the EHPS-UN Sub-Committee from 2012 to 2017 following my internship at the World Health Organization (WHO). I have been the EHPS National Delegate (ND) of Cyprus since 2015. In this role, I have collaborated with other NDs to set-up a task force commissioned by the EC to examine how health psychology is practiced in EHPS countries and beyond. The results of this work have been presented in roundtables in three EHPS Conferences (2016-2018) and in a Special Issue of the *European Health Psychologist* in January 2018 where I served as a Guest Co-Editor. I have received the 2018 EHPS Early Career Award and I act as National Editor for the *Practical Health Psychology* blog. In 2017, I received the Young Transatlantic Innovation Leaders Initiative (YTILI) Fellowship from the US Department of State and in 2020, I received the Young Researcher Award from the Cyprus Research and Innovation Foundation.

My priorities for the next 2 years where I have been re-elected as Grants Officer of the EHPS EC are to (a) contribute to the EC goals, tasks and activities with an emphasis on transparency and inclusion (b) widen the participation of EHPS members on the grant activities; (c) collect feedback on expanding the current grants and tailoring to the needs of the EHPS members and especially the early career members and under-represented groups and (d) support the work and the role of the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) with an emphasis to extend their impact, visibility and activities. Also, milestones like the health crises, advances in chronic conditions' longevity and climate change, bring major challenges and I believe that we need to be collectively responding. Our role needs to be expanded considering these challenges at the same time as our methods becoming more robust and transparent.



National Delegates Officer: Radomír Masaryk (Slovakia)

As a 2000 graduate in Psychology from the Faculty of Arts at Comenius University Bratislava, my academic journey and professional career have been marked by a dedication to understanding human behavior and a commitment to improving educational frameworks. My research interests include social psychology and health psychology, with a special focus on applying qualitative methods. Since 2019, I have been serving as Vice-Rector for External Affairs at Comenius University while teaching as an Associate Professor, and since 2023, as a Professor at the Faculty of Social and Economic Affairs, Comenius University Bratislava. This year I became a Chartered Psychologist with the British

Psychological Association.

My involvement with EHPS began at the 2012 annual conference in Prague, and I have not missed one since. I have participated in multiple Create workshops (2012 Prague, 2015 Limassol, 2016 Aberdeen) and Synergy expert meetings (2019 Dubrovnik, 2023 Bremen). In 2020, I was supposed to chair the EHPS conference in Bratislava, which was then rescheduled to 2021 and finally took place in 2022. I also currently serve as Associate Editor for Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine, one of the official journals of the European Health Psychology Society.

As for my involvement in similar organizations, I am an active member of the International Society of Critical Health Psychology. I chaired the organizing committee for its 2019 biennial conference in Bratislava. I am also a member of the Program Committee for the largest Czech and Slovak conference focusing on qualitative research, titled 'The Qualitative Approach and Methods in Social Science,' chairing its Bratislava edition on a quadrennial basis (2008, 2012, 2016, 2020, 2024).

Generally, I aim to support the tremendous impact of EHPS annual conferences, which have become vital resources for both early-career researchers and those in more advanced stages of their careers. I would like to explore more possibilities for outreach, including media, patient organizations, and medical professionals. Additionally, I consider it extremely important to support EHPS's own publications. In today's landscape of predatory and cloned journals, it is crucial to protect outlets backed by professional expert organizations such as EHPS. I also plan to involve more critical and qualitative researchers in EHPS, as mixed methods and critical approaches could greatly complement the existing body of health psychology expertise.

Specifically, my role will be to coordinate National Delegates. I have big shoes to fill, taking over from Dominika Kwasnicka - I am determined to keep up her legacy of managing this very special

group of dedicated people.



**Membership Officer:
Anne Van Dongen
(Netherlands), she/
they**

Since 2021 I have been an assistant professor at the University of Twente, Enschede, in the Netherlands, at the Department of Psychology, Health, and Technology. Before that I worked as research fellow in York, UK, Sydney, Australia, and Amsterdam, the Netherlands. I currently teach in the Health Psychology master track, and in both bachelor and master tracks of Health Sciences. I have a broad research spectrum focusing on evaluation of complex health interventions, implementation of eHealth, wellbeing during crises, and development of digital interventions to improve resilience and mental health in LGBTQIA+ youth.

I have loved the EHPS since I started attending the conference in 2009. Several of my professional collaborations have started at the conference, and over the years I have developed many friendships. Attending the conference now is a reunion which feels like one of the highlights of my year. I have served on the Synergy board for a total of 7 years, in the roles of secretary, engagement officer, and taking over the chair position in 2019. During my time as chair, Synergy organised the first (and so far, only) online Expert Meeting due to the COVID pandemic, and has started organising yearly Winter Schools in addition to the annual pre-conference Expert Meetings. As (former) chair of Synergy I will have short lines of communication with both the Synergy and the CREATE board, as well as the new EMPOWER board, which will help me take the interests of these subcommittees into account. In addition, I was national editor of the Practical

Health Psychology Blog for 6 years, and one of the founding board members of the Task and Finish Group for the EHPS Ari Haukkala Mentoring Scheme. Currently I am an EC member of the Dutch/Belgian Health Psychology Society (ARPH), and I am therefore in an ideal position to connect the EHPS with the national Health Psychology Society of one of the countries with the largest EHPS member base.

As co-lead of the working group focused on mitigating health disparities within the ARPH, I am passionate about extending this theme into the EHPS, consolidating ongoing initiatives. As a membership officer I hope to make our society even more inclusive, while safeguarding scientific standards. Amidst the turbulent landscape dividing Europe and beyond, I firmly believe in the EHPS's potential to serve as a unifying platform for research, networking, and fostering positivity.



Co-opted Member: Katie Newby (UK), she/her

I am a chartered health psychologist and registered HCPC practitioner psychologist with over 20 years' teaching and research experience. My specific interest is in the development and evaluation of health behaviour change interventions, particularly those applied to sexual and reproductive health. I have expertise in quantitative and qualitative research, systematic reviewing (including meta-analysis), intervention development, and process and outcome evaluation. I am currently a co-investigator for the NIHR-funded Public Health Interventions Responsive Studies Team programme of research (PHIRST Connect; £2.4 million) and joint chief investigator of an NIHR-funded (£1.9 million) RCT to examine the effectiveness of an intervention (Wrapped)

aiming to reduce sexually transmitted infections amongst young people. I also lead the Public Health and Applied Behaviour change lab (PHAB Lab) at the University of Hertfordshire, a group aiming to address real-world public health problems through the application of behaviour change research.

To date I have engaged with the EHPS through conference attendance (my first being Kos 2003, and committee membership (two terms as secretary, 2019-2023) for EHPS Specialist Interest Group (SIG) on Digital Health and Computer Tailoring. I am also a full member of the British Psychological Society (BPS), the Division of Health Psychology (DHP), and the UK Society for Behavioural Medicine (UKSMB).

I contribute to the development of my profession through positions on editorial boards (e.g. Frontiers in Digital Health) and funding committees (e.g. World Health Organization (WHO) Sexual and Reproductive Health Research Project Review Panel (RP2), Welsh Integrated Funding Scheme), through invited national/international presentations, PhD examination, and engagement with the above societies.

I am very much looking forward to my co-opted role with the EHPS Executive Committee. I have a broad range of interests and skills which I will bring to this. I have particular interests in; research integrity (e.g. I sit on the University of Hertfordshire ethics committee, have developed guidance on assessing and mitigating research harms/risks, and have instigated a process improvement for greater transparency and monitoring of research data); Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (e.g. within PHAB Lab I have set up a programme of annual work experience placements for school students who are typically under-represented in higher education and the psychology workforce); mentoring and researcher development (e.g. I have formally and informally mentored 15+ researchers to enter research careers and achieve promotion). My focus over the next

two years will be on developing the role of the EHPS in the United Nations. I hope to reinvigorate activity in this area, identifying opportunities for members to impact on the work of the UN, particularly around the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.

References

Bösch, V., & Edgren, R. (2024). Reflections from the 2023 CREATE Workshop. *European Health Psychologist*, 23(3). <https://doi.org/10.62696/ehp.v23i3.3461>