

President's message

President's message March 2010

Irina Todorova

Dear EHPS Members,

It has now been six months since the EHPS Conference in Pisa in 2009 and the Member's Meeting we had there. We feel that this is a good point at which to update members on the activities of the Executive Committee during this period and invite you to get in touch with us with your ideas, comments and suggestions. Additionally, as has been the practice during the last few years, the EC had our mid-year Strategy Meeting in February 2010, and we would like to let you know about some of the issues we discussed and decisions we made.

The mid-year Strategy Meetings have been very useful and constructive, and this year's meeting confirmed their importance for the smooth functioning of the Society and the EC. They have allowed us more time to meet face-to-face, brainstorm ideas and finalize decisions. They have also given us the opportunity to visit our colleagues in their home towns and home institutions, gaining some understanding of local contexts and local health psychology developments. This year the meeting graciously hosted by the EHPS Secretary, Yael Benyamini, in Tel Aviv. We had two intense days of meetings, and even introduced a new technological element – we had the opportunity to include teleconferencing with two of the EC members who were not able to attend for health reasons. They kept in contact through much of our discussions and were thus informed and contributed their input. We were excited to be able to take a break from the snow of the more northern EHPS countries and to land in the summery city of Tel Aviv with nearly 28 degrees of sun and Mediterranean breeze (I must say, it was quite a contrast to the 2009 strategy meeting in Sofia during the gas crisis!)

Some of the main issues we discussed at the Strategy meeting were the following:

- We summarized the outcomes of the 2009 *EHPS Conference in Pisa, Italy*. As you know it was our largest conference so far in terms of abstract submissions. Thus, the reports and financial calculations are more complicated, and we have written to the Pisa organizers for some additional information in order to wrap up the reports from our very successful 2009



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conference.

- As we are in the most intensive period for the organization of the *2010 EHPS Conference in Cluj, Romania*, we summarized all that is taking place in preparation for that event. We are very happy to say that this conference is as successful as the previous two, as we have received nearly 900 abstract submissions! Abstract submissions have now closed, and the chair of the Scientific Committee Paul Norman has sent out information to the Track Chairs for reviewing abstracts. In addition, our Education and Training Officer Holger Schmid has organized the different educational activities for 2010: the Grants for the 2010 Conference were announced (the announcement is available on the EHPS website, and it is also published in this issue of the EHP). The abstracts for the keynote lectures are posted on the Conference website; the pre-conference workshops have also been posted – please take note of them when registering for the Conference! We will also soon be sending you information for the CREATE and Synergy workshops for 2010. Preparations for our interesting annual initiative *Meet the Expert* are also underway.
- We look forward to future successful conferences in our many member countries. The preparation for the 2011 EHPS Conference in Crete *Engaging with other health professions: Challenges, barriers, and perspectives* is also well underway, as reported at the Strategy Meeting by our

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Conference Officer Paul Norman and the Liaison Officer for Crete – Yael Benyamini. We discussed the composition of the Scientific Committee for the 2011 Conference and ideas for key note lectures. It is important to note that the 2011 Conference will be the 25th EHPS Conference and this anniversary will be marked by special ceremonies! We have also started initial preparations and venue confirmation for the 2012 Conference in Prague, under the theme of *Resilience and health*. We invited Ralf Schwarzer to be the EC Liaison Officer for 2012 and are very happy that he has accepted. We decided to make a call for proposals for hosting the 2013 EHPS Conference in the near future. We learn a lot from each year's conference and after the Strategy Meeting updated many of the details in the EHPS Conference Procedures, which we trust will be a useful resource for future EC members and Conference organizers.

- The new Editor-in-Chief of *Health Psychology Review* Martin Hagger has actively started his term, and the Associate Editors are also on board. The term of the Editors-in-Chief of *Psychology and Health*, Lucy Yardley and Rona Moss-Morris, is coming to an end this year. Look for our call for nominations for new Editor(s)-in-Chief and certainly send in your nominations and self-nominations.
- We recently established the post of *Communications Officer* in the EC, currently held by Vera Araujo-Soares. Vera detailed to the Strategy Meeting the multiple activities that are being undertaken in the Communications area; as well as developed a description of the role of the Communications Officer.
- We are happy to announce that we have now clarified the details of our proposed *Research Networking Grants*. After the Strategy Meeting Elvira Cicognani and Vera Araujo-Soares designed the call for applications, and the EC finalized the requirements and criteria. You will be receiving this call shortly and we hope that members will take advantage of this opportunity to develop research networks and partnerships and start-up collaborative research initiatives!
- The EHPS membership renewal and finances are in good shape. The EHPS *bank account* has now been moved to Deutsche Bank, thank to the efforts of our treasurer Manja Vollmann. This is an international bank with branches in

many countries. Thus, this will facilitate our banking, as well as allow future EHPS treasurers to be from any EHPS member country.

- Importantly, we discussed the preparations for the 2010 EHPS *Executive Committee Elections*. We will be sending out a call for nominations next month and then we will proceed to voting. We considered the future potential of using available internet technologies for anonymous voting which can make elections easier to conduct and ensure higher participation. We may bring this option for your consideration at the Member's Meeting, since it will require changes in the EHPS Bylaws.

Dear EHPS Members, as you can see, Spring 2010 will be a busy season for our Society, and you will be receiving a lot of announcements, calls for nominations and applications. This is a reflection of the vibrancy of the Society and we trust that they will not overwhelm you, but that you will be able to actively participate. We look forward to your comments and ideas.

Best wishes from me and the whole Executive Committee,

Irina Todorova, EHPS President

