

EHPS president's message

Dear Colleagues,

It was a great pleasure for me to welcome members of the new EC to an albeit wet and windy Sheffield for our winter EC meeting earlier this month. These winter meetings have become an established feature in the calendar of the EC as they allow us to have a concentrated time to meet face-to-face to review recent activities, brainstorm new ideas and plan for the future. Many of the new initiatives in recent years, such as the Create Tandem and Visiting Scholar Grants as well as the Networking Grant, have stemmed from initial ideas discussed at the winter EC meeting. In addition, the first meeting of a new EC provides an opportunity to take a fresh look at our current activities and a new input of ideas and energy. As you can imagine, our two days were very full. I have tried to highlight some of the key issues we discussed below.

Membership and Finances

I am pleased to report that our membership reached 500 for the first time in 2010! Members have been sent renewal reminders and most have already renewed their membership for 2011. We will be sending out further reminders in the next few weeks (please renew soon if you haven't done so already!) as well as encouraging non-members who have attended our conferences in recent years to join the society. We are hopeful that these activities, coupled with the expected increase in membership around the time of the Crete conference, will maintain our membership above the 500 mark.

Despite introducing a number of new initiatives last year, our financial position is very sound, due to the success of our conferences and the increase in our membership. As a result, we are well positioned to continue to invest in the development of the society and expand the range of activities that we can support. However, on the downside, the increase in membership also places a burden on the workload of the Treasurer/Membership Secretary, particularly at this time of year. At our meeting we discussed ways in which the processing of membership applications and renewals could be automated in order to make the process more efficient both for the Treasurer/Membership Secretary and for members. In addition, an automated renewal system could also be used to update members' details on the membership directory which could be organised/searched by keywords (e.g., research interests). This may, in turn, facilitate networking and the development of specialised interest groups within the society. At our meeting we decided to explore a number of avenues for developing an automated renewal system that could serve various purposes and to commit funds to ensure its implementation.



Paul Norman

President - European Health Psychology Society

On a related matter, we plan to introduce electronic voting for future EC elections. This change has two main benefits. First, it will reduce the workload of the Secretary and the Election Scrutineers as we would no longer need to send out and receive voting forms. Second, it will make voting more convenient for members which may increase participation. In order to instigate this change, we will need to make a small change to the society's Bylaws which will need to be agreed by the Members Meeting at the Crete conference. Members will be receiving a draft of the proposed changes to the Bylaws in the near future, so that they can be commented on (and potentially revised) before the Members' Meeting.

Journals

I would like to welcome the new Editors-in-Chief of Psychology & Health, Mark Conner and Daryl O'Connor, who started their term at the beginning of the year. The journal continues to grow, attracting an increasing number of high-quality submissions each year. However, there has also been an increase in the size of the publication backlog which the new editors have highlighted as one of their key goals to reduce. To this end, from this year the journal will include 12 issues per volume (up from 10). In addition, we have negotiated with the publishers (Taylor & Francis) to publish an additional (supplementary) issue this year to further reduce the size of the backlog, which will be jointly funded by Taylor & Francis and EHPS. The additional issues this year will make a significant dent in the size of the backlog which will ensure that authors' work is published more quickly and will have a positive impact on the journal's impact factor.

Health Psychology Review continues to grow. The EC would like to acknowledge the exceptional time and energy the Editor, Martin Hagger, has put into the journal. It is now published on time, twice a year, and has a steady flow of new submissions. The journal has applied to be indexed in SCCI which would provide it with an impact factor. The unofficial impact factor for Health Psychology Review is already 1.3. This will

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undoubtedly increase once the journal is indexed and further establishes itself as the only review journal dedicated to health psychology.

In our EC meeting we also discussed the possibility of extending online access to *Psychology & Health* and *Health Psychology Review* to student and reduced fee members who do not have online access to the journals through institutional subscriptions. We felt this would be a good investment in the future of the society by further encouraging student membership and expanding our membership particularly in Eastern Europe. We will be negotiating with Taylor & Francis regarding the feasibility and cost of such an initiative.

Health Psychology Provision in Europe

A recurrent theme in the National Delegates' Meetings at recent conferences has been the wish for EHPS to develop a 'core minimum curriculum' that we would expect Masters courses in Health Psychology to cover. There are now many Masters courses in Health Psychology available across Europe, some of which are detailed in the National Delegates' pages on our website. The development of some general guidelines would encapsulate current practice across Europe and provide a framework for the development of new courses. We therefore plan to invite a small working group to consider this issue in more detail at a pre-conference meeting in Crete. This working group would then report back to the EC and the National Delegates Meeting to consider whether and how this initiative can be taken forward.



EC Meeting in Sheffield, February 2011

EHPS Grants

Over the past two years we have introduced a number of small grants to encourage networking and collaboration between our members across Europe. These have included the Create Tandem and Visiting

Scholar Grants which were introduced in 2009 as well as the Networking Grant which was introduced in 2010. We are committed to continuing these grants. At present, the Tandem and Visiting Scholar Grants are awarded yearly, whereas the Networking Grant is awarded every two years. Feedback from the recent survey conducted by the Synergy group indicated that members would like more opportunities to engaging in networking activities and to develop research collaborations across Europe. The EC will therefore be discussing with Synergy ways in which this can be achieved. In the immediate future we plan to offer the Networking Grant every year, providing we have sufficient funds.

EHPS Conferences

At our EC meeting we looked back at last year's conference in Cluj-Napoca and forward to our upcoming conferences in Crete (2011), Prague (2012) and Bordeaux (2013). Last year's conference in Cluj-Napoca was very popular, with over 600 delegates. We are indebted to the hard work of the local organisers for producing such an excellent conference. Delegates' feedback on the conference was very positive and a summary of this feedback is reported in this issue of EHP. One issue that was highlighted by respondents to the survey was the number of no-shows. This issue has been noted and we will be discussing with future conference organisers ways to ensure that this is minimized.

Our next conference takes places in Crete (20-24 September, 2011). Preparations are well under way and the deadline for the submission of abstracts has just closed. Over 1,000 abstracts were submitted to the conference organisers. We are anticipating that the conference will be one of our largest to date. The conference will represent a special moment for the society as it will be the 25th Conference of the EHPS. To mark this occasion the local organisers will be organising a special celebration, which will be combined with the opening ceremony, on the evening before the first day of the conference. When making your travel please arrangements please try to ensure that you can arrive in Crete in time for the opening ceremony and celebration on the Tuesday evening! I look forward to seeing you in Crete.

As you see, the EC has a number of plans for the coming year which will hopefully contribute to the continued growth and development of health psychology in Europe. As ever, we are keen for members to contact us with comments and ideas for future developments.

Best wishes for 2011 from myself and the Executive Committee,

Paul Norman, EHPS President