

EHPS president's message

Dear colleagues,

Since our winter meeting in Sheffield earlier this year, the EC has been busy working on various ongoing activities and new initiatives, as detailed in my last President's Message. I will report on these in more detail in the next EHP, but in this issue I would like to highlight two important developments.

UN Association

I am pleased to report that the EHPS is now associated with the Division of Public Information/NGO Section of the United Nations. This has been a very long process which has involved many members who have completed countless documents over the past few years. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the work of our Past-President, Irina Todorova, who has been instrumental in ensuring that our application was successful. In addition, thanks should also be extended to Susan Michie and Suzanne Skevington, who worked with Irina Todorova on the UN application preparation sub-committee, as well as to Ad Kaptein, Margreet Scharloo and Manja Vollmann for assisting the application.

Our initial association is for a trial period of two years. During this time we will seek to solidify our relationship with the UN, by contributing to its activities, attending meetings and establishing connections with other professional psychological societies who are associates. Over the next few months members will receive more details about our association with the UN and requests to participate further in this exciting development for the society.

25th EHPS Conference in Crete

As you will be well aware, preparations for our 25th conference in Crete later this year are at an advanced stage. The conference organisers received over 1000 abstracts, which means that the conference is likely to be one of our largest to date. We are fortunate that the Creta Maris Convention Centre is large enough to comfortably accommodate all of us! Our conference liaison officer, Yael Benyamini, recently visited the conference venue and produced a glowing report for the EC on both the location and the facilities that we will have at our disposal. One of the challenges faced by the Scientific Committee and the Organising Committee has been how to fit so many abstracts into the conference programme. In particular, two changes have been made to the initial conference programme to accommodate more oral presentations. First, it was decided to extend the duration of the conference to utilise the first (Wednesday) morning of the conference. Thus, it was possible to fit in two additional time slots for oral presentations. As



Paul Norman

President - European Health Psychology Society

a consequence of this change, the pre-conference workshops and the Meet the Expert sessions have been moved to the Tuesday. Second, given the number of available lecture halls in the conference venue, it was decided to include an extra parallel session throughout the conference programme. As a result of these changes, there are now seven parallel sessions over ten time slots. In addition, there will be three poster sessions that will be held in a large open area within the convention centre.

In addition to the main conference programme, Create and Synergy are both holding three-day pre-conference workshops. The Create workshop, facilitated by Richard Cooke, Rachel Shaw and Wendy Hardeman, is on systematic reviews and will be attended by 40 early career researchers. The Synergy workshop, facilitated by Marie Johnston, Derek Johnston and Diane Dixon, is focusing on testing "Theory and Intervention with Individuals". A few spaces are still available on this workshop. There are also a range of short workshops before, during and after the conference that delegates can sign up for.

We are indebted to the hard work of many people in ensuring that preparations for this year's conference have gone so smoothly. However, special thanks are due to the Chair of the Scientific Committee, Efi Panagopoulou, and the Chair of the Organising Committee, Vangelis Karademas.

When making your travel arrangements, please remember that the opening ceremony will be taking place on the Tuesday evening (in an outdoor amphitheatre) and will be followed by a reception to celebrate 25 years of EHPS conferences. The full conference programme starts early on the Wednesday morning this year.

I look forward to seeing you in Crete!

Best wishes,
Paul Norman, EHPS President