

# President's message

Dear EHPS members and colleagues,

Welcome to the conference issue of the *European Health Psychologist* which has been printed with the support of the publisher of our journals, Taylor and Francis. The *European Health Psychologist* provides an excellent outlet for societal news as well as a forum for scientific discussion and information. The current editors, Rik Crutzen and Emely de Vet, who started their term of office earlier this year have continued to build on the hard work and success of their predecessors. As a society, we are fortunate to have such a well-produced and innovative publication. This issue provides an opportunity to introduce members of the new Executive Committee and to summarise some of the activities of the EC as we approach the end of the first year of the term of the current EC. You will also receive more detailed formal reports from all EC members in advance of the Members' Meeting in Crete.

The society's annual conference is our "flagship event". Accordingly, the EC devotes a lot of its time to ensuring that our conferences not only run smoothly but also provide an opportunity for researchers to present some of the very best research in European health psychology. In addition to evaluating past conferences, the EC liaises closely with the hosts of upcoming conference, and reviews proposals for future conferences. In order to ensure continuity of information and procedures the EC has a Conference Officer, and I am very pleased that our Past-President, Irina Todorova, has taken on this role. She has a wealth of

experience of conference organisation and long-standing experience of EHPS.

This year's conference marks a special point in the development of the society as it is the 25th Conference of the EHPS. We are very pleased to be holding the conference in Crete at the Creta Maris conference centre in Hersonissos. As well as occupying a beautiful setting, the conference centre provides us with excellent facilities for our conference. The success of the conference depends on the hard work and enthusiasm of a large number of people. In particular, I would like to thank the Conference President and Chair of the Local Organising Committee, Evangelos Karademas, who has worked tirelessly to ensure that preparations for the conference have progressed so smoothly. This year's conference will be one of largest to date. The Chair of the Scientific Committee, Efharis Panagopoulou, also deserves special thanks as she had the unenviable task of processing over 1000 abstract submissions. The Scientific Committee has produced an exciting and high quality programme of symposia, themed sessions, poster presentations, and workshops as well as keynote presentations from George Chrousos, Christina Maslach, Tracey Revenson and Lucy Yardley. 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 review, meta-analysis and qualitative meta-synthesis*. The Synergy



**Paul Norman**

*EHPS president*

workshop, facilitated by Marie Johnston, Derek Johnston and Diane Dixon, is on *Theory and Intervention with Individuals*.

Preparations for the 2012 conference in Prague are well underway, expertly facilitated by Vladimir Kebza as Chair of the Local Organising Committee, Alex Luszczynska as Chair of the Scientific Committee and Ralf Schwarzer as the EC Liaison Officer. I am pleased to report that the keynotes have been confirmed as Charles Abraham, Johan Denollet, Carol Ryff and Kavita Vedhara. The conference will take place from 21-25 August 2012. As with Crete, the opening ceremony will be on the Tuesday evening with a full conference day on the Wednesday. Vladimir Kebza and his colleagues will be hosting a reception at the end of the Crete conference to introduce Prague and encourage you to attend. Initial discussions with Bruno Quintard have also started for the 2013 conference in Bordeaux which will take place in July, aided by Holger Schmid as the EC Liaison Officer.

The EHPS conference has grown considerably since the first meeting organised by Stan Maes that was held in Tilburg, The Netherlands in 1986. The conference now regularly attracts over 600 delegates. The society itself has also grown considerably since being founded. Our Treasurer and Membership Officer, Amelie Wiedemann, reports that for the first time the society has over 500 members from over 40 countries in Europe and beyond. We have a strong network of National Delegates, ably supported by Efrat Neter as National Delegate Convenor. One issue that we plan to work on with the National Delegates is the provision of Masters levels courses in health psychology across Europe and the extent to which it is possible to identify a 'core minimum curriculum' that could be used to describe current provision and provide a framework for the development of new courses.

With such a large membership, the EC has been considering ways in which the society can function more efficiently. In particular, Manja Vollmann and Amelie Wiedemann are overseeing an update of our website to further automate the processing of membership applications and renewals. This will also allow us to maintain a more accurate and up-to-date membership directory which could be organised/searched by keywords (e.g. research interests), which may facilitate research collaborations between members. On a related matter, the EC have proposed changes to the society's Bylaws to introduce electronic voting for future EC elections.

The financial position of the society is strong due to the increasing size of the membership and the success of recent conferences. As a result, the EC has been able to continue to invest in a number of recent initiatives to support training and collaboration. In addition to the annual conference and workshop grants, we were able to fund six visiting scholar grants in the past year for early career researchers to visit and work with a more senior colleague in another country. We also awarded our first Networking Grant to support colleagues from different European countries to meet to develop research ideas. I would like to congratulate all the recipients of these grants and thank Holger Schmid and Gerry Molloy who co-ordinated the administration of these schemes.

The society has continued to develop its links with other organisations in order to promote health psychology in Europe. First, I have attended a number of meetings at EFPA (European Federation of Psychologists' Associations) with other European psychology societies to discuss common issues of interest and ways in which associations between societies might be strengthened. To this end, EFPA has recently amended its statutes to allow

societies such as EHPS to become Associate Members. Given the close links between EFPA and the EU, this will strengthen the voice of European health psychologists and their influence on policy. Second, EHPS is now associated, for an initial period of two years, with the Division of Public Information/NGO Section of the United Nations. I would like to thank our Past-President, Irina Todorova, for all her work and persistence in ensuring that our application was successful. EHPS members have already attended briefing events at the UN and the 64th Annual UN/NGO Conference in Bonn on "*Sustainable Societies, Responsive Citizens*".

The society's official journals, *Psychology & Health* and *Health Psychology Review*, are both performing strongly. Earlier this year Mark Conner and Daryl O'Connor started their term as the new Editors-in-Chief of *Psychology & Health*. The success of the journal has resulted in a marked increase in submissions over recent years, with an associated increase in the publication lag. One of the key goals of the new editorial team is to reduce the size of the publication backlog so that authors' work is published more quickly. To this end, the journal has been increased in size from 10 to 12 issues per year with an additional "one-off" 13th issue for 2011, partly funded by EHPS. The journal continues to be one of the best journals in health psychology with a current impact of 1.591. *Health Psychology Review*, under the stewardship of Martin Hagger, continues to grow. The journal has quickly established itself as an important journal in the field, providing an outlet for reviews of empirical work as well as a forum for theory and conceptual development. The journal now has a steady flow of submissions and has applied to be indexed in SSCI which would provide it with an impact factor.

The Fellowships Committee, chaired by John Weinman, has been considering nominations for

new EHPS Fellows and will be reporting their decisions in the Members' Meeting in Crete. We encourage EHPS members to nominate (or self-nominate) new Fellows—colleagues who have made an important contribution to the development of health psychology in Europe. A new call will be made later this year. In addition, our President-Elect, Falko Sniehotta, and Efrat Neter have been working on a proposal for the introduction of an early career award. The EC would welcome members' comments on this proposal.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all members of the EC for their valuable contributions to the work of the society over the past year. In particular, I should acknowledge the work of our Secretary, Karen Morgan, who is at the hub of almost all of the EC's activities. In addition, I extend my thanks to a large number of people whose work contributes to the vibrancy of the society, especially those involved in Create and Synergy. Over the past year I have been fortunate to work with such an enthusiastic and committed team both within and beyond the EC.

I would like to encourage all members to attend the *EHPS Members' Meeting in Crete* on Thursday 22nd September 2011 at 1240—we value your input. I look forward to seeing you in Crete.

*Best Wishes,*

**Paul Norman**  
EHPS President