

President's message

**Paul Norman***EHPS president*

Dear Colleagues,

The EC recently met for its winter meeting in the beautiful city of Leiden in The Netherlands. All EC members were able to attend the 2 day

meeting despite considerable travel delays as the result of heavy snow at Schipol Airport. Several of us arrived in the early hours of Saturday morning – myself after sharing a taxi from Antwerp to Leiden after the flight from Manchester to Amsterdam had been cancelled. The EC winter meeting provides an opportunity for the EC to review recent activities and discuss new ideas for future developments. The current EC is approaching the end of its two year term of office, so the timing was appropriate to consider future initiatives and innovations that may shape the work of the next EC. I have tried to highlight some of the key issues we discussed.



The EC at the winter meeting in Leiden

Membership and finances

Current membership numbers are very healthy. In 2011 we had 527 members and renewals for 2012 are also progressing well. If you haven't renewed your membership yet for 2012, please do so as soon as possible! Similarly, partly due to the increased size of the membership and the success of recent conferences, the financial situation of the society is also strong. We still have a large balance despite our efforts to support various new initiatives over recent years. We will be looking to further expand some of the activities we support over the next few years.

A key issue we discussed centred on the workload on the Treasurer/Membership Officer which has increased considerably as the society has grown. The EC made two important decisions to address this issue. First, we will recommend to the next EC that the roles of Treasurer and Membership Officer be split. Second, we agreed to increase the amount of administrative support that the Membership Officer receives. Hopefully, these changes will make the roles more manageable in future ECs.

We have also made some changes to the renewal process this year to try to automate as many procedures as possible and to develop the membership directory so that it is a useful resource for members. In particular, when joining or renewing membership, members are asked to indicate their main research areas. These can then be searched in the membership directly (and also by country) – this will hopefully enable members to identify other

members with similar research interests across Europe (and also help the development of special interest groups that are being managed by Synergy).

Health Psychology masters programmes in Europe

In response to requests from many National Delegates, the EC has convened a committee to consider the provision of Health Psychology Masters programmes in Europe. The committee is being chaired by the National Delegates Officer, Efrat Neter, and also includes Winnie Gebhardt (The Netherlands), Mark Forshaw (UK) and Christel Salewski (Germany). The committee will be considering current provision and seek to provide a resource or guidelines for members (following the Bologna Process). The committee plans to present its initial findings in a specific session at the conference in Prague to which all members, and especially National Delegates, will be invited to attend.

Journals

We were very happy to receive the news that Health Psychology Review is now included in the Social Science Citation Index. This will further increase its profile. Currently, the journal has an unofficial impact factor of 1.33 and this is likely to increase substantially in the next few years.

Our contracts with the publisher of our journals, Taylor & Francis, are set to be renegotiated in 2013. The EC therefore had an opportunity to reflect on our relationship with Taylor & Francis and discuss ways in which they could further support and promote our journals. The EC also discussed recent developments in open access journals and the scope for EHPS to be involved in such developments. Myself and the editors of our journals will be meeting with Taylor & Francis in the spring to discuss these issues in more detail. The EC will be seeking the views of members to inform our discussions.



Conferences

Preparations for the 2012 EHPS Conference in Prague are reaching an advanced stage. I am pleased to inform members that over 800 abstracts were received before the submission deadline. The Scientific Committee will be evaluating these abstracts and producing the scientific programme over the next few months. In order to include as many presenters as possible, delegates will be limited to the number of oral and poster presentations that will be considered. However, as with Crete, the full conference programme will start from the Wednesday morning to ensure that we can maximise the number of available slots in the programme. This means that the opening ceremony will take place on the Tuesday evening in the historic buildings of Charles University. Once decisions on submitted abstracts have been made by the Scientific Committee, I encourage members to take advantage of reduced registration fees by registering early. Preparations are also progressing well for the 2013 Conference in Bordeaux. We have now appointed a Scientific Committee, chaired by Holger Schmidt, that is now in the process of inviting keynote speakers (some of which have already been confirmed). Further details will be announced at our conference in Prague.

EC Elections

The term of office of the current EC comes to an end at the Prague conference. We will shortly be sending members an email requesting nominations for the new EC. I would encourage as many members of possible to put themselves for nomination to make a positive contribution to the society's work. Please contact any members of the current EC should you be interested in being nominated or if you want to discuss specific roles. This year we will be using an electronic voting system for the first time. We hope that this will make it easier for members to vote and thereby increase participation in this important democratic process.

We discussed many other issues at our meeting in Leiden and agreed a long list of actions for remaining months of the current EC. The next few months will be a busy time for the EC and you are likely to receive many emails with announcements and requests. This is a reflection of the vibrancy of the society and I hope they will not overwhelm your inboxes! We sincerely want members to be fully informed of, and participate in, the society's activities.

Best wishes from myself and all of the EC for a healthy and productive 2012.

Paul Norman
EHPS President