

President's message



Falko Sniehotta

EHPS president

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to take the opportunity of my first president's message in the *European Health Psychologist* to introduce the new Executive Committee and update you on our work.

With great pleasure and a considerable sense of duty, I took over the presidency after the successful annual conference in Prague. The EHPS is a matter of the heart for me. I have been actively involved in the society in a range of roles including CREATE organiser (2001-2005), founding co-editor and editor of the *European Health Psychologist* (2004-2007) and member of the editorial board of *Psychology and Health* and associate editor of *Health Psychology Review*. I have not missed an EHPS conference since 2001 and I met many of my collaborators, friends, and indeed my wife at EHPS conferences. During my time as President, I will focus on strengthening the scientific profile of the EHPS, its journals and conferences worldwide, further invest in training and development for early career researchers and support capacity building in Europe. Our society is growing in terms of membership and the range of activities the EHPS supports. The new EC will work with you—the members—to discuss how we can optimise the functioning and scope of the society to be able to continue previous success and keep the highest standards of transparency and shared decision making.

I am fortunate to be supported by an outstanding elected EC with a healthy mix of continuity and new members. **Paul Norman** has been a great role model for me at many levels in particular in terms of the approachable and suave manner with which he conducted EC affairs. During his presidency, the society flourished and some of the key objectives I put forward in my nomination for election, were already achieved. All reduced-fee and student members of the EHPS now have full access to both of our journals. We have now regular meetings between the presidents (past; present & elect) and the journal editors to discuss how we can best support the journal editors in making our journals the best in the world. Paul has renegotiated the contract for the journals with the publisher, Taylor & Francis, giving us a much better deal and improved the communication between the society and the publisher to optimise the management and promotion of EHPS journals. These developments put us in a strong position to make further progress to enhance the impact and international reputation of our journals even further.

With a record figure of 585 members in 2012, the EHPS has never had more members. Our conferences grow in terms of delegates, budgets and speakers and never before has the EHPS supported more activities. The EC is working on proposals to make sure that the infrastructure is fit to manage these increasingly complex operations in the future. Our Secretary, **Karen Morgan** has been incredibly influential in the process of managing the administration of EHPS

and in rethinking how we can reform procedures and structures to make sure we can cope with 1000 members and a further growth of activities in the future. **Cécile Bazillier-Bruneau** is our new Treasurer, looking after our accounts and financial affairs. **Efrat Neter** is our National Delegates' Officer. We are currently piloting a model in which this role is combined with the Membership Officer role to optimise administration of membership affairs. Efrat has been leading the EC's initiative to develop guidance for a European Masters degree programme in Health Psychology and is involved in an initiative to seek external funding to take this work to the next level. This would allow the EHPS to provide procedures and materials for countries developing their Health Psychology Masters courses in the future. **Amelie Wiedemann** leads the EC's communication activities and supports the planning of an administrative reform based on her experience as past treasurer/membership officer. **Gerry Molloy** chairs the EHPS publication subcommittee and manages the EHPS grants and education activities. I welcome **Robbert Sanderman** as the new President-Elect. He is a long-standing member of the EHPS and with the experience of a leading scientist and prolific supervisor of PhD students, he will be able to inspire this EC and lead the EHPS in the future. To further enhance the exchange of views and knowledge within the EC, the Chairs of the subdivisions CREATE (**Angela Rodrigues**) and SYNERGY (**Felix Naughton**) now attend all EC meetings. It is also worth noting, that the majority of the elected EC are past members of CREATE, showing how effective our early career strategy has been.

The EC met in January in Newcastle to map out the work for the next 2 years. These winter meetings have become an established event to allow us to discuss face-to-face issues brought to us by the members and the tasks and issues associated with the core business.



The executive committee 2012-2014 in Newcastle: From the left: Falko Sniehotta, Amelie Wiedemann, Efrat Neter, Robbert Sanderman, Karen Morgan, Cécile Bazillier-Bruneau, Angela Rodrigues, Paul Norman and Felix Naughton. Missing: Gerry Molloy.

Membership & Finances

We had 586 members as of end of December 2012, comprising 373 full members, 73 with reduced fee, 114 student members, and 22 reduced student members. Numbers are 10% greater than the same time in 2011. For an annual full fee of 75 Euro, members become part of the strongest and largest European society of health psychologists, get reduced conference fees and receive free online access to 12 issues of *Psychology and Health*, 2 issues (3 in 2013) of *Health Psychology Review* each with an impact factor over 2. This provides outstanding value for money.

The financial situation of the EHPS remains strong although we invest considerably in initiatives such as early career and networking grants. However, the workload of a range of EHPS positions including treasurer/membership officer, secretary and chair of the scientific committee for our annual conferences has become excessive. We will work out proposals for the members on how best to run and maintain a

society with soon almost a thousand members, an annual conference, two peer reviewed journals and a range of groupings, affiliations and initiatives.

Journals

The standing of our journals is one of the key indicators for our success as a scientific society. I would like to thank the editors of our journals, Mark Conner and Daryl O'Connor, joint editors in chief of *Psychology & Health* and Martin Hagger, editor in chief of *Health Psychology Review* for their outstanding work. Both journals have now an impact factor over 2, fast turnaround time for peer review and are flagship journals publishing exciting, innovative, and rigorous science with impact on research and practice. *Health Psychology Review* will publish an additional third supplemental issue in 2013. *Psychology & Health* recently issued calls for special issues in "Risk of bias in randomized controlled trials of health behaviour change interventions: Evidence, practices and challenges" (guest editor: Marijn de Bruin) and "Health Psychology and Healthy Ageing" (guest editors: Kevin McKee and Benjamin Schüz), emphasising the role of the journal as an outlet for methodological as well as applied health psychological science.

Over the next year, the EC will initiate a range of initiatives to increase membership (and thereby journal access) in and beyond Europe to promote our science and our journals.

EHPS conferences

We are looking forward to seeing you in Bordeaux for our 27th conference of the European Health Psychology Society. The conference president Bruno Quintard and the chair of the scientific committee Holger Schmid together with the organising committee and the scientific committee have been working to prepare another successful conference of the highest scientific and organisational standards. Keynote addresses by Mark Conner (provisional title: "Health cognitions, affect and health behaviours"), Lutz Jaencke (provisional title "Brain, cognition, self-regulation and health behaviour"), Stan Maes (provisional title: "From quality of (work) life to quality of care, a theory based empirical perspective") and Crystal Park (provisional title: "religiosity and health") together with the traditionally strong academic programme, will make this conference an event not to be missed. ■

Best wishes for 2013, on behalf of the Executive Committee.

Falko Sniehotta

President of the European Health Psychology Society