

## International Congress of Applied Psychology Division 8 – Health Psychology

### Conference Impressions

The International Congress of Applied Psychology took place in Athens, Greece, from July 16<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>, 2006. The Health Psychology Division of the IAAP, Division 8, was represented with an outstanding scientific program, with Program chair Esther Greenglass. There were a total of 201 oral papers, 179 posters, 46 sessions of which 19 were Invited Symposia. Topics included coping and social support, health behavior change, women's health, terrorism as well as sessions on psychological effects of disasters. Several international leaders in health psychology were invited key note speakers or symposium conveners.

**Presidential Address:** Ralf Schwarzer (Germany) *Social Cognition Models in Health Behavior Change*

**State of the Art Lecture:** Susan Michie (UK) *Genetic Testing: Psychological Consequences and Intervention*

**Keynote Lectures:**

Adrian A. Kaptein (The Netherlands) *Illness Cognitions in Chronic Somatic Illness*

Stevan E. Hobfoll (USA) *Terrorism's Impact on the Self and Society: Even our Gains May be Losses.*

The program at ICAP 2006 included a **Joint Invited Symposium of IAAP and EHPS** on Women's Reproductive Health, chaired by Irina Todorova. This was the first such joint symposium presented at ICAP. However, the collaboration between EHPS and IAAP Div. 8 has been on-going for several years, for example, there were IAAP sponsored symposia at the EHPS Conference in Kos, Greece, 2003. At the EHPS Conference in 2004, in Helsinki, Finland, Division 8 of IAAP co-sponsored a symposium with EHPS entitled, "Coping as a Synergistic Concept: Implications for Health" chaired by E. Greenglass in which health psychologists from German, Poland, Canada, and Finland presented research on coping and its relationship to health.

At the Division 8 Business Meeting, it was announced that Aleksandra Luszczynska has been elected and will serve as President-Elect for the period of 2006-2010. Thus the new board of Division 8, effective July 18, 2006, is:

President: Esther Greenglass, Canada

President-Elect: Aleksandra Luszczynska, UK and Poland.

Past-President: Ralf Schwarzer, Germany

Secretary: Urte Scholz, Switzerland

At the meeting, **The Lifetime Achievement Award** was presented to Stevan Hobfoll, and the Early Career Award to Benjamin Schüz. Ralf Schwarzer, President, Division 8 IAAP 2002-2006, was given a silver cup in gratitude for his work during this period.

Division 8 will be working with the editor of *Applied Psychology: An International Review*, the IAAP journal, to increase the visibility of health psychology on the international scene. For example, several special issues are being planned for this journal, including on the topic of women's health internationally, using the Symposium on Women's Health in Athens as a start.

For the first time in Athens, Division 8 hosted a **Social Hour**, at the top of the Divani Caravel Hotel. This very successful social hour brought together over 100 guests over the background of the breathtaking view of Athens from the roof Terrace.

Esther Greenglass, Aleksandra Luszczynska

