

EUROPEAN HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY SOCIETY

EMAIL NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 1999

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear EHPS Colleagues,

I send you Season's Greetings via our first email Newsletter on the last opportunity to do this in this millennium. We have had a very successful conference this year in Florence with almost 500 delegates and with the first and excellent pre-conference workshop organised by our early career development group - CREATE. We confidently expect to have a similar outcome in Leiden next Summer.

While we continue to organise successful and well-attended meetings, and have a good arrangement with publishers to get the journal *Psychology & Health* as part of our membership fee, we still have a very modest membership number of 230. This limits what we can do as a Society beyond organising conferences. I urge you to do one thing to help promote your society as part of your New Year's resolutions. You could....

- publicise the Leiden conference [especially the abstract closing date – February 14th] - programme details are on our website [www.ehps.net]. Let colleagues know; put the contact details in your local newsletter.
- get a colleague to join the Society [documentation available on our website or by asking the secretary [p.norman@sheffield.ac.uk]]. Let them know:
 - of our upcoming conferences and special reduced rates for members;
 - of the subscription to 6 issues of the journal *Psychology & Health* as part of membership.
- encourage an early career health psychologist to attend the conference and the training workshop [details of this year's workshop can be obtained by contacting CREATE [email: MichaelEchteld@compuserve.com] or our website [www.ehps.net/create].

With such a wide spread of membership across Europe, we should be able to increase our numbers. I look forward to your help in this and to seeing a bigger and better Society emerge over the next year!

Wishing you success in work and home life over the coming weeks and a very good millennium New Year.

Good wishes,

Professor Hannah McGee
President, EHPS

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Members who have not yet renewed their EHPS membership will shortly be receiving a membership renewal form from the EHPS Treasurer Therèsè Van Elderen. Please complete and return your form promptly to maintain your EHPS membership and uninterrupted subscription to *Psychology & Health*.

USEFUL WEBSITES

We plan to provide website addresses which may be useful to members through the Newsletter. If you have found a website particularly relevant to the interests of EHPS members, please let us know so we can inform others. Send 1) the website address, 2) a one-sentence summary of why it is of interest, and 3) your name, employing organisation, town, country to the EHPS Secretary, Paul Norman at p.norman@sheffield.ac.uk

Below are a number of **European Union website addresses** regarding research programmes, that may be of interest to EHPS members:

- <http://europa.eu.int/index-en.htm>
EU general information web site
- http://europa.eu.int/scadplus/scad_en.htm
Gives a menu of calendar, policies, programmes, etc. Please note there is an underscore ("_") between scad and en in the address. The computer automatically underlines so it's hard to see.
- http://europa.eu.int/pol/health/index_en.htm
A general EU public health site (again there is an underscore between index and en).
- <http://www.ecu-notes.org/atoz997/healthpr.html>
Action programme on health promotion, information, education & training.
- <http://europa.eu.int/scadplus/leg/en/s03000.htm>
Social charter and action programmes – health.
- <http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg05/phealth/ph-struc.htm>
Principles of the EU action in public health.
- <http://europa.eu.int/en/comm/dg13/index.htm>
Research programs.

Provided by Hannah McGee, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Dublin, Ireland.

MINUTES OF EHPS OPEN MEMBERS' MEETING HELD IN FLORENCE
FRIDAY 1ST OCTOBER 1999

1. Future EHPS Conferences

The President (Hannah McGee) reported on preparations for future EHPS conferences. Next year's conference will take place in Leiden, The Netherlands, 16-19 August 2000. The flyer for the Leiden conference has been distributed during this conference, and members will be receiving the first and only call for papers in the near future. The deadline for abstracts is 14 February 2000.

The 2001 conference will take place in St Andrews, Scotland, 4-8 September 2001. This conference is being organised in association with the Division of health Psychology of the British Psychological Society, and coincides with the centenary of the British Psychological Society.

The Executive Committee confirmed that the 2002 conference will take place in Lisbon, Portugal. Proposals for hosting the 2003 are now sought and members are encouraged to contact the Executive Committee if they are interested in hosting future EHPS conferences.

2. CREATE

Hannah McGee reported on the development of an early career group, "CREATE", within the EHPS. The group aims to promote education and training among early career researchers in health psychology. The group have worked throughout the past year to put on a two day training course in advance of the Florence conference. Further information on the CREATE group can be found on the EHPS website (<http://ehps.net>).

3. Membership

The Membership Officer (Ladislav Valach) introduced the current membership figures by country. He noted that membership in a number of countries was unexpectedly low and encouraged members to recruit further members in their countries.

The possibility of incorporating membership fees into future conference registration fees was discussed. It was noted that the number of delegates attending the conference each year was two to three times greater than the number of members. Incorporating the membership fee into the conference registration fee would substantially increase the number of members. The anticipated conference registration fee would be similar to the current conference fee plus the membership fee and the current conference for non-members.

A number of issues were raised in the meeting that the Executive Committee will need to consider before this proposal is pursued further. First, the transition to the new system would need to be managed carefully to ensure that members didn't pay their membership fee twice in the transition year.

Second, members would have to have the opportunity to pay their membership fees if they didn't attend the conference. Third, EHPS may lose some control over who becomes a member of the society. Fourth, the conference fee for students would need to be set carefully so as not to discourage attendance by research students.

4. Communication

The Secretary (Paul Norman) reported that the Executive Committee had discussed the issue of communication with the membership. Given that the majority of members have access to email it was proposed that members should receive more frequent communications from the Executive Committee. Over the next year, members will receive bi-monthly communication regarding society news. Those members who do not have access to email will receive this information by post.

The Past-President (Ralf Schwarzer) reported on recent developments on the EHPS website (<http://ehps.net>). The website has a new design and contains up-to-date information on the society. For example, there are links to future conferences, the CREATE group, and Psychology & Health. Following the conference, the annual reports of the National Delegates will be put on the website, along with a selection of photos from the conference. The possibility of developing a web-based discussion forum was discussed.

5. Executive Committee Elections

Hannah McGee reminded members that elections for a new Executive Committee will take place next year. Nominations for election to the Executive Committee will be sought in the new year. Hannah McGee encouraged members to come forward for election.

Paul Norman
Secretary, EHPS

LEIDEN CONFERENCE

Next year's EHPS conference will be taking place in Leiden, 16-19 August, 2000. EHPS members will shortly be receiving a conference flyer containing the first only call for papers. If you require any further information regarding the conference you can consult the EHPS website or email the local organisers on ehps2000@fsw.leidenUniv.nl

In the meantime, here are some important dates for your diary:

- 14 February, 2000 Deadline for submission of abstracts (and Valentine's Cards!)
- 1 April, 2000 Notification of abstract acceptance
- 14 May, 2000 Deadline for reduced registration fee