

# EUROPEAN HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY SOCIETY

## EMAIL NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2000

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear EHPS Colleagues,

2000 promises to be an exciting year for EHPS. In August we hold our 14<sup>th</sup> annual conference in Leiden, The Netherlands. The deadline for submission of abstracts has recently past and contributors will receive notification of acceptance before Easter. I encourage you to attend the conference and also to take advantage of the reduced registration fee (deadline: 14 May, 2000).

Prior the conference, our early career training group (CREATE) will be holding their second workshop on exploring, testing and applying theories in health psychology. This workshop is specially designed for postgraduate health psychology students and those who have obtained a postgraduate qualification in health psychology in the past 3 years. The workshop is an excellent opportunity for early career health psychologists to receive expert training and to meet fellow health psychologists from across Europe.

Our journal, *Psychology & Health*, which members receive as a benefit of membership continues to maintain its strong position in the field. The most recent Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) release for the Social Science Citation Index (SSCI) impact factors lists *Psychology & Health* as .729. This figures compares favourably with the impact factors of other more recently established journals in health psychology, and confirms the reputation of *Psychology & Health* as an outlet for quality research in health psychology.

Finally, this year sees the changeover of the Executive Committee. The term of the current committee will expire at the Leiden conference. At the beginning of April, members will be receive forms to nominate members for the Executive Committee from 2000-2002. I encourage you to start thinking of members who you would like to see on the committee to take EHPS forward over the next few years.

In the meantime, best wishes for the new millennium.

Professor Hannah McGee  
President, EHPS

## **14<sup>TH</sup> EHPS CONFERENCE**

**Leiden, The Netherlands, 16 – 19 August 2000**

This year's EHPS conference will take place in Leiden, The Netherlands, 16-19 August, 2000. The conference is being organised by EHPS in collaboration with the Department of Psychology at Leiden and the Dutch Research Institute for Psychology and Health.

The theme of the conference is "Models of Health and Illness Behaviours" and a number of key researchers in the area have been invited to give keynote lectures and convene specialist symposia. One such symposium has been convened by Kazimierz Wrzesniewski focusing on "Psychological Models in Coronary Heart Disease" and includes presentations from Lucio Sibilio (Italy), Kazimierz Wrzesniewski (Poland), Paul Bennett (UK) and Juhani Julkunen (Finland).

Further information about the conference, including registration details, can be obtained via the EHPS website (<http://www.ehps.net>).

## **CREATE WORKSHOP**

**Nothing is more practical than a good theory:  
Exploring, testing and applying theories in health psychology**

**Leiden, The Netherlands, 13-15 August, 2000**

CREATE (Collaborative REsearch And Training in the EHPS) is a subdivision of the EHPS that aims to promote and organise research collaboration and training for early career health psychologists. Following the success of the first CREATE workshop held in Florence, Italy, in September 1999, CREATE is organising a second, 3-day workshop on the use of theories in health psychology. The workshop will take place immediately before the EHPS conference in Leiden, The Netherlands (16 -18 August 2000).

Each day of the workshop will be devoted to a different theme related to development, testing and application of theoretical models in health psychology.

Professor **Marie Johnston** (University of St. Andrews, Scotland) and Professor **John Weinman** (Kings College London, England) will be teaching at the workshop.

The themes of the workshop are the as follows:

### **Theme 1 - Using general theoretical frameworks in health psychology**

Health psychology is a practical discipline, but in this session it will be argued that theoretical foundations are necessary for the progress of knowledge. Theory can inform the design of interventions and the measures that are used for evaluation. The rationale for theory building in health psychology and the argument for theory-driven research will be discussed.

- \* What are the advantages of general theories (e.g. from social and personality psychology) over specific or implicit theories for ill people (e.g., 'quality of life is social functioning, psychological functioning and somatic functioning in response to illness')?
- \* Examples of health psychology research that use a general theoretical framework will be discussed.
- \* What are the characteristics of useful theories for application in health psychology research?

Examples will be given.

- \* What are the rules for developing theories or extending existing theories?
- \* Recent developments and thinking about cause and effect in health psychology will be discussed.

### **Theme 2 - Measurement, design, and methodological issues in testing theories**

- \* What role can methodology play in the development of theories?
- \* The value of using factor analysis as a research tool (e.g., dimensionality of a construct).
- \* What is causality and how can we test for it?
- \* Methodologies for longitudinal research.
- \* The pros and cons of randomised experimental designs in health psychology.
- \* Recent developments in methodology.

### **Theme 3 - Translating theory driven findings into intervention type research**

- \* What is the clinical significance of the theories we use? Can we use theories in health psychology to design successful interventions?
- \* Can we evaluate the effects of an intervention using a particular theory?
- \* What are examples of theory-based intervention programmes?

### **Application Details**

Further details on the workshop, including an application form, can be obtained via the EHPS website (<http://www.ehps.net>). The application deadline is 1 April 2000. We recommend that you apply early, because places in the workshop are limited to 40 participants.

Preference will be given to postgraduate health psychology students or those who already have a postgraduate qualification in health psychology (but for no longer than 3 years). The workshop will be held in the English. The application fee for the workshop is Fl. 125,- (Dutch guilders). Accommodation is available at the conference venue, situated on the coast near Leiden, for Fl. 50,- per person per night (without breakfast).

We look forward to meeting you in Leiden!

Michael Echteld, on behalf of CREATE

## **OTHER CONFERENCE INFORMATION**

### **Stress, the Business Traveler and Corporate Health: An International Travel Health Symposium**

**April 27- 28, 2000**

**Joint Bank-Fund Health Services Department,  
The World Bank, Washington D.C., USA.**

The Symposium will focus on the psycho-social health of international business travelers and the corporate health implications for organizations that employ them.

The special demands for the business traveler in an international work environment make it increasingly important for organizations to understand and manage the stress and health risks to their traveling employees, yet travel stress and psycho-social issues have received little formal attention. Issues of corporate concern include managing employee health risks, promoting employee effectiveness, and practical approaches to help guard the health and well-being of travelers.

This Symposium will bring together corporate medical directors, researchers, travel medicine specialists and others to discuss these emerging issues. Sessions will address stress and work-life balance; jet lag; travel medicine approaches; research issues; and corporate implications and responsibilities. These topics are of particular relevance to psychologists working in occupational health settings or those who consult to organizations about the work environment and psychological health.

The program, list of speakers and registration information can be found on the web at:  
<http://www-hsd.worldbank.org/symposium>