

EUROPEAN HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY SOCIETY
EMAIL NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2001

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear EHPS Colleagues,

Now that spring is arriving in Europe, it is time to inform you about how the EHPS is blossoming as well.

Thanks to the excellent and dedicated work of our Membership Officer Britta Renner and our Treasurer and her assistant, Therese van Elderen and Ariena van Poppel, the list of EHPS-members is now up-to-date and complete. This positive development will strengthen the financial basis of the Society.

Our EHPS journal Psychology & Health is showing signs of growth as well. The most recent SSCI 1999 impact factor for Psychology & Health is 1.342, which represents a significant step forward. As President I feel that receiving six issues of Psychology & Health per year linked to the EHPS-membership is quite attractive for current and future members.

CREATE is working on a pre-conference Workshop, linked to our 2001 EHPS Conference.

We'll meet in September 2001 at our annual conference. Visit the website for the St Andrews Conference at www.st-andrews.ac.uk/academic/psychology/events/health2001.html.

Don't forget to register in time. Various members of the EHPS Executive Committee (EC) are involved with reviewing abstracts, and the conference will be excellent. Preparations for future EHPS conferences are well under way.

The EC of the EHPS is busy discussing a set of strategic issues regarding our Society. Streamlining procedures concerning membership and finances are major topics. We look forward to discussing these issues with you in St Andrews.

See you in Scotland this September.

Ad Kaptein, EHPS President

REPORT ON THE SECOND CREATE WORKSHOP

The second CREATE workshop for early career health psychologists took place in Noordwijk, the Netherlands (13-15th August 2000). The workshop took place immediately before the 14th annual EHPS conference in Leiden, The Netherlands. Prof. Marie Johnston from the University of St. Andrews (Scotland) and Prof. John Weinman from King's College London (England) ran a highly interactive workshop. The title of this three-day workshop was *'Nothing is more practical than a good theory: Exploring, testing, and applying theories in health psychology'*. This theme paralleled the *'Models of Health and Illness Behaviour'* theme of the EHPS conference.

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The workshop began with a general discussion of models in health psychology. Three commonly used models were selected for use as examples in health psychology research: the theory of planned behaviour (Ajzen), the self-regulatory model (Leventhal and colab.) and the stress and coping model (Lazarus & Folkman). Comparison of the application of the different models to a research question revealed the strengths and weaknesses of each approach. In addition, the fact that each of the models omits other factors related to health behaviour suggests that there is no perfect model that can predict health behaviour entirely. The challenge of developing more powerful models was raised.

A number of methodological issues were considered, such as appropriate sampling, measurement and analysis. In particular, the difficulties of testing a dynamic model such as self-regulation model were highlighted. Finally, the challenges raised by using a model to develop an appropriate intervention to address the research questions was considered.

The workshop brought together an enthusiastic group of young researchers to discuss issues surrounding the use of models and very skilled leaders to stimulate further theoretical research. Despite the different work and research backgrounds of the participants, the value of including a model in research was clearly demonstrated. It was also a timely reminder to health psychologists that we should not forget the strengths of established psychological theories and that such theories can illuminate our own current theoretical and research projects. Indeed, the growth of social comparison research in health psychology testifies to the value of applying older models from other disciplines of psychology.

The organisers are currently in the process of planning the next CREATE workshop to precede the EHPS conference in St. Andrews (Scotland) on September 5-8th 2001. Further details of the workshop will be made available on the CREATE website in the near future. To attend these workshops, participants must become student members of the EHPS and therefore will also receive the benefits of EHPS membership. CREATE also has a member on the EHPS executive committee and thus will be better able to promote training issues for health psychologists.

on behalf of CREATE

David Hevey, Department of Cardiology, Beaumont Hospital, Dublin 9, Ireland

15th EHPS CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

St Andrews, Scotland, Sept 5th-8th, 2001

We would like to acknowledge that we have had a very good response on behalf of European health psychologists to the EHPS Conference. More than 400 abstracts have been received by the closing date. The abstracts have been distributed to Scientific Committee members for rating and the authors will be notified about the results of this process. We remind those who missed the first deadline that there is a second one – 31 May 2001 - for submitting abstracts for posters as rapid communications. We welcome posters in any area of Health Psychology. The preferred method of submission of abstracts is via the online submission form at the conference web site:

www.st-andrews.ac.uk/academic/psychology/events/health2001.

Conference organisers

OTHER CONFERENCES INFORMATION

“Feminine Ways: Health and Psychopathology of Women”

25-27 October 2001, Oporto, Portugal

The International Congress “Feminine Ways: Health and Psychopathology of Women” is integrated in the city of Porto 2001 Capital of Culture scientific events. The congress aims at gathering specialists in the fields of Social and Health Sciences that are interested in the study of women. The global aims of the congress are the following:

- To generate a discussion on models and strategies for promoting Women’s Health.
- To debate and search for new approaches in the study of psychiatric disorders which are more prevalent in women.
- To promote a discussion of new proposals for increasing equal opportunities between men and women in terms of optimizing their personal development.

Some of the themes to be addressed are 1. Women and health, 2. Trauma and Victimization of Women, 3. Identity and Gender. 4. Most prevalent psychiatric disorders in women, and 5. Lifecycle events

Among the confirmed guest speakers are Adriana Baban (University “Babes-Bolyai” Cluj-Napoca, Romania), Antonia Bifulco (University of London, U.K.), Hannah McGee (Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland), Hans Hoek (University of Utrecht, Holland), Janice Yoder (President, APA Division – Psychology of Women, U.S.A.), Lenore Walker (Walker & Associates, U.S.A.), Margaret Oates (University of Manchester, U.K.), Marie Johnston (University of St. Andrews, Scotland), Michael O’Hara (University of Iowa, U.S.A)

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Deadline: June 15, 2001

Conference information can be obtained from:

Conference Presidents: Bárbara Figueiredo or Teresa McIntyre

Psychology Department, University of Minho,

Campus de Gualtar, 4700 Braga, Portugal

Tel. 351-253-604241; Fax: 351-253-678987

E-mail: feminino@iep.uminho.pt

4th International Conference on Adolescent Health & Welfare

The British Society of Adolescent Health & Welfare invites submissions of abstracts for their 4th International Conference on Adolescent Health & Welfare. The abstracts can be for plenary lectures, workshops, free papers, poster presentations or commercial displays. Closing date for abstracts is July 30th 2002.

<http://www.youthsupport.com>

First French Health Psychology Conference.
5- 6 october 2001, University Victor Segalen, Bordeaux

We welcome submissions in any area of Health Psychology. In addition to individual papers and posters, we would like to encourage symposia, poster symposia, or other innovative methods of communicating about research, consultancy, teaching and professional practice in Health Psychology. The conference language is French. The formats for the main forms of submission are described in detail on the web site: <http://www.u-bordeaux2.fr/actualites/psysante>.

The themes of the symposia are as follows:

- Illness Theories
- Psychosocial Risk Factors for Disease
- Stress and Coping
- Health Prevention and Health Promotion
- Risk Factors for Cardiovascular Disease

Submission deadline: 15 April, 2001

More information : psysante@sha.univ-metz.fr

International Conference on Psychology Education,
Saint Petersburg, Russia, June 17-21, 2002

The conference will launch an international network in the field of psychology education. The first goal of the conference is to compile, describe, and summarize information on how psychology is taught internationally. The second goal of the conference is to exchange information and knowledge on research in the area of teaching and learning psychology.

The organizers invite contributions on a wide range of topics covering broad aspects of teaching and learning psychology and specific challenges in the 21st century such as: students in secondary schools, colleges, and universities; medicine and health; social workers; organizations and management; technology and design.

Persons interested in participating to the conference should contact the Conference Chair, Professor Victor Karandashev at the following e-mail addresses:

victor.karandashev@usa.net or: vykarandashev@mail.ru

USEFUL WEBSITE

A new website, **www.healthpsychology.net**, was recently launched. The purpose of the site is to promote scholarly research in health psychology, behavioral medicine, rehabilitation, and related fields. It is intended for use by graduate students and faculty seeking information about university-based research and contains abstracts of paper and poster presentations from conferences, other non-published draft articles, calls for research and collaboration opportunities, and useful links. Each research abstract contains a link to the authors email address to allow the reader instant communication with the author(s) for discussion purposes or to request full-text copies of the research.

Executive Committee of the EHPS (2000-2002)

President: Ad Kaptein, Leiden (The Netherland) **akaptein@pobox.leidenuniv.nl**

President Elect: Teresa Mendonça McIntyre (Portugal) **mcintyre@iep.uminho.pt**

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Secretary: Adriana Baban (Romania) **ababan@psiedu.ubbcluj.ro**

Treasurer: Thérèse Van Elderen (The Netherlands) **poppel@rulfs.w.leidenuniv.nl**

Membership Officer: Britta Renner (Germany) **renner@mail.uni-greifswald.de**

Ordinary Members: Maria Kopp (Hungary) **kopmar@net.sote.hu**

Stephen Sutton (UK) **s.sutton@ucl.ac.uk**

CREATE Rep: Michael Echteld (The Netherlands) **michael.echteld@planet.nl**