

The European Health Psychology Society



EHPS Newsletter

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Editor's Foreword

A number of changes in the production of the EHPS Newsletter are responsible for the fact that this issue appears with some delay. Fortunately, we can welcome Winnie Gebhardt from the Health Psychology Unit of Leiden University (The Netherlands) as co-editor of the Newsletter. She will assist me with the editorial work and she will be responsible for the layout and production of the Newsletter, with the help of Mike Echfeld of the same unit. I'm very pleased with their assistance.

In addition to the items related to Society business, we want to draw your attention to the report by Elisabeth Kals and Glynis Owens on the Dublin conference.

Jan Vinck, Editor

National Delegates Meeting During Dublin Conference

September 5th, 1996

The countries represented were Austria, Belgium, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, Turkey, and the United Kingdom. Apologies were received from Czech Republic and Germany.

National Delegates Reports

Reports have been received from most national delegates. These are available for inspection at the EHPS desk at the conference. It was agreed that there should be an opportunity to discuss the reports in more detailed future conferences. A number of options were considered:

1. Ensuring that the reports are available for members to read at the start of the conference;
2. Putting the reports on the EHPS website in advance of the conference;
3. Having a poster session at the conference.

In addition, it was agreed that the reports should address a range of common questions, although delegates may wish to highlight issues that are particularly salient in their own countries.

Election of National Delegates for 1996-1998

The executive committee has received a number of nominations. Further nominations should be received by 15th October 1996, when EHPS will approve the nominations. Where appropriate, EHPS will approach national psychology/health psychology associations.

It was agreed that there was a need to formalise procedures for the nomination and appointment of national delegates, and that national associations could play a role in the nomination of delegates.

National Delegates Meeting

Continued from Page 1

Membership Fees

Delegates were reminded that membership fees are now due for 1997. It is important that fees are received by the end of October so that members able to receive Psychology & Health without disruption.

The preferred method of payment is by credit card or by Eurocheque. If possible, the use of bank transfer should be avoided as EHPS loses a portion of the membership fee in bank charges.

EHPS Website

Ralf Schwarzer outlined the EHPS website. National delegates are asked to provide details of national web-


sites so that links between websites can be set up. It is hoped that the website will allow greater dissemination of information within EHPS. The current address of the EHPS Homepage is:

- <http://userpage.fu-berlin.de/~health/ehps.htm>

This page will probably be moved to a different web-server in the future in order to obtain a much shorter address (i.e., <http://www.wp.com/accent/euro.htm> See Ralph Schwarzer's Letter to EHPS Members on page 5).

Any Other Business

1. Future Conferences. Russia expressed an interest in organising a future EHPS conference in Moscow. Other expressions of interest have been received from Budapest, Prague and Lund (Sweden).
2. Turkey informed the meeting of their intention to establish a health psychology society.

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National Health Psychology Newsletters: The Health Psychology Update


In the July issue we reviewed the Canadian Health Psychologist, the newsletter Health Psychology Section of the Canadian Psychological Association, and we invited editors of other national newsletters to send us copies for review in the EHPS Newsletter.


Stephen Wright, co-ordinating editor of the Health Psychology Update reacted to this invitation and sent us copies of the 1996 volume of this journal. The Health Psychology Update is produced by the Special Group in Health Psychology of The British Psychological Society and is designed to serve as a discussion forum for any issues of relevance to psychologists working in the area of physical health. Each volume contains four issues.


Looking at the content of the 1996 volume, one is struck by the nice balance between society information, book reviews, professionally interesting and more scientific information. To give only one example it may suffice to simply cite the contents of the December issue, which contains the items that you can expect in a newsletter: minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Special Group, a list of forth-

coming events, several conference reports and a number of book reviews. Furthermore, this issue includes a Cognate Literature Guide on publishing child health psychology and a research forum on the complexity in the study of social support and health. Also there are general articles on "Health psychology and the Internet: a beginner's guide to useful Web-sites" and on "Can a diagnosis be disadvantageous?". One of the interesting items in many issues are introductions in allied disciplines like medical sociology or health economics. Occasionally the major contributions of an issue are organised around one topic.

Health Psychology Update is, therefore, much more than a publication of local interest. It does indeed serve its function as a discussion forum for any issues in health psychology very well, and could do so for health psychologists outside the UK. Subscription details can be obtained from:

 The Special Group in Health Psychology / The British Psychological Society / St Andrews House / 48 Princess Road East / Leicester LE1 7DR / UK

 +44-116 254 9568, Fax +44-116 247 0787.

 Jan Vinck

A report on the 10th EHPS Conference in Dublin (Ireland)

Did the conference in Dublin make a difference?

From the 4th to the 6th of September 1996, the EHPS held its tenth anniversary conference in Dublin, Ireland under the leadership of the conference president Hannah McGee. Therefore, from 3rd September (and in some cases earlier) a host of international delegates from all over the world invaded the beautiful old city of Dublin.

Across all three days, a broad variety of health related theoretical issues and empirical findings were discussed at the Medical School of the Royal College of Surgeons, in keynote addresses, spoken papers, poster presentations etc. Outside the official conference hours discussion continued apace in surrounding pubs and bars, where both the congenial company and the Guinness were easy to find.

On the occasion of this anniversary the role of health psychology was reflected upon in the areas of health promotion and the prevention of disease, especially during the last decade. As the title of the conference "Making a difference health psychology and chronic disease" reflects, its special focus was the consideration of the effects of health psychology and research for illnesses such as cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, or HIV infection, etc. Accordingly, the six keynote speakers, Margaret Chesney, Ciaran O'Boyle, Patrick Rabbitt, Clare Bradley, Brian Oldenburg, and Ralf Schwarzer, thoroughly addressed areas of broader interest in their presentations. Some of them directly addressed severe health problems of increased socio-political importance, like Margaret Chesney's opening talk on AIDS and health psychology in the 21st century or Ralf Schwarzer's closing presentation on the role of personal and social resources in the context of cardiac surgery. Notable was the skill of the presenters in holding their audience's attention - not entirely by drawing on the field of health psychology. Ciaran O'Boyle, for example, besides demonstrating the way forward in the assessment of Quality of Life, also outlined aspects of the Royal College's history. In consequence, several delegates were later seen risking life and limb backing into the main road in order to confirm his description of the College facade.

With about 30 different sessions, each including between four and seven oral presentations, and more

then 300 poster presentations, the contributions and discussions throughout the conference provided an excellent overview of the scope of health related subjects and issues being actively researched in the field of health psychology today. A great amount of these contributions also addressed key health conditions and their effects on quality of life.

In addition, special target groups like smokers, pregnant women, employees at special workplaces, and health behaviour of children, adolescents, or the elderly were focused upon in the same way as was the case for special target behaviours, like eating and exercise behaviour. The theoretical frame for these and other investigations was discussed in sessions and presented in posters on health models. Methodological considerations within health psychology, such as measurement and evaluation problems, were also not overlooked. Besides, social and environmental context variables of health conditions and health related behaviours were taken into account, for example, socio-economic conditions, the influence of media, or ecological conditions. The social relevance of health and especially of illness was also reflected from the perspective of caregivers. The change in the analytic perspective was further deepened by focusing upon health professionals as the target group of empirical investigations, like the examination of distress and burnout syndromes in healthcare professionals. In consequence, of the richness of this feast, many delegates found themselves wishing they could be in two places (or more) at once, and even the prospect of the wonderful city with its historical buildings, its charming shops, and old pubs wasn't enough to entice delegates away from the presentations.

Discussions following the sessions were positive. The general consensus appears to be that, the great majority of the contributions were on a very sophisticated level concerning their theoretical and empirical approach as well as their actual presentation. As always the overwhelming atmosphere was friendly and welcoming; lots of old friends could be seen meeting over coffee, in many cases the first time people had met since the last conference, exchanging the warm greetings that many of us have come to associate with EHPS. Indeed, it is striking how many of the people who attend one such conference become devotees, a testament to the effectiveness of these gatherings. It has now reached the stage where many of

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Call for papers "Journal of Health Psychology": Special issue on qualitative research

In 1998 the Journal of Health Psychology intends to publish a special issue devoted to qualitative research in health psychology. The editors are especially interested in papers which illustrate the variety of theoretical perspectives (phenomenology, symbolic interactionism, narrative, etc.) and methodological approaches (interviews, focus groups, life stories, etc.) used by qualitative researchers.

Closing date for submission: **July 30, 1997**

Manuscripts (in four-fold) should be prepared according to the usual guidelines of the Journal of Health Psychology. Papers, which are unable to be included in the special issue, will be considered for a subsequent issue of the journal.

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Erratum

Unfortunately a few mistakes have occurred in the announcement of the board of the Health Psychology section of the Finnish Psychological Society in the last issue (No.12) of the EHPS Newsletter. The correct information is as follows:

The board members are Dr. Ritva Nupponen (President), Dr. Arja R. Aro, Dr. Juhani Julkunen, Dr. Kristiina Harkapaa, Jukka Marttila, Pilvikki Absetz, Anna-Mari Aalto (Secretary).

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Upcoming EHPS Conferences

The 11th Conference of the European Health Psychology Society

'Personality, Coping, and Health' - 3-5 September 1997, Bordeaux, France

General Information

- Deadline for submission of abstracts: 31 March 1997.
- Registration fees include admission, Conferences materials, lunches, coffee breaks, the shuttle buses, the Welcome Reception, the Reception at the Bordeaux City Hall and the guided tour of Bordeaux, the visit of a historic castle and for the EHPS Members the Gala Dinner in a Wine Making Château.

	Before 1 st June 1997	After 1 st June 1997
EHPS members	1,400 FF	1,650 FF
Non-Members	1,800 FF	2,200 FF
Students	600 FF	800 FF

- Hotel rooms will be assigned on a 'first come, first served' basis, provided the congress registration fees have been paid. A hotel deposit of 500FF is requested at the time of reservation.
- Congress venue: Université Victor Segalen Bordeaux 2 146, rue Léo Saignat Bordeaux - France
- Conference Presidents: Marilou Bruchon-Schweitzer; Bruno Quintard
- Organisation Committee: C. Aguerre, M. Bourgeois, F. Cousson, M. de Boucaud, R. Dantzer, J. Gilliard, G. Goodall, P. Henry, B. Hoerni, M. Jardiné, P. Keller, J.M. Mazaux, N. Rasde, J.C. Reinhardt, R. Salamon.

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The 12th Conference of the European Health Psychology Society

'Prevention and Intervention' - 31 August - 2 September 1998, Vienna, Austria

General Information

- Scientific Program: Keynote addresses, Workshops, Paper sessions, Symposia, Roundtables, Interactive poster sessions
- Main themes e.g., Applied health psychology, Preventive oncology, Prevention in school, on the workplace, Smoking prevention and cessation, Alcohol prevention, Health promotion

EHPS '98 Conference Committee

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