

Conferences and meetings

The 8th AFPSA Conference was held abroad for the first time, at Liège University (Belgium) in December 2014, thus concretizing the anchoring of AFPSA in the francophone area.

The conference focused on social evolutions, innovations and policies in health psychology. These topics allowed us to address current main issues for health psychology in our contemporary societies. An emphasis were be put on 1) new concepts and methods to cope with the global ageing of populations, increases in chronic diseases prevalence, and societal changes (in work, family structures, etc.); 2) ethical questions, regarding for instance the development of genetic screening and of bio psychosocial epidemiology; 3) the evolution of medical care systems and its consequences on the role of physical and mental health professionals in a changing society.

AFPSA co-organized, with the Regional Institute for Cancer of Lyon, a 2-days conference “Community Research” (Lyon, June 29-30).

The 2015 “Doctoral Days in Health Psychology” were held in Genève (June 15-17).

This year, about 25 students in health psychology from all over France presented their research and benefited from feedbacks and advices from health psychology experts. They benefited from two training courses: the social cognitive models, and an introduction to structural models.

A workshop entitled “therapeutic education at the intersection of medical and social sciences and humanities disciplines: the role of psychologist in therapeutic education” will be held in Lyon In December 2015 (10-11).

Legislation and professional recognition

Within the SFP (French Psychological Society), AFPSA contributed to the recent updating of the French psychologists’ ethical code.

Moreover, we are actively taking part in a critical debate with the French Ministry for Research concerning the classification of Psychology Master Degrees. At this time, the Classification defined by the Ministry is far from being satisfactory for future professionals and generally speaking for Psychology, insofar as disciplinary orientations are still quite ambiguous. It appears to be a real concern for health psychology, along with the current climate of decreasing university funding and of the growing policy of merging universities.

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