Annual Report - France

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Conferences and meetings

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

It will be centred on social evolutions, innovations and policies in health psychology. These topics will allow us to address current main issues for health psychology in our contemporary societies. An emphasis will 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 Montpellier, a 2-days conference “Oncology and Quality of Life” (Montpellier, April 3-4).

The 2014 “Doctoral Days in Health Psychology” were held in Metz (June 24-25). This year, 25 students in health psychology all over France presented their research and benefited from feedback and advice from health psychology experts.

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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