

**Call for Submissions**  
**for the 48<sup>th</sup> International SPR Meeting**  
**in Toronto, Canada, June 21-24, 2017**

The theme for the 48th Annual International SPR meeting in Toronto, Canada is "**Building Bridges.**" The Program Committee encourages proposals that reflect constructive dialogues and open interchange of ideas and research results that have long been of interest to the SPR community

- evidence-based psychotherapies in clinical practice
- psychotherapy integration
- therapist effects
- alliance & interpersonal process
- practice-training-research networks
- translational research
- quantitative & qualitative method

The aim of the conference is two-fold: To refine our understanding of the unique contribution of each methodological and theoretical approach and to introduce a constructive dialogue that will help shape the future of psychotherapy research. It is our understanding that no single methodological or theoretical approach will solve the complex puzzle of psychotherapy. We hope to bring together contributions from basic science and applied practice research across different disciplines, methodologies and approaches. We hope to encourage presentations, panels, discussions, and posters from a broad spectrum of clinical researchers representing diverse orientations, methodologies, and cultures to contribute to the refinement of these dialogues and to the strengthening of our field.

In addition to submissions relating to the specific conference theme, the program committee invites submissions in all areas of psychotherapy research, practice, and training. We welcome the full range of contributions to the field of psychotherapy, including reports of innovative research methods and empirical studies of varied treatment modalities (individual, couple, family, group, and milieu therapies), diverse patient populations (children, adolescents, adults, and seniors), a wide range of diagnostic and problem categories (e.g., various psychological/psychosomatic disorders as well as the effects of cultural, political or economic oppression and migration), and a broad spectrum of theoretical approaches (e.g., CBT, behavioral, existential-humanistic, interpersonal, psychodynamic, systemic, etc.). As in all previous calls for submissions to SPR conferences, we invite qualitative as well as quantitative studies, single case research, process and outcome studies, meta-analyses, methodological contributions, research on psychotherapy measures, literature reviews and so forth.

There are five categories or types of presentation for the 2017 Conference: Panels, Brief Papers, Structured Discussions, Posters, and Pre-Conference Workshops. To increase the value of Poster and Brief Paper sessions, the program committee will organize them into groups by topic. The following is an overview of submission types:

## **Panels**

Panels should include **three to four** presentations focused on a common theme or various facets of a large-scale research project. Panels with international representation and presenters at different career stages are encouraged whenever possible.

Panels will be 90 minutes with a minimum of 15 minutes for open discussion.

Each panel should have a moderator (normally the organizer of the panel or another relevant person).

Panels with **two or three** papers are expected to have a discussant prepared to offer comment on the papers or the topic being presented. We encourage the inclusion of panel discussants that can provide a distinctive research and/or clinical perspective on the panel presentations.

A panel is ideal for presenting work that is of broad interest to the SPR membership, that involves investigators across a number of locations working on related questions, and that cannot be adequately covered within a single 10-minute oral scientific paper presentation. We anticipate accepting a limited number of panel proposals for the meeting given program constraints and slots of time available for general sessions. If it proves difficult to schedule all submissions of panels, the program committee may request that the work be presented as series of brief papers or posters.

## **Brief Papers**

Brief papers are 8-10 minute reports about ongoing or completed studies.

Brief paper sessions will be 90 minutes and will consist of **six** short presentations, with 5 minutes for discussion allotted to each.

The Program Committee will designate moderators for the Brief paper sessions. If it proves difficult to schedule all submissions of brief papers, the program committee may request that the work be presented as a poster.

## **Structured Discussions**

These are meant to provide an opportunity for group discussion among colleagues on a specific topic in psychotherapy research (e.g., specific methods, theories, new developments in research and practice, disorders, etc.).

A number of persons should be named who agree to lead the discussion.

Sessions should be structured by having each designated discussant give a position statement (of maximally 5 minutes) on the theme to elicit active participation from audience members.

## **Posters**

Posters are appropriate for the full range of research reports, including completed projects, single case studies, pilot studies, and work-in-progress. They provide a good opportunity for detailed discussion with interested colleagues. We will try to group the posters by topic to stimulate discussion and exchange of ideas. Poster dimensions should approximate 32" x 40" (80cm x 100cm) portrait. Please keep in mind that many attendees will appreciate receiving a handout summarizing your research findings.

## **Pre-Conference Workshops**

Workshops will be held on the afternoon prior to the evening session that opens the conference (i.e., Wednesday afternoon). Two types of pre-conference workshops are encouraged. The first is intended to provide training in specific areas of psychotherapy research, methods, or data analysis. The second type of workshop entails the clinical presentation of an assessment or treatment method that is followed by discussion on how best to empirically study or validate the clinical procedures described. Submissions should indicate the amount of time desired for the workshop (either 2 or 3 hours).

## **Submission Policies & Guidelines**

The official conference language will be English; all submissions should be made in English.

First authorship by an individual is limited to **one** presentation on a Panel or Brief Paper session and **two** presentations in the Poster format. However, please note that one person can be listed as a coauthor on multiple presentations as long as different people present them.

In order to ensure a broad range of participation on panels and in discussion sessions, each attendee may serve as a discussant on a maximum of **two** panels and/or participate in a maximum of **two** open discussions.

*There is a total limitation of 5 appearances, including one panel or brief paper presentation and four others (such as discussant or moderator, except on a panel in which you present) and excluding up to two poster presentations.*

Program submissions will be accepted via the web (online), beginning November 1, 2016. The deadline for submissions is December 1, 2016. Notification of acceptance will be emailed mid-February 2017.

Information and detailed instructions for program submission can be found at on the SPR website: [www.psychotherapyresearch.org](http://www.psychotherapyresearch.org).

**Please read these instructions carefully before submitting your work!**

Although preference in general will be given to presentation of completed studies, we also aim to foster discussion of research projects at various stages of development (especially in Structured Discussion Groups, Posters, and Brief Paper sessions). In Panels, preference will be

given to those that include: (a) presentations on a topic common to different treatment approaches or research methods, (b) representatives from different research teams, (c) members from different countries, and (d) presenters at different career stages.

All abstracts are limited to 250 words. For Panels, Structured Discussions, and Pre-Conference Workshops, the moderator/organizer should provide an overview of the session as a whole.

Brief Papers, Papers in a Panel, and Posters should be structured using the following headings: Aim, Methods, Results, Discussion.

Here is an [example](#) of a Panel submission. Abstracts will be published on the SPR 2017 Toronto website and hardcopies will be available for purchase at the time of registration and at the conference.

A central purpose of SPR is to foster discussion between members and it is therefore essential that presenters leave ample time for discussion of their work. A minimum of 15 minutes in each 90-minute panel session should be reserved for open discussion with members of the audience. We encourage the inclusion of panel discussants that can provide a distinctive research and/or clinical perspective on the panel presentations. We strongly recommend submission of coherently organized Panels, as stand-alone presentations will be designated Brief Papers and limited to 8-10 minutes. Depending on the number of submissions and possible time constraints, it may be necessary for the Program Committee to request changing the venue for presentations (e.g., oral presentation to poster).

Finally, if you have an idea for a panel or other collaboration, to find colleagues with similar interests please consider using the SPR mailing list [list@psychotherapyresearch.org](mailto:list@psychotherapyresearch.org), or ResearchGate:



It is our experience that well-integrated panels with authors from different research groups often have the largest attendance.

If you have any questions, requests, ideas or suggestions for the conference and its scientific program, please send an email to Paulo Machado at [spr2017program@psi.uminho.pt](mailto:spr2017program@psi.uminho.pt).

### **Dates to Remember**

- Online submissions will be open from November 1 to December 1, 2016.
- Notifications of acceptance will be emailed mid-February 2017.
- Online revision period: Presenters will be able to modify their abstracts between March 1 and April 1, 2017.

### **We look forward to receiving your proposals & seeing you in Toronto, June 2017!**

**Program Planning Committee:** Paulo Machado (Program Chair), Jeanne Watson (Local Host), Chris Muran, Louis Castonguay, Michelle Newman, Kim de Jong, Miguel Gonçalves, Wolfgang Lutz, Stig Poulsen, Rob De Rubeis, Marianne Krause, Giorgio Tasca, Katie Aafjes van Doorn, Jeff Hayes, Eugénia Fernandes