

## LATIN AMERICAN CHAPTER REPORT

Fernanda Serralta, President

In the last meeting of LA (Latin American) Chapter, held in the magnificent city of Jerusalem during the International Conference of June 2016, I received from Mariane Krause's hands a small colorful gift with many words of encouragement and wish of success in my new task as LA Chapter President. I keep this gift with affection and care, since it symbolizes the bond between the past and the present of our group. I am very grateful to Mariane for her commitment and hard work in developing our Chapter. Her nomination as General Vice President Candidate reflects the recognition of her competence, leadership, and dedication to SPR. As Past President of the Chapter, I am sure that she is willing to share with us her experience about SPR whenever needed. In addition, I thank all my colleagues for their support. I feel truly honored for the opportunity to serve the LA Chapter and to continue the work of my predecessors. I will put my efforts in inviting more clinicians and researchers to join our group, having more Latin American countries represented in SPR-LA, improving communication between members, promoting collaboration between research groups, supporting students to attend to SPR international conferences, and planning other actions that might strengthen our Chapter.

The new Latin American committee is formed by Silvia Benetti (general coordination), Cibele Carvalho, Livia Sanchez and Juan Martin Gomez Penedo. We also have country coordinators: Emília Afrange (Brasil), Cláudio Martínez (Chile), Denisse Dogmanas (Uruguay), Jorge Vanegas (Colombia), Angelina González (Guatemala), José Almilcar Mogrovejo (Perú), Diego Chacón (Costa Rica), y Ruben Díaz (Panamá). New colleagues, chosen by their peers, will replace some of them.

The International Conference in Jerusalem offered most diverse learning and networking experience for all. The Chapter had three winners of the Student Travel Award: Nicolás Suárez (Chile), H. Daniel Espinosa (Colombia) and Livia Sanchez (Brasil). Each of them received US\$700.

The last few months were very exciting in terms of scientific activities within local groups. The SPR-Chile and the Sonepsyn (Society of Neurology, Psychiatry and Neurosurgery) promoted the 12th Chilean Congress of Psychotherapy Research, held in Reñaca (Chile) on August 26-28. The international speakers were Steven Knoblauch, Lynn Angus, Suzanne Schlüter-Müller, Klaus Schmeck and myself. It was a great conference in a beautiful location. I thank the organizing committee for the invitation.

Other highlights are three local meetings with contributions of SPR members from Argentina and Brazil: The "Discussion between psychoanalysis and neuroscience" (June 19) and "Contributions of empirical research to psychoanalytic clinical practice" (July 27), both held in Buenos Aires; and the XXVIII Jornada Sul Riograndense de Psiquiatria Dinâmica, "Transformations of psychotherapy" (August 25-27), held in Gramado, Brasil.

As I write this report, we are a few days from our next LA Chapter Meeting that will take place in Porto Alegre, Brazil, on October 20-22. As local host, I can say that we achieved our goal to have significant participation of different LA countries (Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Colombia and Mexico). The conference theme, “Therapeutic *Interactions*”, intends to integrate research and practice. We planned the program to promote dialogue between clinicians and researchers. Mariane Krause (Chile), Nick Midgley (England), and Denise Defey (Uruguay) are our SPR guest speakers. Many other invited colleagues will contribute with 2 hemi-conferences and 9 roundtable discussions. Submitted presentations include 8 panels, 59 brief papers e 52 posters. The next LA Chapter Newsletter will present a full report of the Meeting as well as further information about what is currently happening and what is next in our Chapter.