Dear colleagues,

I hope you all had a good start into the New Year. Since there are several initiatives and scheduled events ahead of us this year, our winter newsletter wants to update you on some of these issues.

Membership

The chapter has 516 members (15 more than 2014), which includes 185 (68 less than 2014) student members and 26 retired members. Twenty-four (4 more than 2014) Members are from East Europe.

Review of the Klagenfurt Conference September 2015

The 8th European Conference in Klagenfurt was a great success. We had 250 participants and many presentations were of exceptional quality. It was a great pleasure to watch especially the young researchers making their first steps in our field and doing this in such a creative and promising way. The academic venue worked out very nicely for the size of the conference, and organization went very smooth. Unfortunately, the weather was not as welcoming as we had hoped, but this actually helped to create an almost familiar atmosphere where all participants met easily and could exchange their experiences. Many colleagues, as we had hoped, came from Eastern European countries and so several new connections could be built. I would like to thank all presenters and especially the wonderful local organizing team under the supervision of Svenja Taubner, Sylke Andreas, Sven Rabung and Michael Wieser.

SPR Annual Meeting in Jerusalem

In January, the EC met in Jerusalem to prepare for the Annual meeting in June. There are many submissions and we expect more than 400 participants in a wonderful venue full of atmosphere. The EC, among other things, also discussed security questions that have been raised by some of the participants and members (“How safe is it to travel to Israel at the moment?”). The next SPR newsletter will summarize the view of the EC and the local committee on these questions. I myself was fascinated by this incredible city and I think that any responsible and thoughtful person can move safely in most parts of the city, especially the Old Town (except, maybe for pickpockets). Since Jerusalem always was a city of tourists, in a sense for thousands of years, you do not feel tension on
the streets or in the beautiful bars and restaurants. The local hosts and the EC members hope that there will be no critical development of the political situation during the next months and look forward to meet you all for a memorable event.

Deadline for 15 Student Travel Awards (500, - €) for Jerusalem was January 1. We received 23 applications and decisions have been sent out already (Travel Award Committee: Ulrike Willutzki, Wolfgang Tschacher, and Henning Schauenburg).

5th Society for Psychotherapy European Chapter Methods Workshop for Early Career Researchers in Krakow, Poland 5th-10th September 2016

From Krakow we received the following news which we are glad to forward to all of you:

“With great pleasure we announce the 5th SPR Methods Workshop that will be held in the magnificent historic city of Krakow in Poland. We welcome you in one of the oldest universities in Europe – the Jagiellonian University – rich in creative and admirable atmosphere. Inspired by the successes of previous workshops we invite young researchers eager to expand their knowledge and master new practical skills. Prominent senior psychotherapy researchers associated in SPR from all around the world will share their wisdom and experience in a friendly and productive seminar environment. Apart from many specific aspects of quantitative and qualitative research methods, thorough consideration will be given to challenges of conducting research in naturalistic clinical setting. Moreover, the specificity of selected target groups studies will be discussed on the example of research carried out at the Department of Psychotherapy Jagiellonian University Medical College on psychological consequences of trauma in victims of political persecution. Both current president and president elect of SPR EU Chapter - Henning Schauenburg and Stig Poulsen - will be amidst brilliant lecturers and teachers. Early career researchers from all European countries, including colleagues from Central and Eastern Europe, conducting or planning to conduct studies in psychotherapy, are warmly invited to participate in the event.

Detailed information and a complete list of lecturers/teachers will be announced in the near future.

Please address all the questions to the Chair of the Local Organisational Committee and SPR representative/coordinator for Poland – Michal Mielimaka, michal.mielimaka@uj.edu.pl.

Joint EU-UK Conference Oxford 2017

First talks took place between Susan Hajkowski, president of the UK chapter, and me concerning the next joint meeting. To save the date: the conference will take place on September 28-30, 2017. The venue will be the picturesque old Keble College in Oxford (www.keble.ox.ac.uk/conferences). Stig and I are looking forward continuing the fruitful tradition of these joint conferences.

New Board of country coordinators

During the Klagenfurt Conference we continued the efforts toward the establishment of a board of national representatives/coordinators within the E.U. chapter. Aim of this structure is to improve
cooperation and networking between members of different countries and to promote local activities especially in the “new” countries. We now have 34 Coordinators from 22 countries. Only France and Belgium are still missing and the colleagues in these countries are cordially invited to join the group. Please mail to Henning.Schauenburg@med.uni-heidelberg.de

We will soon prepare an E-Mail list and start conversation within the board by putting together the next tasks of the group and calling for short reports on the situation of psychotherapy research in the particular countries.

Finally:

Since my term as president ends in Jerusalem and I will hand over business to Stig Poulsen, we both are thankful for any ideas and propositions concerning the future activities and structure of the SPR European Chapter. I wish all of you a productive early spring time and hope to see many of you in Jerusalem.

Best wishes and warm regards

Henning Schauenburg