

Society for Psychotherapy Research (SPR)

UK Chapter Constitution

History of Constitutional Changes:

The Constitution of SPR UK was written and adopted by the AGM held at Ravenscar on March 30, 1999. It was amended and changes were adopted at the AGM held in 2003. The Constitution was revised in August 2019. The new SPR UK Constitution was presented to the membership by email and accepted on the 20 September 2019 at a Special General Meeting held at the SPR EU & UK joint Chapters conference in Krakow.

1 Name: Society for Psychotherapy Research (SPR) UK Chapter

- 1.1 The Society for Psychotherapy Research UK (SPR UK) is a Chapter of the Society for Psychotherapy Research (SPR).
- 1.2 The SPR UK is a non-profit, non-denominational, multi-perspective, multidisciplinary scientific organisation.

2 Aims

- 2.1 To bring together researchers, clinicians, academics and students from a variety of theoretical orientations (e.g. cognitive-behavioural, humanistic, integrative, psychodynamic and systemic) and professional backgrounds (e.g. education, occupational health, psychiatry, psychology, social work and training) engaged with research.
- 2.2 To promote best practice in mental health and the delivery of psychotherapy and psychological therapy through the use and understanding of research evidence.

- 2.3 To enhance the scientific and social value of psychotherapy research by keeping abreast of cutting-edge advancements in psychotherapy and psychotherapy research.
- 2.4 To endorse, promote, and develop the utilisation of the full range of research methodologies and scientific disciplines.
- 2.5 To promote research of psychotherapy treatments and disseminate research findings among members and the larger community of practitioners, purchasers and policy makers.
- 2.6 To provide an opportunity to disseminate and discuss research developments and ideas and for members to engage with each other in a friendly, interactive, and welcoming atmosphere.

3 Activities

In order to achieve its aims SPR UK Chapter may:

- 3.1 Organise an annual or bi-annual scientific conference and such other meetings as SPR UK decides. This may include collaboration with another Chapter from within SPR or another organisation whose aims are compatible with SPR UK Chapter.
- 3.2 Develop initiatives to support psychotherapy research in the UK and to build bridges between practising clinicians, those engaged in teaching and training, and researchers.
- 3.3 Develop cross organisation collaborations with psychotherapy and counselling bodies and universities in the UK.
- 3.4 Develop initiatives for collaborative practice research networks (PRN) through providing space, links and opportunities to meet and network in the UK.
- 3.5 Encourage and support members to take part in SPR wide special interest sections.
- 3.6 Offer opportunities to members to get involved in SPR UK Chapter activities.
- 3.7 Encourage and support members to publish their research and read others' research in the International SPR journal 'Psychotherapy Research'.

- 3.8 Encourage and support members in the dissemination of their research developments and ideas through webinars, online and on social media.
- 3.9 Support the attendance of student members at local and international scientific conferences by offering travel awards.
- 3.10 Develop and review the strategy adopted by SPR UK Chapter for maintaining and increasing ordinary and student membership.
- 3.11 Provide a sense of community and support.
- 3.12 Increase the profile of SPR UK Chapter within the UK.

4 Membership

- 4.1 Membership of SPR UK shall be open to any person who is interested in helping the Society to achieve its aims, and who is willing to abide by the rules of the Society.
- 4.2 Membership shall be available to anyone irrespective of gender, race, nationality, disability, sexual preference, religion, or belief. The individual does not have to be a resident of the UK.
- 4.3 Membership of SPR International is required to join the SPR UK Chapter Membership. Joining the SPR International is by online application and the payment of an annual fee which runs for one calendar year from the time the fee is paid.
- 4.4 All SPR UK members are automatically members of SPR International and as such asked to abide by the international constitution as published on the website.
- 4.5 All members of SPR UK are entitled to vote in ballots.
- 4.6 Members may apply for the student/trainee, general and retired membership status, following the definition of SPR International.

5 Governance

- 5.1 SPR UK Chapter holds an Annual General Meeting (AGM), usually in conjunction with the annual international scientific meeting or at the local SPR UK scientific meeting.
- 5.2 The AGM is the sovereign body of SPR UK Chapter.
- 5.3 All SPR UK members are entitled to attend the AGM and vote, either in person or by-proxy.
- 5.4 The AGM shall be quorate if 15% of the membership is present.
- 5.5 A Special General Meeting (SGM) may be called to discuss an urgent matter. The Honorary Secretary shall give all members 21 days' notice of any SGM together with notice of the business to be discussed. All members shall be entitled to attend and vote, either in person or by-proxy. An SGM can be called to take place by video or teleconference.
- 5.6 An SGM may also be called at the written request of 15% of the membership.
- 5.7 Non-constitutional votes shall be by simple majority.
- 5.8 The AGM or SGM will be chaired by the SPR UK Chapter President or Deputy who will have the casting vote in the event of a tied vote.

6 Management

- 6.1 The business of SPR UK will be carried forward by a Management Committee, herewith referred to as the **Local Council** (LC), consisting of officers, ordinary and student members, which shall report to the AGM.
- 6.2 The Members of the LC shall be:
 - SPR UK President
 - SPR UK Past President
 - SPR UK President-Elect
 - SPR UK Honorary Secretary
 - SPR UK Honorary Treasurer
 - SPR UK Student Member
 - 4-5 SPR UK Ordinary Members
 - Additional SPR UK membership subject to agreement in the LC

- 6.3 The officers consisting of the President, the Honorary Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer shall be elected by the SPR UK membership and voted on by the members at the AGM or SGM. Nominations for election will be proposed and seconded by member of SPR UK Chapter and must signify in writing their willingness to serve if elected.
- 6.4 All other LC officers shall be elected by the LC officers only. Interested members shall be self- or other- nominated and seconded by a member of SPR UK.
- 6.5 The LC meetings are chaired by the SPR UK Chapter President or Deputy who will have the casting vote in the event of a tied vote.
- 6.6 The proceedings of the LC shall not be invalidated by any failure to elect or any defect in the election, appointment or qualification of any member.

7 Nominations, Appointment and Lengths of Service of LC members

7.1 The SPR UK Chapter President

- 7.1.1 The President will be elected by electronic ballot of all SPR UK members by simple majority.
- 7.1.2 In elections for the President, there shall be at least be two candidates.
- 7.1.3 In the case that there are not two candidates forthcoming for election, special representation will be made to the international SPR for a decision.
- 7.1.4 An SPR UK Nominations Committee shall be formed for the purposes of the election. The committee shall ordinarily include the President, the Past-President and one other Ordinary Member. The committee will oversee the process of election. This includes the management of the Call for Nominations, oversight and management of the nominations process.
- 7.1.5 Elections will be open for a minimum of a four week period.
- 7.1.6 Nominees for President must be a current member of SPR UK in good standing and candidates should have achieved visibility in the field of psychotherapy research and show a clear promise to lead SPR UK and serve its interests.

- 7.1.7 Nominees will be proposed and seconded by current members of SPR UK and must signify in writing their willingness to serve if elected.
- 7.1.8 The President-Elect shall assume his or her post with immediate effect after the election. She or he shall take over from the outgoing President after the international scientific meeting in the year after he or she was elected.
- 7.1.9 The President will serve one year as President-Elect, three years as President and two years as Past-President.
- 7.1.10 In the event of incapacity or resignation of the President in their first two years of office, the Past President shall assume the office of President. S/he may serve the unexpired portion or may initiate a new election process.
- 7.1.11 In the event of incapacity or resignation of the President in their third year of office, the President-Elect shall assume the office of President and serve the unexpired portion of the President's term in addition to their own term of office.
- 7.1.12 In the event of the incapacity or resignation of the President-Elect, nominations for the office shall be sought and an e-ballot of the membership held as soon as feasible without the requirement for a contested election. The terms of office of the SPR UK President may be extended beyond three years until a new SPR UK President-Elect has been determined, who, in that event, shall assume office immediately upon election.
- 7.1.13 The President will be the SPR UK Chapter Regional Vice-President of the International SPR and will represent SPR UK on the SPR Executive Committee (EC), usually held in January and before and after the international scientific conference.
- 7.1.14 Expenses of the President to attend SPR EC meetings and international and regional scientific meetings that cannot be recovered from other sources, will be paid from the SPR UK budget.
- 7.1.15 In case the President cannot attend any of the meetings, a deputy will be appointed.
- 7.1.16 The President becomes Past-President after the international scientific meeting when the president-Elect takes over.

7.2 The SPR UK Honorary Secretary

- 7.2.1 The Honorary Secretary will minute the AGM and all LC meetings and will assist in the administration of the SPR UK Chapter.
- 7.2.2 The Honorary Secretary will be elected at the AGM or SGM by a majority vote. If there is a tied vote, then the President shall have a second vote.
- 7.2.3 The Honorary Secretary will be in office for a two year term. The role can be extended on a yearly basis, subject voting by a simple majority at the AGM indefinitely.
- 7.2.4 A 3 month notice period in writing to the LC is required prior to a resignation from the role.

7.3 The SPR UK Honorary Treasurer

- 7.3.1 The Honorary Treasurer will manage the accounts of the SPR UK Chapter and present them to the AGM. The Treasurer will prepare the accounts for other bodies as appropriate.
- 7.3.2 The Honorary Treasurer will be elected at the AGM or SGM by a majority vote. If there is a tied vote, then the President shall have a second vote.
- 7.3.3 The Treasurer will be in office for a two year term. The role can be extended on a yearly basis, subject to be voting by a two-third majority at the AGM indefinitely.
- 7.3.4 A 3 month notice period in writing to the LC is required prior to a resignation from the role.
- 7.3.5 All other officers of the LC shall be by vote by LC members and appointment should be decided by a two-third majority vote. If there is a tied vote, then the President shall have a second vote.
- 7.3.6 All Nominations for membership to the LC shall be proposed and seconded by members of SPR UK and must signify in writing their willingness to serve if elected.
- 7.3.7 All members to the SPR UK LC will be for a two year term. In order to maintain continuity, the role may be extended on a yearly basis subject to a two-third majority vote in the LC.
- 7.3.8 The LC may co-opt additional members.

7.3.9 In exceptional circumstances, the AGM may vary the lengths of positions on the LC.

7.3.10 In the event of two candidate nominations for the role of Student or other General Member, a vote shall be sought with a two-third majority in the LC. The President assumes the casting vote in case of a tied vote.

8 Finance

8.1 All monies raised by or on behalf of SPR UK shall be applied to further the aims and purposes of SPR UK as outlined above and not otherwise, provided that nothing herein contained shall prevent the payment in good faith of reasonable and proper remuneration to any SPR UK member or the repayment of reasonable out-of-pocket expenses.

8.2 The Honorary Treasurer shall keep proper accounts of the finances of the SPR UK Chapter.

8.3 Any bank accounts opened for the SPR UK shall be in the name of the SPR UK Chapter with such a bank as the LC shall from time to time decide and vote on.

8.4 The LC shall authorise up to two members of the LC in writing, including the Treasurer, the President or the Secretary, to sign cheques on behalf of SPR UK.

9 Clarification of the Constitution

9.1 When a minor clarification of wording is required, the LC is authorised to make the necessary changes, which then will be put to the next AGM or SGM for ratification.

10 Alterations to the Constitution

10.1 Proposed alterations to the Constitution shall be circulated to all SPR UK members at least three weeks before the AGM or SGM at which they are to be voted on. Proxy votes are allowed and must be lodged with the Honorary Secretary prior to the meeting.

10.2 Alterations of the Constitution shall require a two-third majority of those present and

voting at an AGM or SGM and those who have voted by proxy.

10.3 At the discretion of the AGM or on the initiative of the LC, constitutional matters and other matters may be referred to the membership for e-ballot where constitutional alterations will require a two-third majority of those voting.

11 Dissolution

11.1 The SPR UK Chapter may disband if there is a two-third majority of those voting for such, as course in an electronic ballot of members.

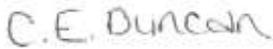
11.2 In the event of a dissolution of the SPR UK Chapter, any assets remaining after all debts have been cleared will be passed on to the International SPR.

The constitution was adopted at an SGM of the SPR UK on 20.09.2019

Signed by



President: Felicitas Rost



Secretary: Charlie Duncan

Treasurer: Kevin Wright



Other Committee members: Past President, Susan Hajkowski



