

## Paulo PP Machado: Program Committee Report

On behalf of the Conference Program Planning Committee I would like to thank all of you who submitted papers, posters, discussion groups, and panels for the International SPR conference to be held in Toronto, June 21-24 2017. Reviewing the submissions made me anticipate and exciting and productive meeting. We received more than 600 proposals and over 1200 people have submitted proposals, which makes us believe that we're facing a well-attended conference.

The theme of our meeting in Toronto, Canada is "Building Bridges". The Program Committee encouraged 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.

**Program Structure:** Our host site in Toronto will be Victoria University, one of the twelve colleges of the University of Toronto, located in the heart of downtown Toronto. The conference will be held in Emmanuel College and the Northrop Frye Building adjacent to Victoria College. The program begins on Wednesday, June 21, with 8 pre-conference workshops scheduled in morning (9AM-12PM) and afternoon (2PM-5PM) blocks, followed at 6PM by the official opening ceremony. The evening program will include the Presidential Address, awards ceremony, and a reception.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings will open at 8:30AM. We decided to experiment with starting a little earlier and include one more time slot per day. By doing this we were able to reduce the number of parallel sessions from 12 to 10, hoping to tackle a traditional problem of SPR meeting: too many sessions that interest each of us at the same time. In addition, we had space constraints that made this decision seem reasonable.

Lunches will be a little different this year also. Meals will be served at the Burwash Dining Hall, a beautiful building more than 100 years old. However, the dining hall is not large enough to accommodate all conference attendees. We had to organize lunches in two seating-slots (one from 12:00-1:00PM, and another from 1:00-2:00PM). Saturday lunch will be a brown-bag one, and attendees will have a 1½ hour break before structured discussion sessions start at 1:30PM.

Chapter meetings will be happening during lunch break on Thursday. EU and LA Chapters will meet from 12:00-1:00PM and will have lunch on seating B; and, NA and UK chapters will have lunch from 12:00-1:00PM (seating A) and meet from 1:00-2:00PM. The General Membership meeting will be 3:30-4:30PM Friday.

In organising the program schedule, we sought to distribute presentations relating to each of the conference themes to maximize opportunities for participants to connect with researchers working in their areas of interests as well as to identify new potential for connection and collaboration. On Thursday, we'll have four 90 minute

slots for panels covering the topics announced on the call for papers, and one 60-minute time slot for brief paper sessions. The day will end with the usual poster session. Posters will be displayed in large area that will promote interaction and discussion required by the quality of the submissions. Friday, we'll have 3 time slots for panels, one plenary session on "Therapist effects", and one poster session. Saturday, will be again dedicated to the conference theme, with panels, brief paper sessions, and will include most of the structured discussion groups. The day will end with the conference dinner party at the Gardiner Museum. The perfect setting to reflect on the previous days' experiences while relaxing with old and new colleagues alike, and make plans for next year's conference in Amsterdam.

**Registration:** Access to the conference registration portal is available at [www.psychotherapyresearch.org](http://www.psychotherapyresearch.org) or the conference website at [www.sprconference.com](http://www.sprconference.com). Registration opened on March 6th. Registrants will be eligible for early bird rates until Apr 15th.

**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 Rubies, Marianne Krause, Giorgio Tasca, Katie Aafjes van Doorn, Jeff Hayes, and Eugénia Ribeiro.