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## 37th SPR International Meeting Edinburgh, Scotland June 21-24, 2006

### It's Time to Register!

By  
Jo-anne Carlyle  
Chair, Local Organizing Committee

As SPR members will now know, this year's International Meeting takes place in the historic city of Edinburgh, Scotland. The UK Chapter and the Local Organising Committee are really looking forward to welcoming many old and new SPR members to what is set to be an exciting scientific and social programme in a great campus venue. Look forward to a taste of Scottish culture with Malt Whisky tasting and Ceilidh dancing (no previous experience required!). A regular newsletter is sent to all delegates prior to the conference giving you useful information about the city, the programme and your local hosts.

*Now is the time to book your place.* The SPR Executive Committee strongly recommend that delegates take advantage of the hotel standard and great value accommodation on campus to be able to fully participate in the scientific and social life of the conference. This should be booked at the same time as registration in order to take advantage of the preferential rates SPR has negotiated for all rooms (up to 14% cheaper than booking direct). Delegates should be aware that we have had an amazing and unprecedented number of submissions this year and

we advise all delegates, particularly presenters, to book early. *We can only guarantee presenters a place at the conference if they book by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2006.* As at recent meetings, Continuing Education credits are available.

Finally, we are very pleased to have been able to extend the preferential rates offered to SPR to the days before and after the conference so that delegates can extend their stay and see a bit more of Edinburgh and the surrounding area. All the information you need to arrange this is on the website.

Registration and Accommodation can be booked at the same time on the dedicated web site:

<http://www.psychotherapyresearch.org/edinburgh/welcome.htm>

The preliminary scientific programme can be found on the web site at:

<http://www.psychotherapyresearch.org/edinburgh/program.html>

Both accessible through the main SPR web site.

We look forward to seeing you in Edinburgh. Feel free to e-mail me direct at the following URL: <http://www.psyctc.org/cgi-bin/mailto-jo.pl?Jo-anne>

See you in Edinburgh!

## President's Message

By

Michael J. Lambert, Ph.D.

The executive Committee met in Edinburgh, Scotland in January to visit the site (University of Edinburgh) of our upcoming International Meetings and make decisions regarding the business of the Society. Organizing the meetings this year (June 21-24) have been made challenging by the record number of submissions and potential participants. When the site was chosen we had no idea there would be so much interest and that the facilities to accommodate so many people would place certain limits on the program and registration. We have solved most of the challenges that the situation has placed upon us, but persons who are on the program at this point in time need to be reminded that the venue must place a cap on registered participants in order to stay within fire codes. This means that if you are planning to present you must register early for the conference or risk being dropped from the program. It is exciting to see so many participants and at the same time difficult to accommodate many people beyond those who are on the program. The solution is to get the registration done in a timely manner. It also needs to be stated that proof of registration will be needed to enter all meeting sessions at this year's meetings.

Jo-anne Carlyle (Chair) and Mick Powers, who are among our Local Hosts, were at the January EC meeting and made our short stay in Edinburgh very pleasant. They have already done a great deal of preparatory work for the Edinburgh meetings in coordination with Maggie Pettifer, their professional convention consultant. Unless one has taken on the

job of being a local host it is easy to underestimate the amount of time and energy that is expended on behalf of the Society. Since such work is entirely without compensation it is indeed a generous gift to the Society. Jacques Barber has been working hard with Division 29 of the American Psychological Association: Psychotherapy, to provide continuing education credits for some of the sessions. Erhard Mergenthaler and the program committee have been working for months to organize the best possible scientific program.

Hopefully members will come to the Wednesday night gathering. While some years this opening social is very brief, this year we will give awards, have the presidential address, have some light refreshments and be treated to music and dance. These activities will take place away from the University at a delightful old building of some historical significance. By way of inviting you to hear the presidential address, I want to let you know I will be showing up and that I plan to summarize important findings from a 10 year research program on tracking patient treatment response. I will include findings related to the dose-response relationship, early dramatic response to treatment, patterns of response related to deterioration, predicting treatment response, and methods for enhancing outcomes for cases whose positive response is in doubt. This is a fitting opening talk for a conference with the theme of this year's meeting: **From Research to Practice.**

## Journal Report: *Psychotherapy Research*

By

Clara E. Hill, North American Editor  
Uwe Hentschel, European Editor

It's been an exciting couple of years for Psychotherapy Research. We published our first volume (15) with Taylor & Francis--it's in a new format with bigger pages and we are publishing 5 issues per year rather than 4. We are very pleased with T&F, and hope that we have a long, productive relationship.

In May 2005, we went online with submissions. Going online has speeded up the whole process and will hopefully result in more efficiency and reduced costs. You can access the portal through the SPR website or directly through <http://www.psychotherapyresearch.org/journal/journal.html>.

Furthermore, all the past issues of the journal are now available online through the SPR website if you are a member of SPR. People who are at universities subscribing to *Psychotherapy Research* will have access through their universities. If your library doesn't subscribe, please urge them to do so.

In addition, we highlight a couple of special papers at a time and make them available to the general public to download for free, hoping to increase the visibility of the journal. Right

now, John Clarkin's Presidential Address about personality disorders and Hatcher & Gillaspay's revision of the Working Alliance Inventory are highlighted—please check them out! And even more importantly, please tell your students and colleagues who are not members of SPR about this possibility.

The number of submissions is up at the journal, and the quality of manuscripts also seems to be much higher. We do have a backlog of manuscripts, though, that are waiting to be published, but we are working hard to fix that (T& F has agreed to add more pages to the journal next year).

In the near future, you can look forward to special sections on psychotherapy training, therapy with patients who have psychoses, therapist effects, assimilation, empirical assessments of the treatment of a case from different measurement perspectives, prediction of therapy outcome, and interdisciplinary dialogues. If you have ideas for other special sections, please let us know.

We would also like to take this opportunity to announce that Paulo Machado will be the new European Editor of Psychotherapy Research effective January 2007.

We would also like to take this opportunity to urge all of you to read the journal, submit to the journal as your primary publication outlet, and cite the journal in your manuscripts. It's our journal—let's make it the best journal in the field! Please contact us if you have concerns or questions.

## Welcome to Edinburgh!!

By

**Erhard Mergenthaler, Jacques Barber, Jo-anne Carlyle, Denise Defey, Georgia Lepper  
Program Council**

SPR has the pleasure of welcoming you to Edinburgh at Pollock Halls of the University of Edinburgh for the 37th annual Meeting of our society.

This year we will have an exceptional meeting, with more than 600 presentations by researchers from 29 countries. This will be the largest active participation at an international conference since the foundation of the SPR. In addition to the Presidential address offered by Michael J. Lambert, PhD, the program has 79 Panels, 28 Paper Sessions, 9 Pre-Conference Workshops, 3 Poster Sessions with 148 presentations, 12 Open Discussions, 3 Conference Workshops and a special event on the work of Klaus Grawe. These papers, panels and posters cover a variety of topics of concern to our members - many of them giving special attention to the overall theme of this meeting: *From Research to Practice*. Every effort has been made to organize presentations with similar contents at non-competing time slots.

Due to the many submissions this year, one third more than last year, and the limits of the conference venue, we were not able to offer plenary sessions this year. We also had to take a number of unusual decisions compared to previous meetings. First of all, to fit in all the presentations, the number of parallel events will vary from 7 to 10, based on our experience from past meetings, with peak attendance on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning and less frequent attendance closer to the end of the meeting. The chapter business meetings will be spread across two days with the European and Latin American chapter on Thursday and the North American and United Kingdom chapters on Friday. We will not have coffee breaks, but rather just 15 minute breaks for transition between events. Coffee, tea and other beverages will be offered all day in one designated area. We hope in this way to keep traffic in the hallways as free as possible. In the

program overview we will give the number of seats for each of the meeting rooms. As you will find, this varies a lot. For safety reasons, no more delegates than the number indicated will be allowed in the presenting rooms. We therefore ask you, this year, not to do panel or session "jumping" as you may not be able to find an empty seat in the other event. If you find a room full where you had intended to go, we would like to propose that you take this as a chance to listen to something else where you can find a seat -- and possibly get inspired in an unexpected way! The program council did its very best to anticipate your likely needs and assign rooms accordingly.

We also would like to thank those colleagues who were willing to undergo some changes to their original submissions, e.g. to host one or two paper submissions in their panel, in order to save time slots for paper session. It was a truly good experience to see how colleagues were open to such ideas and proposals. Without their cooperation we could not have offered the program as it is.

Whereas the conference will take place at Pollock Halls, a campus of the University of Edinburgh near by the town, the opening event will be in the city centre and promises a special experience you may not want to miss. Our local host committee, chaired by Jo-anne Carlyle, will have more to say about this event.

We look forward to a successful meeting with a rich, and lively interchange between presenters and participants. It is our hope that the program will encourage the advancement of knowledge and collaboration between those in attendance and especially that this meeting will contribute to bring research closer to practice.

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## Continuing Education Credits to Be Available at Edinburgh Conference

Jacques Barber, with assistance from Louis Castonguay, other SPR members, and Division 29 (Psychotherapy) of the American Psychological Association, has organized opportunities for conference attendees to receive continuing education credits at the annual meeting of the international Society in Edinburgh. At this point, credits will be available in more than 20 panels, discussion groups or workshops. To obtain continuing education credits, attendees will have to sign in and out of the session, must remain in the session for the duration of the time, and must fill out an evaluation form at the end of the session. SPR will provide all participants who meet these criteria with a certificate of attendance.

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## Important Deadline for SPR Members:

***Register by 30 April 2006 to guarantee your conference space and to take advantage of reduced rate!***

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## NASPR Report: *Change and Growth*

By J. Christopher Muran, Ph.D.

The last few months for the North American chapter have been marked by consideration transition. I assumed the mantle from my able predecessor Lynne Angus (who will be greatly missed), and also welcomed our new executive officer Nicholas Ladany and president-elect Jeffrey Hayes. Nick has begun a five-year term serving as our chief financial officer and webmaster. In this regard, he has recently overseen the transfer of our accounts and website from Canada to the US. He will also assist in developing our membership base, which according to a January 1, 2006 assessment includes 312 paid members. This stands in contrast to a mailing list of 543 that I currently hold and a mailing list of 915 maintained by our international webmaster. We are in the process of reconciling this and growing our membership again, looking out for lost members and new ones. This is our principal mandate: as I keep repeating, borrowing from a mantra used by Bill Clinton in his first campaign, *It's the membership, stupid!* If you are not sure about your membership status, please contact me (see below for contact information). What's more, with our current newsletter, we circulated a membership application, so please be an active recruiter for us.

Nick will also facilitate all chapter conferences. Jeff's first responsibility as president-elect will be to serve as scientific program chair for our next chapter meeting, which is scheduled for this fall, October 26-28, and will take place at a rustic setting just outside of Columbus, Ohio (i.e., easily accessible). The theme for the meeting is *Retreat, Renew, Rekindle*. The call for papers was circulated in our recent newsletter and is posted at our website (see below for contact information). Timothy Anderson will be our local host and has arranged for a beautiful and intimate location that should be conducive for the collegial atmosphere SPR has long been known for. Our regional groups continue to be quite active with the Mid-Atlantic group hosting a very successful meeting last fall at St Mary's College of Maryland, and with the Ohio group hosting a meeting this spring,

April 7-9 at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. For more details about NASPR, please visit our website at [www.naspr.org](http://www.naspr.org) and contact me at [naspr@bethisraelny.org](mailto:naspr@bethisraelny.org) if you have not received our recent newsletter or would like a membership application sent by email attachment. Look forward to seeing you in Edinburgh and Burr Oak!

## Report from the European Chapter

By Giuseppe Nicolo

During this year we will have some upcoming events in the European Chapter. The methodology workshop in Psychotherapy Research organised by Franz Caspar and Thomas Berger has just ended on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March. The invited participants have been doctoral students and young assistants from Europe. It was a very low budget conference sponsored by SPR Europe but this experience could not have worked without the lecturers volunteering their expertise and time. I thank very much all the lecturers for their involvement. We have had more request than we expected and we will organise a second edition next year.

The Course on Common Basic Principles on Treatment of Personality Disorders, scheduled in March 2006 has been moved to September 2006 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> and we will be supported from Anna Villa and Felice Rusconi Foundation (an Italian no-profit foundation). For more information visit the European SPR website, in order to request the application form please contact [turiello.simona@hsr.it](mailto:turiello.simona@hsr.it).

We are trying to organise in collaboration with the University of Ulm a summer school for students about specific research topics.

Next EU Conference will be probably held in Madera, Portugal, next April 2007.

We are looking for a nominating committee that can find a new European President.

## New Interest Section, Culture and Psychotherapy, Approved for SPR

By Robert Lueger, Ph.D.

At its January meeting, the Executive Committee of the Society for Psychotherapy Research considered and approved a proposal for recognition of a new interest section, Culture and Psychotherapy. A group of SPR members, with David Orlinsky as spokesperson, submitted the proposed interest section to the Program Committee for the Edinburgh conference. After suggestions and modifications, the Program Committee forwarded the proposal to the Executive Committee for consideration.

The new interest section will focus on scientific research on the cultural and social contexts of psychotherapy. According to the petition, "the aims are (a) to promote researchers' awareness of, and (b) to advance scientific understanding of social and

cultural influences on psychotherapeutic processes and outcomes, and on the forms that psychotherapies have taken in contemporary and traditional societies."

The proposal resulted from open discussions of SPR members at previous annual conferences. As part of the petition for recognition, by-laws were approved for the interest section. Membership is open to all SPR members, and for now enrollment can be made by contacting David Orlinsky by e-mail at [d-orkinsky@uchicago.edu](mailto:d-orkinsky@uchicago.edu). A process for identifying and selecting a person to serve as section president is underway. The new interest section will sponsor events in the program at the June annual meeting of the international Society in Edinburgh.