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## President's message

by Mark Aveline

Dear SPR Member

Your Executive Council visited Rome in January. We met with the local host (Antonio Semerari and his colleagues) and worked on SPR business. The Italian style and warmth of our reception impressed us, as did the quality of the conference facilities. Rome 2004 will be an excellent meeting. Elsewhere in the Newsletter, John Clarkin gives an update on the conference but please note that the dates are Wednesday to Saturday June 16-19.

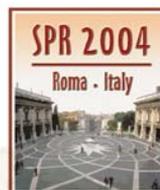
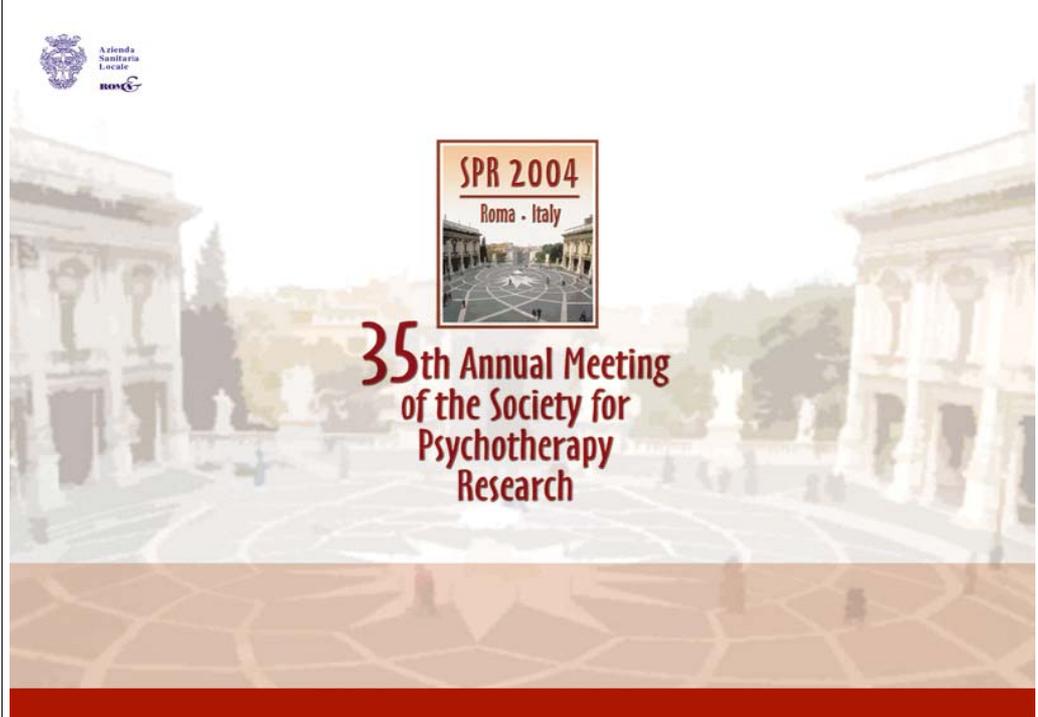
This newsletter includes the announcement from Polaris Health Directions Inc. of their generous offer to make the "PsyberCare" measure available to SPR members without fee. A new section of the SPR website gives details of this measure and others that members are making available to fellow members. Consider enhancing the benefits of membership by acting in the same way. Measures and useful bits of software would be most welcome; they should be sent to me in the first instance. I repeat the caution that posting items in this way does not imply endorsement by

SPR. It is for researchers to determine the validity, utility and acceptability of these offers for their projects.

Our web master, Erhard Mergenthaler, is planning to add URLs to the member information section so that members can point members to personal web pages should they so wish.

As you will be aware, SPR has taken back the collection of dues from Oxford University Press, the publisher of our Journal. Should any problems arise with the new process, please let Paulo Machado know. We are also looking for a new publisher. Clara Hill is chairing the Task Force.

In June 2005, Paulo Machado comes to end of his five-year term as Executive Officer. He has done a superb job and will be much missed. There will however be an opportunity for another SPR member to take on this fascinating central role in the Society. If you are interested, contact any member of the Task Force (John Clarkin, Mike Lambert and Paulo Machado).



**35th Annual Meeting  
of the Society for  
Psychotherapy  
Research**

## Registration for SPR Roma 2004



Attached to this newsletter you can find a registration form for the Rome SPR conference, hotel, and tours provided by the local organizers. However all the information about the conference is provided in our web page, as well as online registration.

Please go to our web page at [www.psychotherapyresearch.org](http://www.psychotherapyresearch.org) and follow the links to the conference pages located at: [www.psychotherapyresearch.org/rome2004](http://www.psychotherapyresearch.org/rome2004)

You will find additional information there on:

- Registration
- Scientific Program
- Accommodation
- Social Program
- Tours
- General information about the conference center, Rome, survival tips, useful links etc.
- Online registration and forms

Looking forward to seeing you all in Roma

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## SPR nominating committee

Update: Nomination for General Vice-President

The composition of the Nomination Committee is currently the following Bill Piper (North American representative), Else Guthrie (United Kingdom representative), Marina Altman (South America representative), Helge Ronnestad (European representative). Helge has completed the 2 year term and will be rotating off. The membership will be informed of the new composition of the committee via an email to the SPR listserv shortly. Thanks very much to Helge for serving on the committee and also to Bill, Else and Marina for their contributions to the nominating committee during the past year.

Bill Piper <[piper@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:piper@interchange.ubc.ca)>  
 Else Guthrie <[elspeth.a.guthrie@man.ac.uk](mailto:elspeth.a.guthrie@man.ac.uk)>  
 Marina Altman <[altmanli@chasque.apc.org](mailto:altmanli@chasque.apc.org)>  
 Helge Ronnestad <[helge.ronnestad@psykologi.uio.no](mailto:helge.ronnestad@psykologi.uio.no)>

## Call for nominations Executive Officer

The SPR Executive Committee requests nominations of self or willing others to act as the Society's Executive Officer. The term extends from January 2005 through December 2009.

The duties of the Executive Officer are:

- a. to provide overall managerial co-ordination of the Society's organizational and financial affairs;
- b. to serve as a non-voting member of the Executive Council;
- c. to supervise the timely collection and circulation of minutes of the annual business meeting of the Plenary Convention, of Executive Council meetings, and of the Regional Chapter business meetings;
- d. to maintain the official records of the Society;
- e. to prepare and annual budget for the Society;
- f. to receive, manage and disburse the international funds of the Society, as authorized by the Executive Council;
- g. to arrange for the periodic independent audits of the Society's finances;
- h. to compile and maintain a Manual of Procedures
- i. to receive and approve applications for membership;
- j. to receive current membership information from Regional Chapters, to maintain and up-to-date membership list for the Society, and to make a Membership Directory available to members;
- k. to make and annual financial and membership report to the society;
- l. to supervise and assist in the business arrangements for the annual international conferences;
- m. top prepare and distribute the Society's Newsletter and other necessary mailings;
- n. to supervise the procedure for election of the Vice-President;
- o. to establish and supervise the day-to-day operations of an international administration office for the Society
- p. establish an international administrative office to serve as a central site for conducting the Society's organizational and financial affairs.

Suggested names should be directed, by April 30, 2004 to:

Michael Lambert <[Michael\\_Lambert@byu.edu](mailto:Michael_Lambert@byu.edu)>  
 John Clarkin <[jclarkin@med.cornell.edu](mailto:jclarkin@med.cornell.edu)>  
 Paulo Machado <[pmachado@iep.uminho.pt](mailto:pmachado@iep.uminho.pt)>

## Scientific Program, Roma 2004 16 –19 June 2004

Program Council: John Clarkin (Chair), Antonio Semerari, Mark Aveline, Kenneth Levy, John Markowitz, Giuseppe Nicolò

The Program Committee for the upcoming international conference in Rome has been extremely active and collaborative in its efforts to organize a large, varied and rich program. Email communication has enabled the committee with its chair (John Clarkin) and several colleagues in New York (Kenneth Levy and John Markowitz) to communicate with colleagues at the conference site in Rome (Antonio Semerari, Giuseppe Nicolò), Erhard Mergenthaler and his colleagues at our computer site in Germany, and current president Mark Aveline. Several aspects of the program and its generation are worth noting.

The conference site in Rome has attracted a great deal of interest and enthusiasm from our members. Every SPR member that we have communicated with is delighted with the plan of seeing colleagues and friends in Rome in June. Statistics on the volume of program submissions reflects this enthusiasm. There will be 241 papers in 78 panels, 84 other papers in 21 paper sessions, 174 posters, 4 pre-conference workshops and 9 other conference workshops and open discussion groups. These papers, panels and posters cover a variety of topics of concern to our members—from aetiological factors in psychopathology, CBT, consumer perspectives, culture and spirituality, development of new measures, psychotherapy process and outcome, quality management, to therapy training and supervision. Three plenary sessions have been planned on key topics in our field today: the centrality of the therapeutic relationship (Jeremy Safran and Bob Leahy), the importance of attachment research to psychotherapy (Peter Fonagy, Giovanni Liotti, and Paul Pilkonis), and a discussion of data and statistical approaches to the mechanisms of change in psychotherapy (Bill Piper, Paul Crits-Christoph, and Rob DeRubeis).

There are several innovations in the program that we hope

will add to the enjoyment of our members. The conference will extend from Wednesday through Saturday, and not go into Sunday morning as we have done in previous meetings. This will enable all to fully enjoy the banquet Saturday night, and not face making a presentation on Sunday morning to a small audience. Wednesday, the first day of the conference, will feature pre-conference workshops, and the presidential address by Mark Aveline (on the centrality of the therapist) followed by a poster session and social reception. Thursday, Friday and Saturday are full days, with many 9 parallel sessions. Key sessions have been selected for simultaneous interpretation into Italian.

The Executive Committee met with the Program Committee and the local host in Rome during the last part of January, and has ensured that the conference site is first rate in terms of meeting rooms and location. The highlight of the social program is the banquet Saturday night that will be held on the Terrace of the “Il Vittoriano” monument with a view overlooking the ancient Roman forum.

Most important has been the process by which the program was generated. Thanks to the intensive and expert work of Erhard Mergenthaler and his staff, submissions and subsequent communication about the submissions have all been done via internet. As you know at this point, the preliminary program is available on the SPR web pages (<http://www.psychotherapyresearch.org/rome2004/sci.program.html>). Thanks to the extensive efforts of our colleagues at Ulm, the society now has a computerized system for program submission and subsequent editing, and generation of preliminary and final program.

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### Roma, Italia welcomes SPR

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SPR has the pleasure of inviting you to the 35th Annual Meeting of the Society for Psychotherapy Research which will be held in Rome June 16 to 19, 2004.

Every one of you knows Rome for its history, artistic and cultural heritage that has been accumulating for 27 centuries. I hope that its history as Universal City, where different cultures find their place of contact, will be a worthy background for a creative debate among researchers coming from all over the world.

The local Organizing Committee selected a Conference Venue located for easy access from the downtown bustling city, but in a very quiet area with cottages spread out in a large pine-tree park.

Our Annual Meeting is an important date, which has become a tradition. We believe that the scientific programme, which is being prepared, will offer a wide variety of topics and interesting new data from all over the world.

One of the most spectacular historical monuments in Rome will open its doors for us exclusively, “Il Vittoriano”. The white marble monument dominates one side of the famous Piazza

Venezia, as a theatrical backdrop – it was devoted to the first King of Italy Victor Emmanuel II and, since 1921, to the Unknown Soldier. Romans do not like very much this neo-classical monument: the construction of the building unfortunately carried with it the total destruction of the pre-existing Medieval and Renaissance quarter where Michelangelo had lived until his death.

However, from the terraces of “Il Vittoriano” you will have a breathtaking view over the most ancient part of the city: the Roman Forum was the centre of the civic and economic life of Rome in the Republican era and kept its prominent role even in the Imperial ages. The monumental complex lies among the Capitol Hill, the Imperial Forums, the Colosseum and the Palatine Hill.

After dinner on the terrace, you will have the chance to take a walk in the area where Rome started its 2000 years history – you are in the very heart of the eternal city.

We look forward to welcoming you in Rome.  
Antonio Semerari  
Chair Local Organizing Committee

## Future Meetings

### International Meetings

2005 International meeting:  
Montreal, Canada,  
host: Chris Perry

2006 International meeting:  
Edinburgh, UK,  
host: John McLeod

www.psychotherapyresearch.org

## Psychotherapy Research

Uwe Hentschel, European Editor

**Published Articles:** During 2003, *Psychotherapy Research* published 32 articles and 14 book reviews, representing contributions by 141 authors. This included a special section on The Role of the Therapist in Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy, one Early Career Award Paper, and the annual SPR Presidential Address.

**Changes in Editorial Staff:** In 2003, Uwe Hentschel has taken over the duties of managing editor. This includes makeup of journal, sending accepted papers to OUP, writing reports for the Executive and the membership, making up agendas and writing and distributing minutes of editorial meetings. Wolfgang Lutz has become an associate editor. Beginning in 2004 Clara Hill has become North American Editor and has begun to receive manuscripts from January 1 on.

**Submissions, Acceptance Rates, Publication Lag:** The number of new submissions in 2003 in comparison to 2002 has increased somewhat. It is considerably higher than in previous years (more than 100% compared to 1998). Consequently to this, as the higher rate fed through the pipeline, also the rate of resubmissions is still very high, but has decreased a little in comparison to 2002. Comparing the two editorial offices, roughly one third of manuscripts more were submitted to the European office, which is a new trend. Detailed figures relating to the flow of the manuscripts, their origin, the editorial decisions and the eventual acceptance rates are summarized in the Appendix.

The acceptance rate, based on all editorial decisions made in 2003, was 21%. This is about the same as in 2002, both figures reflecting a higher ratio of resubmissions to new submissions (resubmissions are more likely to be accepted). As in 2002 most of the non-acceptances were revise-and-resubmit decisions, which encourage authors to improve their analyses and presentation. This is consistent with the constructive, educational philosophy of SPR. Because some authors continue to revise manuscripts, the eventual acceptance rate for a manuscript, after one or (often) more revisions eventually rises to up to 36% after 3-4 years

Publication lag in 2003 remained at 6-9 months from final acceptance, which is about as short as possible within the usual production schedule, but will increase next year considerably as the backlog of manuscripts has been growing. In 2003 many manuscripts were still sent to the publisher at the first deadline following acceptance, but the publication of some had to be postponed already.

**Special Sections:** Manuscripts submitted for the following special sections are now being re-

viewed and revised. Publication is planned for 2004 or 2005:

(a) Research on Delivery of Psychotherapy Services. This special section will appear in issue 14(2)

(b) Impact of the Relationship on Psychotherapy Process and Outcome. This special section is planned to form a supplement, which requires extra investments to cover the additional costs. At this moment the editors and OUP are looking for sponsors for the supplement.

(c) Research on Therapist Internal Processes. As there is only one submission for this special section, it will probably be published as a regular article and not as special section.

(d) The special section Research on the Teaching and Learning of Psychotherapy and Psychotherapy Research (including supervision, training, mentoring, coursework, personal life, or development of individuals as psychotherapists or as psychotherapy researchers) had its submission deadline at the end of 2003. All submissions are still under review.

We welcome proposals for other special sections. We also welcome proposals for articles dealing with **Research Classics**.

**Invitation to SPR Authors:** The co-editors encourage SPR members to submit manuscripts to the Journal, especially reports of new and interesting research. *Psychotherapy Research* depends on the inspiration, hard work, and perseverance of authors who submit their work to the rigors of the review and revision process. Please help to continue the process of making your Journal one of the major publication outlets for psychotherapy research.

**Ad Hoc Manuscript Reviewers:** Members of the SPR who are willing to act as ad hoc reviewers of manuscripts submitted to the journal are encouraged to contact one of the editors, Uwe Hentschel <hentsche@fsw.leidenuniv.nl> or Clara Hill <Hill@psyc.umd.edu>. Please give your contact information (mailing address, phone, fax, email), interests or areas in which you can review manuscripts, and 1-3 references to articles you have published.

For a full report check our web page: <http://www.psychotherapyresearch.org/journal.html>

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