

*President*

Jacques P. Barber, PhD  
Center for Psychotherapy Research  
Department of Psychiatry  
University of Pennsylvania School of  
Medicine  
Room 648, 3535 Market Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-3309  
USA  
[barberj@mail.med.upenn.edu](mailto:barberj@mail.med.upenn.edu)

*Past-President*

Erhard Mergenthaler, Prof. Dr.  
Sektion Informatik in der  
Psychotherapie  
Universitätsklinik für  
Psychosomatische Medizin  
und Psychotherapie  
Am Hochsträß 8,  
89081 Ulm  
GERMANY  
[erhard.mergenthaler@uni-ulm.de](mailto:erhard.mergenthaler@uni-ulm.de)

*President-Elect*

Prof. Dr. Bernhard Strauß  
Universitätsklinikum Jena  
Institut für Psychosoziale Medizin und  
Psychotherapie  
Stoystraße 3  
D-07740 Jena  
GERMANY  
[sekretariat\\_mpsy@med.uni-jena.de](mailto:sekretariat_mpsy@med.uni-jena.de)

*Executive Officer*

Tracy D. Eells, MBA, PhD  
Department of Psychiatry and  
Behavioral Sciences  
University of Louisville  
500 South Preston Street  
Louisville, KY 40202  
[eells@louisville.edu](mailto:eells@louisville.edu)

*Regional Chapter Presidents:*

Elisa Yoshida (LA)  
[eyoshida.tln@terra.com.br](mailto:eyoshida.tln@terra.com.br)  
Chris Evans (UK)  
[chris@psyc.org](mailto:chris@psyc.org)  
Jeff Hayes (USA)  
[jxh34@psu.edu](mailto:jxh34@psu.edu)  
Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Tschacher (EU)  
[tschacher@spk.unibe.ch](mailto:tschacher@spk.unibe.ch)

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## SPR Barcelona 2008



### 39th annual meeting

## Welcome to the 39<sup>th</sup> SPR International Meeting Barcelona, Spain, June 18 – 21, 2008

**Bernhard Strauss (Program Chair), Hans Kordy, Robert Russell, Ulrike Willutzki, Luis Botella, David Orlinsky and Louis Castonguay – as always with the appreciative help of Sven Schneider**

SPR welcomes you to the 2008 International Meeting in beautiful city of Barcelona (Spain), the capital of Catalonia. The meeting will take place at the four star Hotel Barceló Sants ([www.barcelo.com/BarceloHotels/en-GB/Hotels/Spain/Barcelona/Sants/Home](http://www.barcelo.com/BarceloHotels/en-GB/Hotels/Spain/Barcelona/Sants/Home)) which is located on top of Barcelona's Central Train Station "Sants Estació" with a direct connection to the Barcelona International Airport (~30 min.). The conference venue is a short metro ride away from many tourist, dining and shopping destinations in Barcelona.

The 2008 meeting has already set a record as far as the number of submissions/registrations is concerned: More than 600 single submissions will form the conference program. In total, the program includes 116 panels (including 391 papers), 8 brief communication sessions comprising 45 papers. Additionally, 163 posters will be distributed into two poster sessions on Thursday and Friday. All posters can be presented during the entire day and intensively discussed in an evening session. 10 structured discussions covering different fields complete the program. The meeting will start – as usual – on Wednesday afternoon at 2 p. m. with a series of (9) pre-

conference workshops dealing with methodological and research issues. In the evening of Wednesday June 18 (at 6 p.m.) SPR's president Jacques Barber will give his presidential address following a brief opening ceremony. During Thursday, Friday and Saturday, we will have 10 parallel sessions for most of the time due to the large number of submitted events. Since all conference rooms are very close together on the ground and first floor of the Barceló Sants Hotel, it will be easy to shift between sessions and to reach the presentations of your choice.

A variety of submissions have been related to our general theme "Neurobiological and Sociocultural Contexts of Psychotherapy and Psychotherapy Research". Additionally, the program covers almost the total range of contributions to the field, i.e. innovative research, research on cultural issues and training in psychotherapy, empirical studies of different treatment modalities (individual, couple, family, group), patient populations (children and adolescents, adults), a wide range of diagnostic categories and a broad spectrum of theoretical approaches (e.g., CBT, experiential, psychodynamic).

(cont).

As it is usual at SPR meetings, we will have ample time for informal discussions and personal meetings during the conference (e.g. during the lunches and coffee breaks). The business meetings of the regional chapters will be held on Thursday, the International business meeting on Friday after lunch. On Wednesday evening, a welcome reception will be held at the conference hotel, the meeting will end with a banquet in a historic place downtown Barcelona.

The preliminary program is available on the conference website ([www.psychotherapyresearch.org](http://www.psychotherapyresearch.org)), where you will

also find a variety of information about accommodation, the venue, travel arrangements, the city of Barcelona and organisational issues (cf. the FAQs!).

We wish to thank all colleagues for their submissions of very high quality and expect to have a lively and interesting meeting which will be perfectly organized by Luis Botella and his group from the Ramon Llull University.

We look forward to welcoming all of you in June!

## President's Corner

Jacques P. Barber

The executive committee met a few weeks ago to finalize the organization of the upcoming SPR conference in Barcelona and to attend to a large number of issues related to the daily and long term conduct of the society. The meeting was productive and we were able to address all the issues on the agenda. Bernhard Strauss, our president-elect and chair of the program committee has done a great job assembling the more than 600 submissions he received into a coherent but relatively compact program. We are quite confident each delegate will find interesting sessions to attend. Luis Botella Garcia del Cid from Ramon Llull University, Barcelona is our local host in June. He has chosen a centrally located hotel, Barceló Sants Hotel for the meeting. It can easily be reached by train from the airport and it is very easy to get from it to the Center of the city. This is a modern 4 star hotel (Wi-Fi internet is available), which is located on a main metro or subway line.

As in prior years, we will be providing registration discounts to delegates who register early for the meeting as this helps us plan better for the conference. In fact, we may only be able to register a small number of members at the last minute in Barcelona. So please take that into consideration when you plan your attendance.

A few weeks before the EC meeting in Barcelona, I was very fortunate to be able to attend the Australian SPR meeting in Wollongong and to experience the enthusiasm displayed by psychotherapy researchers and students down under. Brin Grenyer (chair), Robert King, Trevor Crowe and Frank Deane did a great job organizing this conference. I will not go into the details of this intimate and vibrant conference, please see Brin Grenyer's summary. In the meanwhile, to support further the development of SPR in the Southern Hemisphere and in the Pacific Rim, the EC has agreed to have an international SPR meeting in Australia in 2013. Our Australian colleagues have created a group to find the right location (most likely in Sydney) for this international meeting. We hope to see many of you there.

In the meanwhile, I am looking forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming meeting in Barcelona. The meeting begins Wednesday afternoon with many interesting and stimulating workshops. At 6PM we will begin the official part of the meeting with welcoming notes from Bernhard Strauss and Luis Botella, followed by my presidential address. We will then have the SPR awards ceremony followed by brief presentations about the forthcoming SPR meetings. The evening will end with drinks and light food.

## Update: Nomination for General Vice President

Please send your proposals to the chair or one of the committee members no later than May 1, 2008.

The composition of the Nominating Committee is currently the following:

—Sue Wheeler, Chair (United Kingdom)

[sw103@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:sw103@leicester.ac.uk)

—Denise Defey (Latin America)

[denisedefey@adinet.com.uy](mailto:denisedefey@adinet.com.uy)

—Clara Hill (North America)

[Hill@psyc.umd.edu](mailto:Hill@psyc.umd.edu)

—Per Høglend (Europe)

[p.a.hoglend@medisin.uio.no](mailto:p.a.hoglend@medisin.uio.no)

Alejandro Ávila Espada and Ricardo Bernardi are rotating off. We thank them for their contribution to the society.

## Psychotherapy Research—Journal Report for 2007

### *Pages*

We are doing well with the journal. You will notice that last year we went up to 6 issues a year, up from 5 the year before, and from 4 the year before that. And we moved the abstracts in languages other than English to the website, so overall we have more pages.

### *Backlog and Lag Times*

Correspondingly, the backlog is going down. Papers are being published faster once they are accepted for publication. In addition, once manuscripts are accepted and typeset, they are now going on first (check the website) so that they can be viewed online and cited.

### *Submission Rates*

There are also more manuscripts being submitted. We've gone up steadily from 99 submitted in 2003 to 153 in 2007. And our lag time from when papers are submitted to when the decision is made about the manuscript is improving. We have about a 40% acceptance rate, which is quite reasonable.

### *Impact Factor*

The impact factor is about the same—it hovers right around 1.0. That's something we still need to work on.

### *Going International*

In addition, we are making moves to make the journal truly international. Manuscripts will be assigned to editors and reviewers from across the world, rather than using the old designations of North America and Rest of World (although manuscripts submitted in languages other than English will still be reviewed by people proficient in that language). Moving to an online system has made all of this easier.

### *Special Sections*

We have several special sections in the works. Publication of the following special sections is planned for 2008 or

later:

- Psychotherapy for Children and Adolescents
- Client Experiences in Psychotherapy
- Interdisciplinary Dialogues Case of Lisa

Calls are out for papers in the following sections:

- Eating Disorders (deadline 2/1/08)
- Psychotherapy for Couples and Families (deadline 4/1/08)
- Methodological Issues in Conducting Quantitative and Qualitative Research (deadline 7/1/08)
- Group Psychotherapy (deadline 10/1/08)

Please feel free to suggest a special section. We are very open to input from SPR members—some of the best sections have come from SPR members getting together and suggesting a coherent theme.

### *Book Reviews*

For books in English, contact Karla Moras (karla.moras@verizon.net)

For books in German, French, Spanish, Portuguese, or Italian, contact Henning Schauenburg (hschaue@gwdg.de)

### *Website*

Visit the SPR site: <http://www.psychotherapyresearch.org/journal/journal.html>. This site offers in addition instructions to authors, calls for papers, and a copy of this annual report to members. SPR members can download copies of articles from the journal website.

### *Your Part in the Journal*

Psychotherapy Research is OUR journal. We want to be proud of it. We hope that you'll think first of Psychotherapy Research as THE place to submit your manuscripts. And we hope that you'll read the journal and cite it when you write. Please also review manuscripts when they are sent your way (and do it quickly, fairly, and be educa-

## News from the Australia Regional Group

### Brin Grenyer and Robert King

The 2007 Australia Regional Group meeting of the North American Chapter of SPR was held across Thursday 6th and Friday 7th December at the University of Wollongong, near Sydney. The conference was an enormous success, with the local arrangements proceeding smoothly and the

setting providing a high standard collegial atmosphere, despite a heavy misty tropical downpour sweeping across the conference venue on the last afternoon. One experienced SPR member remarked that the atmosphere of the conference must have been reminiscent of the very early SPR

meetings, in the size, excitement, and good will among the group.

Sessions generated lively discussion and debate, some of which continued late into the night in the local Wollongong restaurant district.

There were 65 registrants, of which 20 were students. Of those registered, 65% were from the local State of New South Wales (31% Sydney, 28% Wollongong, and 6% Newcastle). Of the rest, 28% flew in from other States (12% Queensland, 9% Victoria, 3% Canberra, 3% Western Australia) and 7% flew in from overseas (4 delegates from the USA and 1 from New Zealand). (cont.)The conference was organized by Brin Grenyer (chair), Robert King, Trevor Crowe and Frank Deane. With the support of the NA\*SPR, five research travel awards (\$250 each) were presented to interstate student presenters to assist them in attending the meeting (to Louise Hanson, Deborah Sauvage, Kylie Crellyn, Juanita Kolaric, and Dubravko Jurkovic). In addition, there was one best conference presentation student award sponsored by the Australian Human Condition Bookstore (\$200) presented to Andreas Comninos for his paper entitled 'A rapid response to psychotherapy for depression: A qualitative and quantitative analysis of therapy process'.

There were two keynote presentations, from Professor Mike Startup on 'Therapist treatment adherence to, and client drop-out from, cognitive behaviour therapy for acute psychosis' and Professor Jacques Barber on 'The impact of the therapist, the client, the therapeutic alliance and techniques on outcome'. There was a special presentation by Dr Godfrey Barrett-Lennard on 'Psychotherapy as the healing relationship: Theory, practice and inquiry in focus'. Dr Barrett-Lennard, from Western Australia, was the only Australian present at the very first SPR conference in 1970 in Chicago, and has continued the work first fostered with Carl Rogers on relationship factors in psychotherapy. In addition to these presentations, there were sixteen 30-minute papers, six 90-minute workshops and ten reviewed posters. A pleasing aspect of the conference was the strong representation of students with their supervisors, presenting work at different stages of the research process from initial concept to completion.

An Australia Regional Group business meeting during the conference planned strategies for building psychotherapy research within the region, and determined to hold the next regional meeting in Brisbane, Queensland in 2009. We are also in a position to plan to host a potential international meeting in Sydney in the following decade.

## **We hope to see you in Barcelona, June 18-21st!**

Please visit [www.psychotherapyresearch.org](http://www.psychotherapyresearch.org) where you may view the scientific program. The website also contains a link to Luis Botella's newsletter where you will find detailed information about transportation, accommodations, and helpful facts to assist with your preparation for the 2008 International SPR Conference.



**Mark Your Calendars!!**

**2008 International Meeting: Barcelona, Spain, June 18-21**

**2009 International Meeting: Santiago de Chile, June 24-27**

**2010 International Meeting: San Francisco, CA, USA**