

SPR  
Society for Psychotherapy Research  
an international, multidisciplinary, scientific organization  
21 Bloomingdale Road, White Plains, NY 10605 USA  
914-997-5906 (phone) 914-682-6964 (fax)

SPR NEWSLETTER: MAY, 2000

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Bill Piper

By all indications, the 31st Annual Meeting of the SPR, which will be held at Indian Lakes Resort (near Chicago) from June 21-25, 2000, will be a large and dynamic event. Robert Elliott, the Program Chairman, reports that there are over 360 presentations on the program by participants from 21 countries. There are a number of innovative features for this year's Meeting. Mornings will be devoted to small group presentations and afternoons will be devoted to larger serniplenary sessions, which will increase the opportunities for shared experiences. The serniplenary sessions have been organized to follow common topic tracks over the course of the Meeting. Overall, the number of Open Discussion sessions has been increased, which is reminiscent of earlier SPR Annual Meetings. In addition, the Meeting will overlap for a day and a half with the 5th International Conference on Client-centered and Experiential Psychotherapy (June 24-29, 2000). Registrants of our Meeting may attend their sessions during the overlap period and may wish to register with them to attend additional sessions after Sunday. David Orlinsky, the Local Host, has worked hard to capitalize on the many amenities of the pleasant Indian Lakes Resort and surrounding area. I recommend that you plan not to miss what will most certainly be an enjoyable and stimulating conference. Most of you should have received information about the Meeting by regular mail. Additional information including abstracts of the presentations is available on our SPR [web site](#).

In January, the Executive Council of the SPR recently met at the Indian Lakes Resort to coordinate local arrangements and program activities, and to conduct regular business. The Council is pleased to announce the appointment of Uwe Hentschel as the incoming European Editor of our journal, Psychotherapy Research. As you may know, as of this year our journal is being published by our new publisher, Oxford University Press. The Executive Council is also pleased to announce that Weimar (Local Host: Bernhard Strauss) has been selected as the site of the 2003 Annual Meeting. The 2002 Annual Meeting will be in Santa Barbara (Local Host: Larry Beutler). For next year, the site of the Annual Meeting has been changed from

Buenos Aires, Argentina to Montevideo, Uruguay (Local Host: Sylvia Gril). Plans are well under way for these Meetings.

This year, the Nominating Committee for the election of our next General Vice-President has a representative from each of the Regional Chapters. The committee members are: Len Horowitz (North America), Mark Aveline (United Kingdom), Isabel Soares (Europe), and Sylvia Gril (South America). Please communicate directly with one of the committee members regarding nominations.

At our recent meeting, the Regional Chapter Presidents communicated a good deal of enthusiasm and information regarding activities and initiatives that will be occurring during the next year or two at the regional level. I believe that they will soon be sharing some of their plans with you. You will also hear more about regional activities at our Annual Meeting in Chicago, where I hope to see many of you.

## ASSESSING ENTHUSIASM FOR SPECIAL INTEREST SECTIONS

by David Orlinsky and Franz Caspar

The SPR2000 Conference organizers and SPR By-Laws Reform Committee invite you to help evaluate an idea for the further development of the SPR organization.

The recent growth in our field of specialized research interests that are shared by many but not all SPR members suggests that the time is right for the formation of "Special Interest Sections" within the SPR organization. The purpose of this development is to promote those specialized interests and support the scientific work of those SPR members who pursue them.

We offer the following list of potential "Special Interest Sections" to illustrate some of the possibilities:

- group psychotherapies research
- family and couple therapies research
- child and adolescent therapies research
- research on therapies for borderline disorders
- interpersonal processes research
- services utilization and quality assurance research
- comparative therapy process research
- research on integrative psychotherapies
- research on long-term psychotherapies
- research on the training and development of psychotherapists
- qualitative research methods

These are only possibilities. We need you and your natural colleagues in SPR to define and organize the Special Interest Sections that will best serve to advance

your own special interests.

So, we, hereby, invite all SPR colleagues to make written proposals for the formation of SPR Special Interest Sections. These proposals should describe the topic, boundaries, and tentative organization of the Special Interest Section(s) that you would like to help develop, and should be signed by at least 10 current members.

Here are some guidelines to follow:

- (1) Membership in a Special Interest Section should be open to any current SPR member who declares an interest in that research area. (Of course, members need not belong to any Special Interest Section to enjoy the benefits of SPR membership, and will be free to withdraw from any section they may have joined when that no longer suits their interests).
- (2) Each proposal should include a procedure for electing a Section spokesperson to serve as liaison with the By-Laws Reform Committee and the SPR2001 Program Committee. In the interest of fairness, we suggest that no one should serve as spokesperson for more than one Special Interest Section at any time; that the spokesperson be limited to a term of not more than three years; and that the spokesperson should stand for a vote of confidence during that term if asked to do so by a significant number (one-third?) of the Section members.
- (3) We further suggest that SPR members should belong to no more than three Special Interest Sections at a time.

Please send your proposals for Special Interest Sections by June 15th to David Orlinsky, Chair, Bylaws Reform Committee: by email to [d-orkinsky@uchicago.edu](mailto:d-orkinsky@uchicago.edu); by fax to 1773702-0320; or by post to 5555 S. Everett (16C), Chicago, IL 60637 USA. You can also deliver a proposal in person at the forthcoming SPR2000 Conference.

We plan to hold an Open Meeting for members interested in the formation of Special Interest Sections at the SPR2000 Conference (probably on Thursday evening, June 22nd). At that time, we will present and discuss the proposals which have been made, and consider what further action should be proposed. If you cannot come to that meeting, look for a report of it in the next issue of the SPR newsletter.

We look forward to receiving your proposals!

OXFORD PUBLISHES OUR JOURNAL

You must have noticed the new blue, dark blue, and white cover of our journal, *Psychotherapy Research*. As of this calendar year, we have changed publishers from

Guilford Press to the Oxford University Press. This was a change that was carefully researched by the Executive Committee, and we are most happy with the results to date.

### A BIT OF SPR HISTORY

The year 2000 and the location of the international annual meeting in Chicago stimulates thoughts of the origins of SPR. The group that became the SPR held its first meeting in conjunction with the American Psychological Association in San Francisco in 1968. Kenneth Howard and David Orlinsky took the initiative for the meeting, joined by Lester Luborsky, Nathaniel Raskin and Hans Strupp. The first official meeting of the SPR was held a year later in Highland Park, Illinois.

SPR has grown from a membership of 100 North American members to an international association with four regional chapters (Europe, the United Kingdom, South America, North America). Annual conferences of the SPR have contributed to the development of the field by providing a forum for the presentation of new ideas and the evaluation of new research findings. These meetings have contributed to a sense of community and continuity among active researchers, and an arena for the career development of students.

### MACHADO IS EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Paulo Machado of the University of Minho, Braga, Portugal, is the new Executive Officer of SPR. During a five-year term, Paulo will run the central office for the international society. He joins the ranks of three others who have served in this role, Kenneth Howard, Paul Pilkonis, and most recently, John Clarkin. This is the first time that the Executive Officer has been located outside of North America, consistent with the changing membership balance in SPR.

### FUTURE MEETINGS

Keep the following upcoming meetings in mind:

- 2001 International Meeting: Montevideo, Uruguay; host Sylvia Gril
- 2002 International Meeting: Santa Barbara, California; host Larry Beutler
- 2003 International Meeting: Weimar, Germany; host Bernhard Strauss