

# Society for Psychotherapy Research

Newsletter, 2002:3

Fall 2002

an international, multidisciplinary, scientific organization

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## Call for submissions for the 2003 SPR meeting

by Mark Aveline, Karla Moras, John Clarkin, Mike Lambert, Tom Schroder and Bernhard Strauss  
Program Council

We welcome submissions in **all** types of research on **all** forms of psychotherapy. SPR has a tradition of particular expertise in certain **special interests** (see illustrative list on the international SPR website: [www.psychotherapyresearch.org](http://www.psychotherapyresearch.org)). We intend to group presentations by topic/interest and will try to schedule presentations so that you can follow tracks of special interest to you.

Given the strength of work in **psychosomatics** in Europe, we would be particularly interested in featuring this field. We would like to continue the emphasis of the Santa Barbara meeting on **neuro-science**, its implications for models of psychotherapy process and the opportunities for collaborative research. We would also like to consider **consumer perspectives**.

### Types of submissions

- Poster
- Paper
- Panel
- Plenary
- Open discussion
- Pre-conference workshop
- Research workshop

A full description of each type of submission is given below. Research workshop is a new format. It will provide an opportunity for researchers to discuss projects with others with similar interests and with experts in research design, implementation and analysis. Workshops will be scheduled within the regular programme and will feature invited Research Consultants. There will be time to discuss two or three projects in each workshop. Presenters will be expected to present work in progress (five to ten minutes) and identify aspects with which they want help.

### Submissions and revisions

The deadline for submissions is **December 15, 2002**. Acceptances will be sent in mid-February, 2003. **Submissions this year will be via the web**. Registration and submission pages will shortly be available on the web ([www.med.uni-jena.de/](http://www.med.uni-jena.de/)  
2002).

. You will be able to get information about the types of submission and download the relevant forms.

When you go to the site to submit, select the type of presentation and complete the on-line form. Be sure to complete all the entry areas. You will be given a **unique number to identify the submission**. Please use this number in any correspondence or revision of your original submission.

Please use **English** for submissions.

The conference language is **English**. Speakers are welcome to arrange to have their presentations translated but translators will not be hired for this meeting.

If it is impossible for you to access the web, you can email the Program Chair with your submission. If you have to take this route, please do not make a duplicate submission via the web at a later date.

If you want to discuss a possible submission or float an idea for a scientific event at the conference, email the Program Chair at:  
[aveline.spr2003@bopenworld.com](mailto:aveline.spr2003@bopenworld.com)

### Participation limits

**Submissions as first author are limited to one paper or panel presentation.** Other forms of participation are unlimited i.e. posters, being a panel discussant or moderator, a discussion group leader or member, or co-author of a paper or panel.

### Continuing education credits

We are investigating the possibility of offering CE credits for some sessions.

If you submit a paper, panel, or workshop proposal and are willing to complete additional paperwork e.g. providing each presenter's curriculum vitae and specifying learning objectives so that attendees can receive CE credit for it, please indicate "CE Okay" in the submission abstract. If you as a SPR member are willing to take on the work of arranging CE credits for the American Psychological Association (APA), please email the Program Chair.

## John Clarkin is the new Vice-President

John Clarkin is the newly elected Vice-President. John is Professor of Clinical Psychology in Psychiatry at the Weill Medical College of Cornell University, Co-Director of the Personality Disorders Institute, and Director of Psychology, New York Presbyterian Hospital.

In his statement of candidacy, John mentioned that SPR began as an organization dominated by North America with interests abroad. With time, it

became a truly international organization with a focus on psychotherapy research that is aimed at understanding pathology and therapy, and its application in the health care systems of various regions and countries. His goal for SPR is to be an intellectual source for developing therapies beyond the narrow schools that are indicated not only by diagnosis and symptoms but also social and functional conditions, and to study its implementation in member nations.

**Call for submissions (from previous page)**Book of Abstracts

Hitherto, the abstracts have been published in book form at the time of the conference. We would like to know if conference attendees would like that to continue or would prefer to have a searchable CD or both or neither. Please indicate your preference when you make your submission.

General Instructions

1. Please use **English** for submissions
2. Choose the type of submissions from the list on the website ([www.med.uni-jena.de/spr2003](http://www.med.uni-jena.de/spr2003))
3. Complete all the entry areas on the presented form on the website
4. All submissions require an **abstract** (see example). This has the listed elements:
  - a. **Type of presentation:**  
(Indicate Poster, Previewed Poster, Pre-Conference Workshop, etc.)
  - b. **Title:**  
(Required element for all types of submissions)
  - c. **Author(s):**
  - d. **Institutional affiliation(s):**  
(Include this element in Poster and Paper submissions **and** in the abstracts of **each** presentation in a Panel submission.)
  - e. **Moderator:**
  - f. **Participants:**
  - g. **Discussant:** (if one is to be included)
  - h. **Institutional affiliations:**  
(Use this element for the overall abstract that is required for Panel submissions)
  - i. **Contributor(s):**
  - j. **Institutional affiliation(s):**
  - k. **Educational goals:** (list at least three)  
(Use this element for Pre-Conference and Research Workshops)
  - l. **Discussion leaders:** Use this element for Open Discussion submissions
  - m. **Institutional affiliations:**  
(Use this element for Open Discussion submissions)
  - n. **Correspondence address:**  
(Include in all types of submissions. Give name and address of the person to whom correspondence should be sent; include email if available)
  - o. **Presentation Abstract**  
(Required element for all types of submissions. Maximum 200 words.)
  - p. **Keywords:**  
(Include in all types of submissions. List up to four words or brief phrases that characterize the proposed topic and content. This assists organizing presentations by themes/topics in sequential tracks. The illustrative list on the international SPR website ([www.psychotherapyresearch.org](http://www.psychotherapyresearch.org)) may help in allocating descriptive keywords)
  - q. **Audiovisual needs:**  
(Include in all submissions. See General Instruction 5)
  - r. **CE okay?:**  
(Element applies only to Pre-Conference and Research Workshops, Panels and Papers)
5. **Audiovisual Equipment.** We intend that projectors for PowerPoint (LCD) presentations will be available for all sessions (colleagues may need to bring laptops to link to the LCD projectors). Overhead and slide projectors, and video (VHS) players and monitors will be available but must be requested.
6. **Interaction and debate** are central to SPR meetings. Reserve at least one-third of time in any session for this.

Description of types of submission

- (1) **Posters or Previewed Posters.** Posters are appropriate for the full range of research reports, including completed projects, single case studies, pilot studies, and work-in-progress. They provide a good opportunity for detailed discussion with colleagues. Some poster sessions will be preceded by **preview**

sessions that consist of one-minute attention-capturing introductions by presenters that are intended to inform and entice potential viewers. Previews are often humorous or slightly surreal in content. The number of previews may have to be limited. **Submit:** One page abstract that includes elements specified for poster submissions. Be sure to indicate if the submission is for a "poster" or for a "previewed poster."

- (2) **Papers.** Papers are expected to be reports of **completed** studies. A paper presentation will be 15-20 minutes. Paper sessions will be 90-minutes and will consist of three paper presentations with 5-10 minutes of discussion allotted to each paper. The Program Council will designate moderators for paper sessions. **Submit:** One page abstract that includes elements specified for papers.
- (3) **Panels.** Panels should include three presentations focused on a common theme, or reporting different aspects of a large-scale research project. Panels will be 90-minutes and consist of three 15-20 minute presentations, with a minimum of 30 minutes for open discussion. Each panel should have a moderator (normally, the organizer of the panel, or another clearly relevant person) and three formal participants, e.g., three papers, or two papers and a prepared discussant. (If planning a panel with more than three planned participants, consider an open discussion session as a possible alternative.) Panels with international representation are strongly encouraged. If a panel features your research group, consider inviting a discussant from a different region. **Submit:** One page abstract that describes the panel as a whole *plus* separate one page abstracts for each presentation within the panel (be sure to include all elements specified for abstracts for panels).
- (4) **Plenary.** The Program Council would welcome offers of Plenaries. These will be substantial conference events and address a topic of wide importance. One or two presenters might give an overview of the topic or engage in a debate of contrasting positions. One third of the time would be devoted to questions and debate with the audience. Plenaries will be 90-minute occasions. **Submit:** One page abstract that includes elements specified for plenaries.
- (5) **Open Discussion.** This is an opportunity to gather a group of colleagues for an informal discussion of a specific topic in psychotherapy research. Two or three persons should be named who agree to lead the discussion, but who should not make formal presentations. **Submit:** One page abstract of the topic that includes elements specified for open discussion submissions.
- (6) **Pre-Conference Workshops.** Workshops will be held on the Wednesday (June 25) before the conference begins. They are intended to provide methodological information and training in specific areas of psychotherapy research. **Submit:** One page abstract that includes elements specified for pre-conference workshops. Also indicate the amount of time you want for the workshop (normally 2 or 3 hours).
- (7) **Research workshops.** These will be opportunities for researchers to discuss projects with others with similar interests and with experts in research design, implementation and analysis. There will be time to discuss two or three projects in each workshop. Presenters will be expected to present work in progress (five to ten minutes) and identify aspects with which they want help. The Program Council will group submissions to form a common focus for each Workshop. Workshops will be scheduled within the regular programme and will feature invited Research Consultants. **Submit:** One page abstract that includes elements specified for research workshops.

Additional Notes

- (1) Due to scheduling constraints, some submitters might be asked to shift presentation mode e.g. from paper to poster.
- (2) If you have no preference between presenting your work as a paper or poster, list the type of presentation as "Poster or Paper" but remember that paper submissions are expected to be reports of **completed** studies.
- (3) If you have an idea for a paper and would like to find other members to join you to create a panel on the topic, try putting a notice on SPR's listserver <[spr-l@sip.medizin.uni-ulm.de](mailto:spr-l@sip.medizin.uni-ulm.de)>. To subscribe, email to <[majordomo@sip.medizin.uni-ulm.de](mailto:majordomo@sip.medizin.uni-ulm.de)> the message "subscribe spr-l" in the body of the message (no quotes!).

## President's message

Dear Colleagues,

Ordinarily, the October Newsletter does not include a message from the President. This year, though, the Executive Council (EC) wants to follow through with the promised update to the membership on the Society's financial situation after the 2002 Santa Barbara conference.

In brief, the international SPR's balance sheet remains positive, i.e., in the "black" or the "blue" depending on the accounting jargon favored in your part of the world. All conference bills either have been paid or are in the process of being paid. (A few room rebates remain—apologies to a couple of our esteemed past-Presidents—your checks are almost in the mail.) However, we now know that the Society's financial reserve was substantially depleted by the need to cover conference expenses that exceeded recorded revenues. Depending upon which costs are included as "conference expenses" per se, the preliminary estimated loss as calculated by our Executive Officer (Paulo Machado) based on financial records that were forwarded to him from Santa Barbara ranges between about \$67,000-\$75,000.

How could a loss of that size occur, particularly an *unexpected* loss? The question is one that has preoccupied several members of your EC for some time now, especially given that the EC believed after its January, 2002, site meeting in Santa Barbara that the registration fees that it set with the Local Host Committee certainly would achieve a financial break even point for the conference. The EC even believed that a responsible financial "cushion" had been built into the conference budget for unanticipated expenses.

A simple, albeit concrete answer to part of the question posed above is that records indicate that conference revenues essentially covered only the contracted amount owed to the hotel (a \$99,000 "food and beverage minimum"). Thus, all basic conference expenses, such as local host staff costs, audiovisual equipment, all banquet costs other than food, the "attrition" fee, printing the programs and book of abstracts, postage, conference bags, etc., de facto became losses.

How, then, could the foregoing have happened? The attempt to develop a comprehensive and valid answer has been the primary

focus for several months of a subset of present and past EC members who had the most direct and detailed knowledge about various aspects of the 2002 conference as it unfolded from about 1999 forward. Pieces of the puzzle seem clear at this point but not all questions that have been raised have been answered. Progress on this front has been slower and more laborious than expected for several reasons. Be assured, though, that members of the EC and I are committed to reaching clarity on the matter and to bringing it to a responsible resolution. Furthermore, if the present strategy does not show promise of reaching resolution in a reasonable time, other approaches will be called for.

In the meantime, I believe that the membership can be confident that key contributing factors to the unanticipated 2002 loss are understood, and that the knowledge is being applied directly to the planning of the 2003 conference in Weimar, as Mark Aveline (Program Chair) and Bernhard Strauss (Conference Manager) move forward.

Among the things that the EC knows now that it did not when the last Newsletter went out (August) is that we need to develop a plan for rebuilding the Society's financial reserve. Mark Aveline, in his role as President-Elect, already has shown commitment to this task. If any of you have input on the topic (or any topic discussed in this message), please contact me (kmoras@nida.nih.gov) or any other member of the EC.

Now for an update on the chief business of our Society: We are really optimistic about our upcoming meeting in Weimar, a marvelous setting that is ideally suited to the needs and traditions of SPR. Please participate this year and contribute to our strong record of SPR conferences that are wonderfully rewarding in professional and personal ways. The Weimar 2003 conference website ([www.med.uni-jena.de/spr2003](http://www.med.uni-jena.de/spr2003)) is up and running with details about the meeting that are ready now. Also, in the Call for Papers you will note that Mark and Bernhard have introduced innovations for SPR 2003, both substantive (a new submission category, "research workshop") and technological (web-based submissions).

The EC looks forward to seeing you all in Weimar in June, 2003, if not before.

Warm wishes,  
Karla Moras, President

## Student travel awards

Student travel awards for presentations at the Weimar meeting are made separately by each regional chapter.

Contact the president of your regional chapter for these awards. Please be aware that different chapters have different deadlines and rules for applying to travel support.

You are strongly encouraged to contact your regional chapter president as soon as possible, if you are considering applying for such support.

Below please find email contacts:

### Europe:

Eva Baenninger-Huber <[eva.baenninger-huber@uibk.ac.at](mailto:eva.baenninger-huber@uibk.ac.at)>

### North America:

Louis Castonguay <[lgc3@psu.edu](mailto:lgc3@psu.edu)>

### South America:

Hector Fernandez-Alvarez <[hfa@aigle.org.ar](mailto:hfa@aigle.org.ar)>

### U.K.:

Glenys Parry <[g.d.parry@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:g.d.parry@sheffield.ac.uk)>

## SPR research awards

Each year, SPR makes two Achievement awards: one to a senior distinguished investigator and one to a promising investigator early in her or his research career.

We encourage everyone to nominate deserving individuals for these awards. Don't assume that someone else will nominate the person that deserves this year's award. The deadline for the submission of nominations is DECEMBER 1.

Informal inquiries may be made to any member of the awards selection committee, which is composed of the three most recent past presidents: Franz Caspar (committee chair), Bill Stiles, and Bill Piper.

Please send nominations to  
Franz Caspar, Ph.D.

Lehrstuhl Klinische Psychologie und Psychotherapie Psychologisches Inst., Universitaet Freiburg, Belfortstrasse 18, D 79098 Freiburg i. Br., GERMANY. Email: <[caspar@psychologie.uni-freiburg.de](mailto:caspar@psychologie.uni-freiburg.de)>.

A list of past winners of these awards is posted in the archive section of SPR's web site.

**REMEMBER: The deadline for the submission of nominations is DECEMBER 1.**

## News about members

Allen E. Bergin received the Virginia Staudt Sexton Mentoring Award from APA Division 36 (Religion)

Larry Beutler received a Presidential Citation from APA and is running for APA President in 2003.

Louis Castonguay was the 2002 recipient of the APA, Division 12 (Clinical Psychology), David Shakow Early Career Award.

Ellen Frank received the Distinguished Educator Award, From APA Division 12 (Society of Clinical Psychology), Section VIII (Association of Medical School Psychologists)

Marvin Goldfried received the prestigious 2001 APA Distinguished Contributions to Knowledge Award

Jeffrey A. Hayes received the Jack D. Krasner Award for Early Career Achievements from APA Division 29 (Psychotherapy)

Clara Hill received the Leona Tyler Award in 2001 from Division 17 (Counseling) of the American Psychological Association.

Mardi Horowitz was selected as the 2002 Franz Alexander Lecturer and Visiting Professor by the Cedars-Sinai Medical center, LA and the Southern California Psychoanalytic Institute and Society.

Michael Lambert won the 2001 Distinguished Psychologist of the Year, which was awarded by APA Division 29 (Psychotherapy)

## Future Meetings.

2004 International meeting:  
Rome, Italy, June 16 - 20,  
host: Anónio Semerari  
2005 International meeting:  
Montreal, Canada, host:  
Chris Perry

## SPR Web Site

WWW.  
psychotherapyresearch.  
org

## Weimar, Germany, the site of SPR 2003

By Bernhard Strauss, Local Host

I'm pleased to welcome you to Weimar (Germany) for the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the SPR from June 25 until June 29, 2003.

Weimar is an old town right in the center of Germany, easy to reach by car or train from all international airports. First mentioned in the year 975, Weimar is one of the most beautiful and culturally important cities of Germany. It has, for example, been the heart of the German classics hosting two of the most important German writers, Goethe and Schiller, for many years, it was the place where the Bauhaus was originally founded. Franz Liszt and Richard Strauss belong to the group of famous musicians who worked in Weimar at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Thanks to the fact that Weimar was awarded to serve as the „cultural capital of Europe“ in the year 1999, its infra-structure for conferences is optimal. Meanwhile, the city belongs to the most

popular conference cities in Germany. The modern conference center “Weimar-Halle” in the heart of the city will host the meeting. We have made an arrangement with the local Tourist Information that provides a wide selection of hotels within all categories, and bed & breakfast facilities. Most of them are in walking distance to the conference center. The city is charming (as some SPR members already can confirm!), has a variety of interesting museums, castles, theaters, good restaurants and several landscaped parks.

The local organizing committee has already built up a website for the conference: [www.med.uni-jena.de/SPR2003](http://www.med.uni-jena.de/SPR2003). We will continuously update this website and provide all information necessary, including registration, hotel reservation and submission of abstract.

Weimar, my team and I are happy to host you next year.

## News from chapters

### News from North America:

#### Get ready for Newport!

Based on the success of the Puerto Vallarta meeting, I am very much looking forward to the next NASPR meeting, which will take place in Newport RI, November 5-9 2003. Much more information will be provided in future newsletters but suffice it to say that Ben and Judy Johnson (our local hosts) have done a wonderful job at securing great deals with a top ranked hotel (the Hyatt Regency), as well as with a spectacular Mansion (Ocean Cliff) where our banquet will be held. Judy and Ben have been able to negotiate a room rate of \$129, per night, which is pretty amazing considering the fact that Newport is one of the premier resort communities in the United States. Lynne Angus (who, by the way, officially began her mandate of Vice-President Elect at the Santa Barbara meeting) will serve as the Program Chair, and we expect to send the call for papers to members in February 2003. In the meantime, make sure to mark your calendars for early November 2003, as this is a rendezvous with a site of spectacular natural beauty, rich history and exciting culture!

#### Local Area Meetings

Throughout the coming year, a number of SPR Local Area Groups will hold meetings. For more information, please feel free to contact the chairs of these groups: **Chicago** (D. Orlinsky, [dorlinsky@uchicago.edu](mailto:dorlinsky@uchicago.edu)); **Madison** (B. Wampold, [wampold@education.wisc.edu](mailto:wampold@education.wisc.edu)); **Mexico City** (M. Oliveres-Tarragona, [margarita@grupocamposeliseos.com](mailto:margarita@grupocamposeliseos.com)); **Mid-Atlantic** (J. Hayes, [jxh34@psu.edu](mailto:jxh34@psu.edu)); and **Ohio** (B. Stiles, [PsyThRes@muohio.edu](mailto:PsyThRes@muohio.edu)).

### News from South America:

The 5th. South American Conference on Empirical Psychotherapy Research of the South American Chapter of the Society for Psychotherapy Research, organized together with the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Psychotherapy Meeting of the Psychotherapy Committee of the Chilean Neurology and Psychiatric Society was highly successful. Over 200 professionals attended the Conference from 8 through 11 August at the Conference Town in

Reñaca, Viña del Mar a beautiful city at the seaside in Chile.

The Chair of the V South American Conference on Empirical Psychotherapy Research, Dr. Guillermo de la Parra, performed an outstanding task in making it possible to cover the expectations for the event entitled: Bridges and Views: building bridges between research and clinical areas.

Renowned SPR members were the keynote speakers. Dr. Robert Elliot, University of Toledo, United States referred to the development of Experiential Psychotherapy and its theoretical and empirical fundamentals. Also, in the special section “dialogues”, together with the Chilean professional Laura Moncada, he generously displayed his methodology design for hermeneutic effectiveness assessment in single case. Dr. Horst Kächele, University of Ulm, Germany presented on the influence of time and space on outcome results. He also held a discussion with Dr. Francisco O’Ryan from Chile on the therapeutic effect of transference interpretations. Dr. Eva Baenninger-Huber, University of Innsbruck, Austria centered the lecture on the study of micro processes of facial expression of therapists and patients in parallel with mothers’ and daughters’ expressions. Dr. Marina Altman, University of the Republic of Uruguay, Uruguay, showed how brief interventions in the mother/baby dyad promote changes in the attachment behaviors and the mother’s discourse. Dr. Héctor Fernández-Alvarez, Aigle Foundation, Argentina presented an updated international panoramic view of the studies on therapists’ variables.

During the Conference Dr. Marina Altman remembered with moving and heartfelt words the regrettable death of Dr. Sylvia Gril, honored member from Uruguay and former Vice President of the SPR South American Chapter.

Finally, during this fruitful dialogue between researchers and clinicians, the round tables, lectures, workshops and the social meetings with good jazz and Cuban dance helped building not only bridges between the research and clinical areas but also human links between professionals from different parts of the world and both under graduate and postgraduate students who participated in this meeting.

The next SPR South American Chapter meeting will be held in Buenos Aires, April 2005.

**\*\* SAMPLE ABSTRACT\*\***

**Type of presentation:** Paper

**Title:** Have Different Personality Disorders Different Profiles of Metacognitive Malfunctioning? And How Do They Vary During the Psychotherapeutic Process?

**Authors:** Antonio Semerari, A. Carcione, Giuseppe DiMaggio, Igor Pontalti, & M. Procacci

**Institutional affiliation:** III Centro di Psicoterapia Cognitiva, Rome

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**ABSTRACT**

Variations in metacognitive functions during the first year of psychotherapy of 10 patients diagnosed with personality disorder were evaluated. Analysis of 333 audio taped and transcribed sessions was done with the Metacognition Assessment Scale (MAS). The MAS is a tool that was created to individuate the different subfunctions (monitoring, differentiation, integration) that compose metacognitive activity and to evaluate their change during the therapeutic process.

The results suggest that in a personality disorder different profiles of metacognitive malfunctioning are present and that each subfunction is subject to different types of changes during the course of therapy.

The clinical relevance of differentiating the profiles is discussed.

**Keywords:** Personality disorders, cognition, therapeutic change

**Audiovisual needs:** Overhead projector

**CE okay?:** Yes