

SPR

SOCIETY FOR PSYCHOTHERAPY RESEARCH
an international, multidisciplinary, scientific organization

SPR
Newsletter,
2009:2

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SPR • 2010

Asilomar California

41st SPR International Meeting
June 23 - 27, 2010





Join Us at Asilomar in 2010!

We are excited about hosting the **41st Annual SPR International Meeting, June 23-27th** at Asilomar in the Monterey Bay area. The local organizing committee had quite a challenge – how to host an affordable and fun meeting in what is probably one of the most expensive areas in the world.

I think that you'll agree that we've succeeded when you come to the Asilomar Conference Center and experience the beauty of California's central coast. And because we're a large group, we'll have the entire oceanfront conference site (all 107 acres) to ourselves! From its historic buildings by famed architect Julia Morgan, to the Natural Dunes Preserve with its scenic vistas, wildflowers and white sandy beach, Asilomar Conference Center is literally a "refuge by the sea."

Just a short 2 hour drive south from San Francisco by car or shuttle, this tranquil retreat will be our home for 4 days. Here we'll stay in rooms, many of which look out to the ocean, dine in the spacious Crocker Hall, and meet in rooms with inspiring natural surroundings. Asilomar is a "destination conference site," which means that our evenings can be spent in the many lounges relaxing and renewing old friendships, and establishing new ones.

Local attractions include the world class Monterey Bay Aquarium on Cannery Row, the Museum of Natural History, Point Pinos Lighthouse and the Pacific Grove Art Center. To the south is the spectacular 17-mile scenic drive, Pebble Beach golf course and the very quaint town, Carmel by the Sea.

The Asilomar conference promises an innovative program (for clinicians and researchers alike), held at an incredibly beautiful setting, with an unbelievably affordable ALL INCLUSIVE housing plan. If you want to be assured of having a room of your own or of sharing a room with particular people, early registration will be essential! Room reservation details will be posted on the SPR Asilomar website in December and registration will open in January 2010.

The Local Organizing Committee and I look forward to hosting you in Asilomar (<http://www.visitasilomar.com/>).

George Silberschatz
Chair, Local Organizing Committee



Call for Submissions for the 41st International SPR Meeting in Asilomar, California, June 23-27, 2010

Lynne Angus (President-Elect & Program Council Chair), Michael Constantino, Robert Elliott, Martin Grosse Holtforth, Beatrice Gomez, Adam Horvath, Henny Westra, Gary Burlingame, Laurie Heatherington, Bernhard Strauss, with George Silberschatz (Asilomar Local Host), William West (Culture and Psychotherapy section chair), Guillermo de la Parra (General Vice President) and Sven Schneider (Webmaster).

The theme of the 41st annual international SPR meeting is “Therapeutic Relationships & Psychotherapy Outcomes: Future Directions for Psychotherapy Research, Practice and Training”. The Program Council encourages scientific proposals (applied and basic; quantitative and qualitative) that assess the contributions of therapeutic relationships – broadly defined – to effective outcomes in psychotherapy. Specifically, our intention is to stimulate a lively discussion regarding key conceptual, measurement and practice issues for the identification of promising new research directions and training strategies. Accordingly, presentations that address a wide range of topics that cohere with the conference theme, and facilitate discussion about future research directions and training initiatives, are particularly welcomed for submission.

In addition, the Program Council welcomes the full range of contributions to the field of psychotherapy, including reports of innovative research methods and empirical studies of varied treatment modalities (individual, couple, family, group, and milieu therapies), diverse patient populations (children, adolescents, adults, and seniors), a wide range of diagnostic and problem categories (e.g., effects of cultural, political or economic oppression and migration as well as various psychological/ psychosomatic disorders), and a broad spectrum of theoretical approaches (e.g., CBT, existential-humanistic, interpersonal, psychodynamic, and systemic).

Although preference in general will be given to presentation of completed studies, we also aim to foster discussion of research projects at various stages of development (especially in Structured Discussion Groups, Posters, and Brief Paper Sessions). In Panels, preference will be given to those that include

- (a) presentations on a topic common to different treatment approaches or research methods,
- (b) representatives from different research teams,
- (c) members from different countries, and
- (d) presenters at different career stages.

The official conference language will be English; all submissions should be made in English.

To accommodate the large number of proposals that are typically submitted for SPR meetings, we have modified the types of submissions: In addition to the usual Panels, Structured Discussion Groups, and Pre-Conference Workshops, we encourage the presentation of Posters and Brief Papers (8-10 min.) accompanied by distribution of printed material. To increase the value of Poster and Brief Paper sessions, the Program Council will organize them into groups by topic. A full description of each type of submission is provided below and can be found on the Asilomar conference website located on the Society’s home page : www.psychotherapyresearch.org.

Please read these descriptions carefully before submitting your work!

First authorship by an individual is limited to one presentation on a Panel or Brief Paper session. Other program formats such as Posters or Structured Discussion Groups are currently unrestricted, but this may change if required by limitations of time and space. However, please note that one person can be listed as a coauthor on multiple presentations so long as they are presented by different persons.

Program submissions will be accepted via the web beginning November 1, 2009. The deadline for submissions will be December 1, 2009 (by 23:59 in your time zone). Notification of acceptance will be sent toward the end of February 2010. From past experience we know that the processing of submissions is likely to become very slow close to the deadline due to heavy electronic traffic. We highly recommend that you submit your proposals as early as possible – not during the last 24 hours before the December 1st deadline!

The conference website can be reached by clicking on the “SPR Asilomar 2010” icon on the Society’s home page www.psychotherapyresearch.org. You will be

Call for Submissions (continued)

able to get information about types of submissions, and write and revise submissions. You will also be given a unique number to identify each submission. Please use this number when corresponding about your submission. During the submission period, and again after notice of acceptance, you will be able to review or to make changes to your submission by returning to the website. If you have any questions, requests, ideas or suggestions for the conference and its scientific program you may send an email to the Program Council chair Lynne Angus : prog2010@yorku.ca. If you need assistance regarding the use of the web page you may send an email to support@psychotherapyresearch.org. The local organizing committee can be reached at spr2010@sbcglobal.net.

Submission Format

Stage and type of work. You will be asked to identify the type (e.g., empirical, qualitative, etc.) of your work and the stage of its development. This will help the Program Council to organize sessions and inform potential attendees more fully about the expected content. However, we strongly recommend considering communicating with other members in order to organize panels that reflect your own interests.

Abstract. Structure the abstract with headings: Aim, Methods, Results, Discussion. Keep your abstract under 250 words to prevent it from being cut arbitrarily by the computer. Please provide an overview of the session as a whole for panels, pre-conference workshops, and structured discussion sessions. For panels, an abstract must also be submitted for each paper included in the panel. You will find an example of a panel submission illustrating the structure of abstracts on the conference website. Abstracts may be returned or rejected by the Program Council if they do not conform to submission requirements. Your attention to the requested format is therefore greatly appreciated. Abstracts will be published on the conference SPR website, and in hardcopy for purchase at the conference. Please note

that presenters are responsible for correcting typos (and any other errors) as the Program Council will not make corrections of any kind.

Please remember that a central purpose of SPR is to foster discussion between members, and it is essential that presenters leave ample time for discussion of their work. A minimum of 20 minutes in each 90-minute session should be reserved for open discussion with members in the audience, which means that presentations be limited to 20 minutes (if there are three) or 15 minutes (if there are four).

Furthermore, we encourage the inclusion of panel discussants who can provide a distinctive research and/or clinical perspective on the panel presentations, and in keeping with the conference theme, encourage discussion regarding the implications of research findings for future psychotherapy research and training initiatives.

We also strongly recommend that authors submit coherently organized Panels, as stand alone presentations will be designated Brief Papers and limited to 8-10 minutes. Depending on the number of submissions and possible time constraints, it may be necessary for the Program Council to request that those who make submissions consider changing the venue for presentation (e.g., oral presentation to poster).

Finally, if you have an idea for a panel or other collaboration, please consider using the SPR mailing list (list@psychotherapyresearch.org) to find colleagues with similar interests. It is our experience that in most cases, well-integrated panels with authors from different research groups have the largest attendance. To subscribe to the list, go to the Society's home page and follow the "Contact" link.

CE credits: SPR and NASPR will again provide CE credits in collaboration with the San Francisco Psychotherapy Research Group (an APA approved CE provider). Registration for CE credits will take place exclusively on site. The non-refundable fee of \$25.00 US can be paid with cash or check during conference registration.

We are looking forward to receiving your program proposals and seeing you at Asilomar next June!



Types of Submissions for the 41st International SPR Meeting in Asilomar, USA June 23-27, 2010

Types of submissions

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 interested colleagues. We will try to group the posters by topic to stimulate discussion and exchange of ideas. Poster dimensions should approximate 32" x 40". Please keep in mind that many attendees will appreciate receiving a handout summarizing your research findings.

Brief Papers

Brief papers are expected to be 8-10 minute reports about ongoing or completed studies. Brief paper sessions will be 90 minutes and will consist of five to six short communications, with 5 minutes for discussion allotted to each presentation. The Program Council will designate moderators for the sessions. If it proves difficult to schedule all submissions of brief papers, the Program Council may request you to consider presenting your work as a poster (see above).

Panels

Panels should include three to four presentations focused on a common theme, or reporting different aspects of a large-scale research project. Panels with international representation are strongly encouraged and will be preferred. Panels will be 90 minutes with a minimum of 20 minutes for open discussion. Each panel should have a moderator (normally the organizer of the panel, or another relevant person). Panels with two or three papers are expected to have a prepared discussant. We encourage the inclusion of panel discussants who can provide a distinctive research and/or clinical perspective on the panel

presentations, and in keeping with the Asilomar conference theme, encourage discussion regarding the implications of research findings for future psychotherapy research and training initiatives.

Structured Discussions

These are meant to provide an opportunity for a group of colleagues to discuss a specific topic in psychotherapy research (e.g., specific methods, theories, new developments, disorders, socio-cultural aspects, etc.). A number of persons should be named who agree to lead the discussion. Sessions should be structured by having each designated discussant give a position statement (of maximally 5 minutes) on the theme to elicit active participation from audience members.

Pre-Conference Workshops

Workshops will be held on the afternoon prior to the evening session that opens the conference (i.e., Wednesday afternoon). In order to continue to foster collaboration between psychotherapy researchers and practitioners, two types of pre-conference workshops are encouraged. The first type will be intended to provide training in specific areas of psychotherapy research and in advanced research methods. The second type of workshop will involve the active collaboration of clinicians and researchers and could entail the clinical presentation of an assessment or treatment method that is followed by a discussion (led by an expert researcher) on how best to empirically study or validate the clinical procedures described. Alternatively, a workshop could also feature the description of research and/or statistical methods, to be followed by a discussion (led by an expert clinician) on the clinical implications of the empirical procedures described. Submissions should indicate the amount of time desired for the workshop (normally 2 or 3 hours).

Looking forward to seeing you in
Asilomar, California, USA!
June 23-27, 2010

SPR Student Poster Award

The first annual SPR Student Poster Award competition will be held at the upcoming SPR Conference in Asilomar, California, USA, June 23-27, 2010. Three student poster prizes will be awarded—first place \$500.00; second place \$300.00; third place \$200.00. An international jury of SPR members will select the most inventive and scientifically convincing studies that demonstrate excellence in poster design. To be eligible for participation in the competition, a student must be the first author of the poster; a current member in good standing with SPR; and indicate their wish to participate in the competition at the time of the abstract submission.

SPR Student Travel Awards

European Chapter

Members of the European chapter: Applications for student travel awards should be submitted to the chapter president, Prof. Wolfgang Tschacher (Universität Bern, Laupenstrasse 49, 3010 Bern, Schweiz), preferably by e-mail tschacher@spk.unibe.ch. The application should include a cover letter, an abstract of the submitted presentation, and a short CV; it may include, if available, a pdf of the presentation and/or a recommendation letter. Please apply before January 1st, 2010.

Latin American Chapter

The Latin American Chapter will award three \$200 travel awards to students from Latin America who present a paper or poster, or who participate in a panel at the Meeting. Application is restricted to first authors. Students should send a copy of the presentation to the Chapter President by the time of its submission to SPR. A Committee formed by the current Chapter president and two past-presidents will choose the winners.

North American Chapter

The NASPR chapter has implemented a policy whereby student members of NASPR do not need to formally apply for travel awards. All papers or posters for which current student members are first authors are automatically reviewed by a selection committee for a potential travel award. Students who wish to be considered for an award should make sure that their SPR membership is current. Recent committees have given preference to work that is empirical (vs. theoretical/conceptual) and completed or likely to be completed at the time of the meeting.

United Kingdom Chapter

Students and those earning below 18k p.a. may apply for financial support to attend the UK and international meetings by sending their applications to thomas.schroder@nottingham.ac.uk. Include the conference submission, CV and details of support requested. Decisions of the chapter steering group are final and awards are paid in arrears on receipt of evidence of attendance, an invoice for the awarded sum, and a brief report on the conference. Deadline for Ravenscar: 01/12/09, decision by 31/12/09; for Asilomar : 01/01/10 , decision by 02/02/10.

President's Corner: Louis Castonguay

I want to begin this column by congratulating Guillermo de la Parra for having been elected as the General Vice President (GVP) of SPR. There is no doubt in my mind that our organization will be in good hands under Guillermo's leadership. On behalf of SPR, I also want to thank Leigh McCullough and Christopher Perry for their willingness to be candidates in our last election. This election provided our members with a unique opportunity to choose between three outstanding candidates, and all of us are grateful for Chris' and Leigh's continued dedication to psychotherapy research and the growth of our organization.

In addition to electing a new GVP (and future President), members also voted to approve changes in the SPR bylaws aimed at facilitating the creation and development of special interest sections. The approval of these changes is particularly timely, considering Jan Karlsson's current effort at organizing a new special interest section on psychotherapy training (if you want to join this group or get more information about it, please send an email to Jan at jan.karlsson@sll.se).

I also want to briefly mention some initiatives related to the goals of my presidential mandate, which I described in the last newsletter. One of these goals is to solidify or develop links with organizations that have convergent or complementary interests with those of SPR. The *Society for the Exploration of Psychotherapy Integration* (SEPI) can certainly be viewed as a "cousin" (if not "sibling") of SPR, and creative efforts have been made in the recent past to foster a closer relationship between the two organizations. For example, members of SPR can register at SEPI conferences at the SEPI member rates, and vice versa. In order to further facilitate a rapprochement (and hopefully increase cross-membership), I have invited the Steering Committee of SEPI to post in this newsletter a description of its organization. In the spirit of reciprocity, the description of SPR that appeared in our last newsletter will also be posted on SEPI list serve. I am also happy to report that Shelley McMains (a member of the SEPI Steering Committee and, of course, an important contributor to SPR) has agreed to organize a panel for the next SPR meeting where important leaders of SEPI will be presenting scholarly works on psychotherapy integration that will be of great interest to SPR members. Shelley has also agreed to organize a panel at a future SEPI meeting where leading figures of SPR will be presenting current psychotherapy research that is likely to be relevant to SEPI members. The timing of these collaborative initiatives seems to be particularly exciting considering the recent plea voiced by Marv Goldfried (one of the co-founders of SEPI and, of course, former president of



SPR) for SEPI to give more emphasis to one of its original goals: Fostering the integration between research and practice (see Goldfried, M. R. (2009). Making evidence-based practice work: The future of psychotherapy Integration. *Psychotherapy Bulletin*, 44, 25-28). This is, needless to say, one of the *raison d'être* of SPR.

Another effort of rapprochement that will take place at the next SPR meeting in Asilomar will involve the Society for Research in Psychopathology (SRP). Tom Oltmanns (the current president of SRP) and I will organize a panel where leading researchers will be presenting experimental findings in abnormal psychology that have direct relevance to psychotherapy practice and research. This panel will be based on a book that Tom and I are co-editing and that involves the collaboration of psychopathology and psychotherapy scholars (including several members of SPR). The book is aimed at creating a new bridge between science and clinical practice by delineating clinical implications from experimental research in psychopathology that therapists from different

President's Corner (continued)

orientations can use in their case formulations and treatment plans (as well to generate new directions for research in the etiology and maintenance of different forms of psychopathology based on psychotherapy observations, theories, and findings).

In line with my goal of fostering young scholars' engagement in SPR, I also plan to organize a structured discussion between young and senior scholars of SPR for the next meeting in Asilomar. This will be a sequel for a discussion that Guillermo de la Parra and I co-chaired at the Chile meeting where students and senior members of SPR, all from different countries of South America, exchanged ideas about what they viewed as some of the most influential research programs in psychotherapy. Giving voices to young scholars not only highlighted fascinating convergences and divergences with the opinions of more senior researchers, but also allowed for the prediction of future directions of research – which they will no doubt shape. The structured discussion at the next SPR meeting will involve young scholars from various regions of SPR as well as luminaries of SPR who are featured in a book soon to

be published. This book, which I am co-editing with Chris Muran, Lynne Angus, Jeff Hayes, Nick Ladany, and Tim Anderson, is aimed at showing the relevance of research conducted at SPR to clinicians, students, and psychotherapy scholars who do not frequently attend SPR meetings. The book, to be published by APA books, is planned to be out before the next SPR meeting -- therefore, many of you will be able buy a copy and help us to pay tribute to the contribution of 28 leading contributors of SPR and psychotherapy research.

More initiatives related to my goals of fostering closer relationships with cousin organizations, bridging the gap between researchers and clinicians, and furthering the engagement of young scholars will be described in the next newsletter. In the meantime, I strongly encourage you to read the Young Scholars column written by Kim de Jong (where she describes the creation of a new student poster award that she spearheaded), as well as to prepare your submission for the next SPR meeting in Asilomar!



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Asilomar California

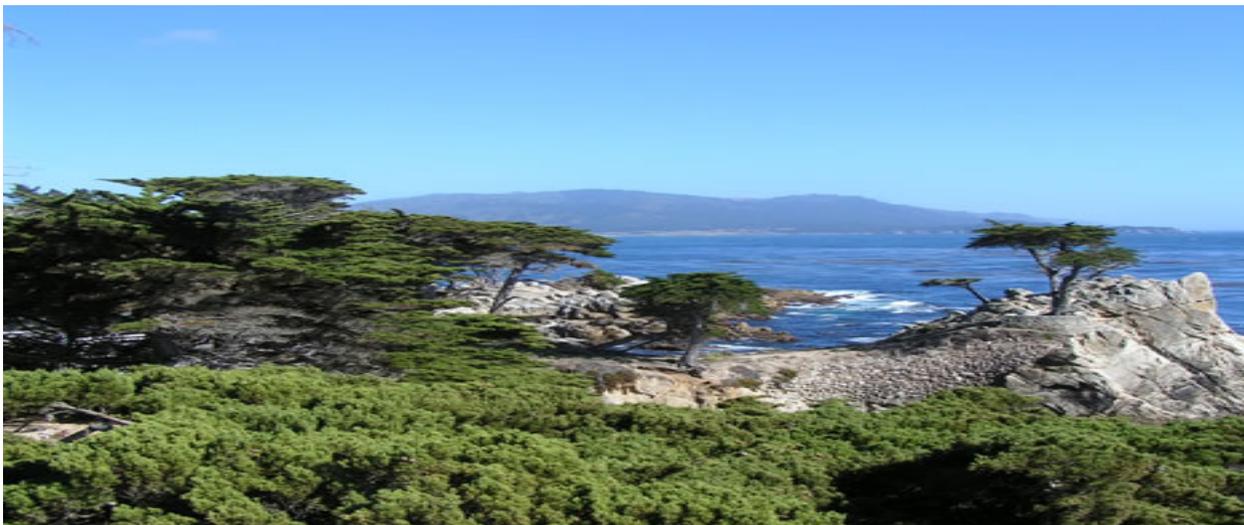
Important Deadlines for SPR Members:
November 1, 2009 — Start of On-line Submissions
December 1, 2009 — Conference Submissions Due
December 31, 2009 — Early Bird Membership Rate for 2010 Ends*

*Go to www.psychotherapyresearch.org to renew online or to download a renewal form. Paper renewals will not be mailed this year.

Guillermo de la Parra Elected General Vice President

I feel very honored to have been elected as General Vice President of our Society. I am very grateful to my colleagues and friends for their active support. For me, being the first Latin American to be elected represents a unique opportunity but also a great responsibility. In my statement, I spoke about building bridges between cultures and between clinicians and researchers. As such, I want to foster the integration of scientific groups that are not part of SPR. In addition, I want to continue the work of my predecessors by inviting clinicians to join us; building on the successful experience of the 40th International SPR Meeting, where a significant number of clinicians learned from our scientific discussions and contributed with their specific perspectives.

I hope that my election will contribute to the continued growth in the internationalization of SPR.



Mark Your Calendar!!

2010 International Meeting: Asilomar, USA—June 23-27, 2010
2011 International Meeting: Bern, Switzerland—June 29-July 2, 2011

Call for Nominees for the 2010 International SPR Awards: Distinguished Research Career and Outstanding Early Career Achievement

Bernhard Strauss

Each year, SPR considers making achievement awards: one to a **senior distinguished investigator** and one to **promising investigators early in their research careers**. Every SPR member is encouraged to nominate deserving individuals for the awards. Don't assume that someone else will nominate deserving individuals this year. Such assumptions can lead to deserving researchers being passed over for an award. Similarly, nominees do not need to be SPR members but they need to be Psychotherapy Researchers. The deadline for the submission of nominations is **DECEMBER 1, 2009**.

A list of past winners is posted on the International SPR web-site (www.psychotherapyresearch.org, "About the Society" link, then click "Awards").

Informal inquiries may be made to any member of the awards selection committee, which is composed of the three most recent past presidents: Bernhard Strauss (Chair), Bernhard.strauss@med.uni-jena.de, Jacques P. Barber, Barberj@mail.med.upenn.edu; and Erhard Mergenthaler erhard.Mergenthaler@uni-ulm.de.

Distinguished Research Career Award. This award reflects a lifetime of scientific work that constitutes a major and significant contribution to psychotherapy research. The primary criterion for this award is the scientific merit of the nominee's contribution. To make a nomination, the nominator prepares three sets of the supporting documents. The nominator sends one set to each member of the Awards Committee. The documents are: (a) a copy of the nominee's curriculum vitae; (b) copies of six of the most important papers or books, (c) at least three letters of recommendation (one from the nominator) attesting to the quality, significance, and impact of the nominee's research. The three recommenders should represent more than one institution. All of the materials, except for the publications, should be in English. If the publications are not in English, please include an abstract of each in English.

Outstanding Early Career Achievement Award. The early career award is granted no more than 9 years after the person has completed his or her main research training. The award should reflect the person's productivity as well as promise in making scientific contributions to psychotherapy research. To make a nomination, the nominator prepares three sets of the supporting documents. The nominator sends one set to each member of the Awards Committee. The documents are: (a) a copy of the nominee's curriculum vitae; (b) a personal statement from the nominee that summarizes his/her program of research; (c) copies of four representative publications (the nominee should be the first author on some of these publications); (d) at least three letters of recommendation (one from the nominator) attesting to the quality, significance, and promise of the nominee's work. The three recommenders should represent more than one institution. All of the materials, except for the publications, should be in English. If the publications are not in English, please include an abstract of each in English.

Please send nominations to Bernhard Strauss, Friedrich-Schiller-University, 3 Stoystrasse, D 07740 Jena, Germany (email: Bernhard.strauss@med.uni-jena.de), Jacques P. Barber, Center for Psychotherapy Research, Department of Psychiatry, University of Pennsylvania, Room 648, 3535 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA (email barberj@mail.med.upenn.edu); Prof. Dr. Erhard Mergenthaler, University of Ulm, Am Hochstraess 8, 89081 Ulm (email erhard.mergenthaler@uni-ulm.de)

It is neither necessary nor recommended for the material to be in printed form. **E-mail submissions and attachments are preferable.**

Student Views

Kim de Jong

GGZ Noord-Holland-Noord, The Netherlands

I came to the SPR conference for the first time at Edinburgh in 2006, a little anxious to be on my own, not knowing anyone except Michael Lambert, who happened to be the president at that time. I said to myself, "Well, if I need to know anyone, it might as well be the president!" I was pleasantly surprised by almost everything at the conference (except the haggis), and the really nice people I seemed to meet. It was great meeting the researchers whose articles I had read. The best part, however, was making friends amongst the students there. I had met a German student on the plane who was also on her own and at the conference we were both immediately adopted by the Swiss students. I ran into a couple of other Dutch students, joked around with the Scottish ones who were helping at the conference and before I knew it, felt like I was friends with half the students who were there. This process more or less repeated itself in Madison, Barcelona and Santiago.

As I really enjoyed the company of other students at the conference, I started thinking that it might be nice to have a way for students to be able to contact each other in a low-key fashion. It would be great to exchange ideas, or post questions that you need help on, but not necessarily want all of SPR to know of. It so happened that the Executive Committee wanted to have more student involvement in SPR, so when I applied to get a student e-mail list (students@psychotherapyresearch.org), I was asked if I wanted to be moderator of the Student Section at the website as well. I liked the idea of having a student section a lot, so I consented. One thing led to another and before I knew it I was browsing the web comparing student sections of other societies. I then realized that SPR did not have a proper student award. There were travel awards, but those were all at the chapter level, and an international student award was missing. I discussed this with a couple of fellow SPR-students and they were enthusiastic about the idea, so I decided to talk to my European Chapter president about it. He was supportive and this motivated me to start talking to people about it.

Great as it was to discuss the idea with people, it also made me realize that it was not as simple as I had anticipated. First, both native and non-native speakers needed to have equal chances. Second, there are different demands for dissertations in different countries, but this should not result in unequal chances for the awards. There were so many different options that it was impossible for me to choose by myself. Some senior members were kind enough to give me



At Arthur's Seat, 37th SPR International Meeting
Edinburgh, Scotland 2006

some insight into SPR politics (even SPR has politics), that I realized I needed to get support from more people if I really wanted to accomplish this. So I wrote up a proposal and appealed to all students for support. Many students got their supervisors to support the idea and we ended up having supporters from all chapters. And it worked! The EC has decided to introduce not one, but three (!) Student Poster Awards, starting at next year's conference. You can read about it on page 6 in this newsletter. So let me use this space to call on all students to compete. The better the competition, the better value the award is after all!



Society for the Exploration of Psychotherapy Integration

Dear Colleagues and Students,

We are writing to invite you to consider joining an innovative, international organization - the Society for the Exploration of Psychotherapy Integration (SEPI). SEPI is an interdisciplinary organization of professionals interested in research and practice that is not limited to a single school of psychotherapy. Instead, our emphasis is on bridging multiple theoretical perspectives. The original organizers of the SEPI include: Marvin Goldfried, Paul Wachtel, George Stricker, and Barry Wolfe. SEPI is a unique organization in that it provides an opportunity for clinicians and researchers to discuss, write, research, and otherwise share innovative ideas bridging disciplinary, theoretical, and methodological perspectives in psychotherapy.

In addition to sponsoring annual meetings (the last one was in May, 2009 in Seattle, with upcoming conferences planned for Florence, Italy, Washington DC, and Chicago), SEPI publishes a journal - the *Journal of Psychotherapy Integration (JPI)* - which was founded in 1991 and is currently published by the American Psychological Association. Recent *JPI* articles include: "Integratively Oriented Brief Psychotherapy", "[Positive emotions in psychotherapy theory, research, and practice: New kid on the block?](#)", "Integration of Between-Session (Homework) Activities into Psychotherapy", "The functional hypothesis: A family systems contribution toward an understanding of the healing process of the common factors", "Activation of Self-Observation: A core process Among the Psychotherapies", "Anxiety, Consciousness, and Self-Acceptance: Placing the Idea of Making the Unconscious Conscious in an Integrative Framework", "Changing the Dialogue Between Self Voices During Psychotherapy", "Integrative Cognitive Therapy for Depression: A Preliminary Investigation", and "Integrative Psychotherapy in Addictive Disorders".

Recent SEPI conference programs included panels, keynotes, plenaries, and workshops including: "Psychotherapy of Borderline Personality Disorder: Treatment Non- Responders" (Shelley McMain, John Clarkin, Alberta Pos, Paul Links, David Streiner); "Integrating Emotional Change Processes into Treatment" (Les Greenberg, Lars Auszra, and Imke Hermann); and "Relational psychoanalysis and psychotherapy integration" (Paul Wachtel).

SEPI has begun to recognize outstanding dissertation projects as well as achievements of more advanced young researchers by sponsoring two awards of \$500 each. The recipient of the dissertation award presents her/his work at the SEPI conference following the completion of the dissertation. The winner of the young researcher award presents at the SEPI conference following the election for the award. Please be aware that the **deadline for nominations is February 1st** of each year. Every SEPI member is entitled to nominate a person falling in one of the categories. The rules can be read at <http://www.cyberpsych.org/sepi/awards.htm>.

SEPI membership is relatively inexpensive (\$59 annually and \$29 for students). Benefits of membership include the receipt of the *Journal of Psychotherapy Integration*, and reduced registration fees at the annual conference.

For more information about SEPI and membership application, contact Dr. George Stricker at geostricker@comcast.net or visit www.sepiweb.com

Sincerely,

SEPI membership committee