

EA-OHP summit meeting

By Irvin Sam Schonfeld and Jonathan Houdmont

From now on the newsletters of SOHP and EA-OHP will each allocate space to a report from the other organisation, to be called 'Across the Pond'. This report is the first of those articles.

On March 6, 2008 at the APA/NIOSH/SOHP Conference on Work, Stress, and Health in Washington, DC, the executive committees and other involved members of the Society for Occupational Health Psychology and the European Academy of Occupational Health Psychology held a summit meeting. The gathering was the latest in an ongoing series that began at the EA-OHP Dublin 2006 conference. The main discussion points and outcomes of interest to members are presented here.

Conference coordination

One of the meeting's key objectives was to enhance the coordination of the activities of both organizations as well as members' benefits. Agreement was reached that the organizations will run international



Lef-right: Birgit Greiner, Peter Chen, Irvin Schonfeld, Tom Cox, Stavroula Leka, Evelyn Kortum, Aditya Jain, Gwen Keita, Joe Mazzola, Bob Sinclair, Mo Wang, Robert Henning, Yueng-hsiang (Emily) Huang, Chris Cunningham, Steve Sauter, Carrie Bulger, Janet Barnes-Farrell, Jonathan Houdmont (behind camera).

conferences on alternate years to ensure a well-paced and accessible conference calendar. As such, the next SOHP/APA/NIOSH conference will take place in November 2009 (Puerto Rico), followed by an EA-OHP conference in March 2010 (possibly Rome). The 2011 SOHP/APA/NIOSH conference is scheduled for March of that year, to be followed by an EA-OHP conference in the spring of 2012 (possibly Zurich). The possibility of an eventual joint conference outside Europe and North America was also discussed and held to be an objective worthy of further investigation.

Reciprocal journal subscription rates

Discussion also centred on the question of whether it might be feasible to offer SOHP and EA-OHP members discounted individual subscriptions to both Work & Stress and the Journal of Occupational Health Psychology. Taylor & Francis, publisher of Work & Stress, has agreed, in principle, to offer SOHP members individual subscriptions to the journal at the same discounted rate as currently offered to EA-OHP members. SOHP intends to liaise with the American Psychological Association to investigate whether a reciprocal arrangement might be possible in respect of the Journal of Occupational Health Psychology.

International Coordinating group

In recognition of the rapid pace at which the discipline of occupational health psychology has developed in recent times and the challenges presented by such change, it was agreed to re-establish the International Coordinating Group (ICG-OHP). The ICG was first established almost a decade ago with the aim of coordinating international developments in research, education and professional practice. However, in the intervening years the ICG has existed in the shadow of the discipline's North American and European representative bodies. A web domain has been purchased for the ICG (www.icg-ohp.org) which will initially include representatives from EA-OHP, SOHP, APA, NIOSH, Work & Stress and the Journal of

Occupational Health Psychology. It is anticipated that one of the ICG's main activities will involve supporting the establishment of new regional representative bodies and the coordination of their activities on the international stage alongside those of established groups.

Joint research

A landmark was achieved at the Washington conference with the first piece of joint EA-OHP – SOHP research taking place. Together, the EA-OHP Education Forum with the SOHP Education and Training Committee disseminated a survey to all conference participants that sought to define a core educational curriculum for OHP. The survey further aimed to identify core competencies of professional practice in the domain. The survey was supplemented with a round-table discussion. Both elements are to be repeated at the EA-OHP Valencia conference in November 2008. The research is considered important for the possible future development of program

accreditation and professional licensing arrangements.

Newsletters

The imperative for excellent networks for the communication of SOHP and EA-OHP activities was highlighted by the meeting. It was agreed that individuals and organizations should be encouraged to post messages for the OHP community to both the SOHP and EA-OHP ListServe distribution lists. Agreement was also reached on the coordinated publication and dissemination of the SOHP and EA-OHP newsletters. As a first step, each newsletter will contain an 'across the pond' column charting recent developments in each constituency. Both organizations also agreed to update their website links to one another's websites and to maintain 'forthcoming events' sections.

Next meeting

The next SOHP - EA-OHP summit meeting will be at the EA-OHP conference in Valencia in November 2008.

Support offered for developing regional chapters

Over the last few years, a number of regional networks have started to emerge informally within the Academy. Such networks have the key task of creating links among OHP specialists within a region and with the local community. One of these is the Irish Chapter (IEA-OHP), which has been successful in promoting OHP in Ireland through local seminars and other initiatives. For information, contact Birgit Greiner, University College Cork, Ireland: b.greiner@ucc.ie).

The Academy External Relations team can provide initial financial support to new Chapters to kick-start their activities. Up to €1,500 will be made available for the support of Chapter initiatives (maximum €500 per application). If you are considering organising a national or regional event or group under the auspices of the Academy, please contact Maria Karanika-Murray (maria.karanika-murray@nottingham.ac.uk). For additional details please go to: <http://www.ea-ohp.org/News/index.asp>.

Have you told us about your expertise?

The Academy is developing a database of expertise among its members. This database will (1) help boost the exchange of knowledge and possible collaborations among members and (2) be used by external organisations that seek to identify OHP experts through the Academy.

We have posted a survey on the Academy's website that will help us identify the rich expertise represented in the Academy and will facilitate the exchange and development of knowledge and practice.

If you would like to complete it the survey please go to:

<http://www.ea-ohp.org/News/index.asp>

For further information on the database of expertise please contact Maria Karanika-Murray:

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