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Irvin Sam Schonfeld
CUNY Graduate Center

Jonathan Houdmont
University of Nottingham

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Across the Pond: EA-OHP—SOHP Summit Meeting

Irvin Sam Schonfeld
The City College of CUNY

Jonathan Houdmont
University of Nottingham

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.

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 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 of Europe and North America was also discussed and held to be an objective worthy of further investigation.

Discussion also centered on the question of whether it might be feasi-

ble 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*.

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 reestablish 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.

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.

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.

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



Jonathon Houdmont
University of
Nottingham

"...the organizations will run international conferences on alternate years to ensure a well-paced and accessible conference calendar."



Our picture shows, from left to 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).