

2017

# How the SOHP Newsletter got started and got going

Irvin Sam Schonfeld  
*CUNY Graduate Center*

## How does access to this work benefit you? Let us know!

Follow this and additional works at: [https://academicworks.cuny.edu/cc\\_pubs](https://academicworks.cuny.edu/cc_pubs)

 Part of the [Health Psychology Commons](#), and the [Industrial and Organizational Psychology Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Schonfeld, I.S. (2017). How the SOHP Newsletter got started and got going. *Newsletter of the Society for Occupational Health Psychology*, 17, 8-9.

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the City College of New York at CUNY Academic Works. It has been accepted for inclusion in Publications and Research by an authorized administrator of CUNY Academic Works. For more information, please contact [AcademicWorks@cuny.edu](mailto:AcademicWorks@cuny.edu).

## SOHP Newsletter History Irvin Sam Schonfeld, City College and the Graduate Center, City University of New York

In March 2006, the Work, Stress, and Health conference was taking place in Miami. The conference was sponsored by the American Psychological Association and the National Institute for Occupational Health. The Society for Occupational Health Psychology, which would eventually become a co-sponsor of the conference, was two years old. Leslie Hammer, the first president of SOHP, was leaving office. Peter Chen would soon step into the role of president.

Peter asked me to meet with him during a lunch break. He said to me that SOHP, like other learned societies, should have a newsletter to communicate news to the members. We agreed that a newsletter should communicate both organization- and OHP-related news to our membership. I added that non-members who share an interest in our discipline would also appreciate such a newsletter. Peter asked me to organize and edit what would become the newsletter that published this feature. I agreed to do it. I was eager to help our organization, and advance our discipline.

It took about one year to get the newsletter running. I spent time reading newsletters published by existing learned societies in order to get ideas. My most important aims were to establish a set of goals for the newsletter and to bring on board associates who could help me produce the publication. Joe Hurrell and Kizzy Parks agreed to become associate editors. Janet Barnes-Farrell and Kim Davies-Schriels agreed to work on the layout. Janet got the newsletter a home on a University of Connecticut server. By the third issue Janet and I decided that she and Kim or Kim's replacement should be called what they really were, namely, production editors. Leslie Golay stepped into the role Kim had held. The composition of the editorial team changed over nine issues I published. At one point or another the editorial and production team included a number of other individuals who have been associated with OHP, including Jennifer Bunk, Lori Francis, and Tim Bauerle, and one person from outside of OHP, Alfred Rosenblatt, a personal friend who had recently retired from his job as editor of the IEEE Spectrum magazine. Fortunately for me, Janet Barnes-Farrell stayed with the Newsletter through the nine issues that constituted my term as editor, a term that ended in October 2010. For all the members of that editorial team, I am grateful for their help. While assembling a team, I also concentrated on the goals of the newsletter. My first and foremost goal, as per my original conversation with Peter, was to communicate information that would be useful to the SOHP membership as well as nonmembers interested in our discipline. With that goal in mind, I commissioned articles on publishing in the *Journal of Occupational Health Psychology* (vols. 1 and 2), news of the WSH, EAOHP, and ICOH-WOPS conferences (conference articles and announcements are found in almost every issue), committee reports, book announcements, and so forth.

I also commissioned more focused articles on topics such as identifying optimal publication outlets for OHP researchers (vol. 7), successful workplace wellness programs (vols. 1, 2, and 3), and understanding the statistical concept of mediation (vol. 9).

My second goal was to keep our readers informed about OHP-related aspects of major news events. In that vein, I commissioned articles on contemporary concerns such as the problem of suicide in the military (vol. 6), the impact of the Great Recession on people's lives (vols. 5, 6, and 7), mental health in 9/11 first responders (vol. 4), and the impact of involuntary job loss (vol. 9).

My third goal was to highlight the activities of institutions that are important to sustaining OHP. I commissioned a series of articles on OHP-related research conducted at NIOSH (vols. 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9). It has been important to me to spotlight the fine work that the people at NIOSH have been engaged in. In another series of articles, I put a spotlight on doctoral programs that trained graduate students in OHP. I thus commissioned articles on training programs at the Colorado State University (vol. 4), Portland State University (vol. 5), the University of Connecticut (vol. 6), University of Houston (vol. 7), Clemson University (vol. 8), and Kansas State University (vol. 9). It gives me great pleasure to know that this series has continued under the new editors.

My fourth goal was to publish articles about the history of our discipline and our organization, although I was not as successful as I wanted in meeting this goal. In the first issue, Leslie Hammer and I published an historical article on the events leading to the founding of SOHP. Other history-related articles addressed the history of the European Academy of Occupational Health Psychology (vol. 7), the origins of the term "occupational health psychology" (vol. 8), and the founding of the *Journal of Occupational Health Psychology* (vol. 9). I have been concerned that some of our history will be lost as memories fade, and some of us retire or die. It is important that we preserve our past so that we can learn from it and build on it. I fault myself for not publishing more articles on our history. I tried to make up for that gap in another way. The first chapter of a recently published book on OHP covers our history (<http://www.springerpub.com/occupational-health-psychology.html>).

I also had a ragbag of more minor goals. I will identify three. One is that I tried, and largely failed, to use the Newsletter to spark SOHP members to contribute to OHP-related entries in Wikipedia (vols. 7 and 8). My idea was that because the encyclopedia is used by a great many high school and college students, I thought representation on Wikipedia would spur students to take our courses and, even, pursue careers in OHP. I did achieve the second goal. I wanted to get the Newsletter indexed in an APA database. Unfortunately newsletter articles do not qualify for coverage in PsycINFO. The newsletter, however, qualified for coverage in the APA database for the so-called "gray"

(continued on page 9)



Irvin Sam Schonfeld,  
City College and the  
Graduate Center, City  
University of New York

**“to communicate information that would be useful to the SOHP membership as well as nonmembers interested in our discipline.”**



An evening of fun at WSH  
2006 in Miami

Newsletter History (continued)

literature, *PsycEXTRA* (vol. 7; I thank Janet Barnes-Farrell, the sharp-eyed production editor, for placing a very apt, yet droll, graphic next to the short article on *PsycEXTRA*). The third is that I wanted to include attractive photos in the newsletter. I thought photos would add to readers’ interest in what we do. Sometimes I did double-duty, and served as the Newsletter’s photographer. In the first issue, I published two photos I took at the Miami WSH conference. One was of attendees dancing in a conga line at an evening party we had on an outdoor hotel patio. The other was of Christian Dormann—looking like a young Marlon Brando in his sunglasses—and his lovely family. The idea was to

show readers just how convivial our gatherings truly are.

It was a great privilege for me to be the founding editor of the SOHP Newsletter. I got to work with a very fine editorial team and contributing authors. In addition, I got to learn a great deal about OHP and become acquainted with many of the fine people who contribute to our discipline. Finally, I am happy to say that an excellent new team of editors has taken over the work of publishing the Newsletter. I salute Gary Giumetti, Tanya Sidawi-Ostojic, Heather Odle-Dusseau, Lauren Murphy, Shujaat Ahmed, and Janelle Cheung.

**Updates from the Education and Training Committee**  
**Larissa Barber, Northern Illinois University**  
**Janelle Cheung, Oregon Health & Science University**  
**Liu-Qin Yang, Portland State University**

Spring greetings to you all! On behalf of the Education and Training committee, we are excited to report our recent updates and accomplishments. Aligned with the missions of the SOHP leadership team led by Dr. Lisa Kath, our committee set two primary strategic goals for our 2016-2018 term—namely 1) to broaden our outreach to graduate students and faculty in graduate programs that do not have a OHP emphasis, and 2) to build and maintain a sense of community in our field by starting and facilitating a series of regional/national/international brownbags or webinars focused on occupational safety and health (OSH). To date, we have carried out some successful activities that support our committee’s strategic goals.

**2017 Work, Stress, & Health Conference Activities**  
 In Fall 2016, our committee created three interactive session submissions for the 2017 Work, Stress, and Health (WSH) conference, all of which focus on education and training. These 3 sessions included a number of scholars as panelists who represent different areas expertise in Dr. Bradley Wipfli (Portland State University)

**Best Practices in Education & Training: Teaching Graduate and Undergraduate Courses in Occupational Health Psychology (OHP).**

This panel focuses on sharing teaching advice and recommendations about successful (and in some cases unsuccessful) strategies for teaching OHP-related courses and integrating OHP-related material into other psychology courses, at the graduate and undergraduate student level. Presenters include:  
 - Dr. Larissa Barber (Northern Illinois University)  
 - Dr. Carrie Bulger (Quinnipiac University)  
 - Dr. Tori Crain (Colorado State University)  
 Relatedly, our committee is also co-sponsoring a graduate

-student career session (Careers in OHP) at the conference, together with the WSH Workshops Committee. This session will feature recently hired graduate students with OHP training providing a “realistic job search preview” on application processes across a range of applied and academic positions.

Please do check out all of these sessions in the conference program, as they are intended to complement information covered in the career-related tutorial session on the previous day. We hope to see you all there.

**OSH Brownbag & Webinar:** In March 2017, our committee successfully coordinated a regional OSH brownbag on the topic of commute stress and work behavior that was presented by Dr. Chu-Hsiang (Daisy) Chang (Michigan State University) at Portland State University, Portland, Oregon. As our very first OSH brownbag series, we broadcasted it as a webinar which was accessible by interested attendees from all around the globe. The talk was very well received by all attendees including those who dialed in online. Also in March 2017, we announced the call for applications to the WSH student travel awards, which are to be given for the second time in the history of SOHP. We streamlined the process to an online format via the Qualtrics survey platform and just finished collecting submissions. We will also be coordinating the evaluations of the applications (in April) and award notifications (in May). The awardees will be recognized at the closing plenary of the conference.

At this moment, our committee is busy with preparing for the upcoming WSH conference in June at Minneapolis, MN, including coordinating the aforementioned interactive sessions and evaluating the applications for the WSH student travel awards. We very much look forward to you joining us at our conference sessions this June and/or at the next brownbag/webinar in the fall.



Larissa Barber, Northern Illinois University



Janelle Cheung, Oregon Health & Science University



Liu-Qin Yang, Portland State University

**“This panel focuses on sharing teaching advice and recommendations about successful ... strategies for teaching OHP-related courses ... at the graduate and undergraduate student level.”**

