



## **President's Message**

### **December 2024**

Dear IAAP Members,

Welcome to the December eNews. As the year 2024 draws to a close, I find myself reflecting on the remarkable strides we have made together in advancing applied psychology as a force for positive change. Our collective efforts are grounded in the recognition that psychology plays a vital role in addressing the world's most pressing challenges—whether through influencing policy, fostering cross-cultural collaboration, conducting innovative research, or equipping individuals and communities to thrive. Together, we are shaping a future where applied psychology empowers all individuals and societies to flourish.

### **Strengthening Member Connections**

This year offered a variety of opportunities for members to connect across divisions and geographies, fostering collaboration and mutual learning. A key example was the successful collaboration between Division 9 (Economic Psychology) and Division 13 (Traffic and Transportation Psychology) in hosting the webinar *Towards Sustainable Transport Choices*. This event highlighted how psychological insights can tackle global challenges like climate change by promoting sustainable transportation behaviors.

Similarly, members of Division 4 (Environmental Psychology), Division 8 (Health Psychology), and the EHPS SIG “Equity, Global Health and Sustainability” came together for the webinar *Healthy Environment, Healthy People: Bridging Environmental and Health Psychology*. This engaging session featured presentations on topics such as the mental health benefits of nature, resilience in the face of environmental change, and sustainable mobility. I know I learned a lot from these sessions, and I hope they sparked valuable insights for you as well.

In addition to these collaborative efforts, we launched a new feature in the eNews: the Member Spotlight. This initiative celebrates the achievements of IAAP members worldwide, from groundbreaking research and impactful practice to prestigious awards and recognitions. These stories highlight the outstanding work being done across our global community and inspire us all to continue striving for excellence.

### **A Year of Listening and Strategic Action**

Throughout the year, we engaged directly with our members to better understand their

needs and aspirations. These conversations were an invaluable opportunity to listen, learn, and collaboratively discuss our shared goals. Your insights shaped the 2024-2027 Strategic Plan, which we adopted in July. This plan focuses on three core pillars: Global Influence, Global Growth, and Operational Excellence, setting a clear course for the years ahead.

As part of bringing this strategic vision to life, President-Elect Pedro Neves and I, often joined by our new Secretary-General Pedro Altungy, have been meeting with each division president and president-elect. These discussions have allowed us to better understand divisional priorities and explore ways to align their goals with the broader IAAP strategy. These conversations have underscored the collaborative spirit of IAAP and the rich diversity of its divisions, a dynamic that never ceases to inspire.

### **Expanding Our Global Influence**

This year, IAAP continued to raise the recognition and use of applied psychology through sustained engagement with the United Nations. Our participation in the UN Commission on the Status of Women and other global initiatives helped integrate psychological science into discussions on sustainable development, mental health, and gender equality. These partnerships amplify psychology's impact by illustrating how our science can be used to shape and improve policies and programs worldwide.

IAAP was also represented at numerous events - both in person and virtually - where members presented on topics ranging from workplace well-being to healthcare to the role of psychology in addressing climate change. These opportunities have allowed IAAP's voice to be heard on the global stage, showcasing the breadth and depth of contributions from our members and divisions.

### **Paving the Way**

Our commitment to fostering the next generation of applied psychologists remained steadfast in 2024. While planning for the upcoming Early Career Marathon (ECM) in early 2025, we continued working to create opportunities for early-career professionals to engage with experienced mentors, present their research, and gain visibility within the field.

Preparations for ICAP 2026 in Florence have also been underway, building anticipation for this landmark event. Keynote speakers are being identified, and thoughtful planning is in progress to ensure that ICAP 2026 will be an unforgettable congress that brings our global community together to share knowledge, foster collaboration, and celebrate applied psychology's impact.

### **Editorial Transitions**

This year also marked significant editorial transitions within IAAP. After years of dedicated service, Christine Roland-Lévy completed her term as editor of *Applied Psychology Around the World* (APAW). Her leadership has been instrumental in establishing APAW as a vital resource for sharing applied psychology insights globally. We also welcomed Stuart Carr, a

distinguished psychologist recognized for his work on poverty reduction and sustainable livelihoods, who brings his expertise and vision as the new editor.

Ralf Schwarzer concluded his tenure as founding editor of *Applied Psychology: Health and Well-Being* (AP:HWB), a journal now ranked among the top 10 in applied psychology. During his leadership, AP:HWB established itself as a cornerstone for innovative research in health and well-being. To carry this legacy forward, IAAP's Publications Committee selected Jennifer Inauen to join Yiqun Gan as co-editor. Together, Yiqun and Jennifer will ensure the journal continues to thrive as a leading resource for impactful work.

### **Passing the Torch: Secretary-General**

Finally, 2024 saw a change in IAAP's leadership as we bid farewell to our outgoing Secretary-General, Luminita Patras, and welcomed Pedro Altungy as her successor. The election, which included four exceptional candidates, underscored the vibrancy and diversity of our global community. We are grateful to Luminita for her years of dedicated service and excited to work alongside Pedro as we chart the course for IAAP's future.

Of course, this is only a glimpse of the many accomplishments and activities that defined 2024. From divisional milestones to member achievements, there is far more to celebrate than can be captured here. I hope this gives you a sense of the exciting progress we've made together and leaves you looking forward to what's next.

### **Looking Ahead**

Before closing, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude to all of you. Whether you supported divisional initiatives, mentored colleagues, participated in webinars, or engaged in other IAAP activities, your efforts have strengthened our association and advanced the field of applied psychology. These collective contributions highlight the strength of our global community and our shared commitment to meaningful impact.

For more insights into divisional updates, ongoing activities, and the vibrant work being carried out across IAAP, I encourage you to explore the December eNews. Together, we will continue to build an IAAP where every member feels connected, valued, and empowered to make a difference.

Wishing you all a joyful close to the year.

Warm regards,

Lori Foster

President, International Association of Applied Psychology