

Dear SPRISTAD-Member,

I hope that you are well and have resiliently managed the extra burden and the health risks of the pandemic. The cancelling of the international SPR conference in June was a major obstacle for SPRISTAD, as for so much else in our lives. Although it prevented our meeting in person, here are some things that have taken place in our Section during this time.

(1) First, there was a change in officers due to new elections and to a normal rotation of executive positions. The Steering Committee consists of two units: an 'executive' group consisting of the Chair, Chair-Elect, and Immediate Past Chair, in a rotation through successive 2-year terms; and a 'counselor' group consisting of Early Career Counselor, Mid-Career Counselor, and Senior Career Counselor, each serving for one 3 year term.

In June, terms for the current Chair-elect and Senior Career Counselor were completed, and SPRISTAD members were asked by email to nominate candidates to refill them. According to our Bylaws, a candidate must be seconded by two members, which proved to be complicated in the pandemic. By the end of the nomination period only two complete nominations were received, one for each position; and with only one candidate per position, the Steering Committee accepted this as an 'election by acclamation', which can occur even in personal meetings at the SPR-Conference.

The elected candidates were: *Thomas Schröder* (UK) as Chair-Elect, and *Michael Helge Rønnestad* (Norway) as Senior Career Counselor.

From July 2020 through June 2022, the SPRISTAD Steering Committee will include, in the 'executive' group: *Armin Hartmann* as Chair, after 2 years as Chair-Elect; *Ulrike Willutzki* as the Immediate Past Chair, after 2 years as Chair; and *Thomas Schröder* as the Chair-Elect.

In the 'counselor' group, *Helge Rønnestad* replaces Hector Alvarez for 3 years as Senior Career Counselor; *Henriette Löffler-Stastka* continues for 2 more years as Mid-Career Counselor; and *Erkki Heinonen* continues for 1 more year as Early Career Counselor.

(2) The other major activity in the SPRISTAD Section has been the ongoing recruitment of psychotherapy training programs and data collection from participating trainees in the collaborative international SPRISTAD study of training and therapist development. This has been conducted as an online survey, administered and coordinated by Ulrike Willutzki and her team at Witten-Herdecke University, and has continued as well as possible despite of the pandemic. The development of the database, and recruiting and follow-up with trainees, are presented in Ulrike's enclosed Annual Report on the SPRISTAD data.

We hope to see you next year in Heidelberg for a new start of our collaboration and research!

For the SPRISTAD steering committee

Armin Hartmann
(Chair)