



2018 Division Activity Report

Division Name: Education

Submitted by: Peggy Kern

After successfully launching the IPPA Education Division (IPPAed) in 2017, the past year (2018) involved establishing a leadership team and succession plan, building interest and growth in the division, and engaging with members. As described in greater detail below, highlights from the year included a successful pre-conference hosted by IPPAed at the European Conference on Positive Psychology (ECPP), the launch of IPPA Engage, elections for the new president elect and secretary, and abstract submissions for the upcoming World Congress. Our membership, programming, collaboration, and leadership development activities were intertwined and overlapping, such that these are described together in the narrative below.

The first half of the year predominantly focused on developing a pre-conference at ECPP. Drawing on the theme “engaging education”, the 1.5-day event brought 130 people from across the division together, incorporating a variety of presentation formats to share knowledge, create connection, and build capacity across the division. The pre-conference included keynotes by researchers and practitioners, a variety of interactive breakout sessions, PERMA speed dating, networking events, an appreciate inquiry style lunch session, and an interventions fair, spotlighting work in the field in a fun manner. Numerous members were involved in organizing and running the event, including the organizing committee (Shiri Lavy [Israel], Nanna Paarup [Denmark], Mette Ledertoug [Denmark], intervention fair leaders (Louise Tidmand [Denmark], Laure Reynaud [France], Lucy Aires [France], and Vanessa Clamy-Sebag [France]) parallel session leaders (who organized symposium style sessions; leaders from around the world), providing opportunities for members to contribute to and feel more connected with the division. Participants walked away excited about positive education and connected with likeminded others – which flowed into the rest of the conference, where people continued to connect and engage.

A complexity that we faced was that the International Positive Education Network (IPEN) chose to run their festival at the same time as ECPP. This created a clear tension between the European network (EPPN) and IPEN). We worked hard to turn it into an opportunity for connection and collaboration rather than cooperation, working with both organisations to be able to share resources and connect activities. As some of our members went to each conference, we facilitated on-the-ground reporters at both events, who documenting their experiences and created resources to share their experiences with the division – both those who attended the other conference and those unable to attend either one. This took considerable coordination and working across interests of multiple organisations, but helped foster good relationships with both IPEN and the European Positive Psychology Network, and created lasting resources from both conferences. We then held a virtual panel session with several individuals who attended the events, learning from their firsthand experience.

The pre-conference also resulted in a variety of resources that were shared across attendees. We collected pictures, blog posts, videos, resources, slides and other things from people attending ECPP or the IPEN festival, which we began to introduce to members through the old IPPA site, and will continue to draw on and explore using the new IPPAengage platform. For instance, [a video on the pre-conference](#) is now a part of the IPPA learning library.

In the second part of the year, IPPA engage was launched, providing a new online platform to help members connect. It has been a rocky start for the division. While some members have connected in, additional consideration is needed in terms of how to generate interest and to help both the leadership team and members use the platform well. This will be a key priority in 2019.

Aligning with the broader IPPA community and building our leadership capacity and sustainability, we held the election for the president elect and new secretary. Associate Professor Mathew White (Australia) was successfully elected as president elect, and Mahabbeh Mowakket (UAE) was elected as secretary, providing support and setting up the pipeline for the continued growth and development of the division.

Members provided leadership to specific areas and projects within the division, resulting in additional opportunities for members to engage with and be a part of IPPA. Sylvia Kwok (Singapore), our regional representatives lead, established and generated activity with representatives from around the world. Our research and practice committee (led by Ricardo Arguis Rey [Spain], Covi Chaves Velez [Spain], and Tracy Litchfield [US]) worked on developing a quality standards charter for positive education, which will complement the ethics framework being developed by the broader IPPA organisation and provide specific guidance for those working within education.

Michael Wehmeyer (US) and Peggy Kern (Australia) worked with an editor from Palgrave MacMillan to developing a proposal for handbook on positive education. The book was approved by the publisher, and members will be invited to contribute in 2019. This work will complement other publications being organized by the broader IPPA organisation.

Finally, in preparation for the 2019 World Congress, we encouraged members to submit abstracts, which resulted in an excellent array of education-focused sessions that will be included in the program. Aaron Jarden (Australia), led the development of the Positive Educator Impact award, which recognises individuals or groups that are having a major positive impact in educational and academic settings by implanting the principles, practices, and applications of positive education, and will be awarded at the World Congress.

Our leadership and members are truly international, representing countries around the world, creating great opportunities for extending the reach of IPPA globally, but also making meeting and communication a challenge. We look forward to further using the resources through IPPA engage to facilitate useful processes in 2019.

As a whole, our primary focus through 2018 was on generating activities for the division, helping members connect and become more involved, and building capacity. These are important foundational elements for a new division, which we hope to build upon over the next few years.