

SPRISTAD Newsletter

SPRING 2026

Society of Psychotherapy Research



Dear SPRISTAD MEMBER,

We hope your year has gotten off to a good start! It was truly inspiring to see so many of you in person at our meeting in Krakow. And if you were unable to join us, we trust that you were with us in spirit! Besides the great attendance at our Interest Section meeting, the overall number of conference presentations on therapist training speaks to the current interest in therapist development.

Indeed, post-Krakow, our membership has almost doubled to comprise **130 confirmed members** of the section.

As many of you know – from either Krakow or being on this email list – SPRISTAD is in a moment of transition. Since its inception 13 years ago, much of the energy of the SPRISTAD steering group went into designing, initiating and maintaining the international longitudinal study of the training and development of psychotherapists. This process was seminally led by past chairs of the steering group: David Orlinsky, Helge Ronnestad, Armin Hartmann, Thomas Schröder, and Ulrike Willutzki.

However, as the longitudinal study has increasingly moved to a stage of being able to report its results, we have wanted to re-focus the section to its broader aims. That is:

- (a) to promote research on psychotherapy training (including candidate selection, instruction and supervision, and continuing education);
- (b) to further understanding of psychotherapist development at all career levels;
- (c) to facilitate collaboration among members; and
- (d) to encourage the communication and utilization of research-based knowledge about therapist training and development to scientific, clinical, and mental health policy communities.

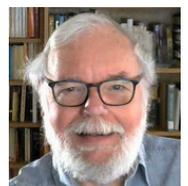
Towards that end, last autumn we conducted a survey on our email list about the activities and initiatives you would most like to see from SPRISTAD. We received 48 responses (37% response rate) – so thank you very much for your active input! (Special thanks also to Celia Jacobsen and Stefan Blümel for designing and implementing the survey.)

We are looking to present the survey results in more detail in Osaka. However, before that, we would already like to announce one initiative that aims to address several of our broader aims: that is, the **New SPRISTAD Webinar Series**.

The current Steering committee consists of:

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SPRISTAD (AND OTHER) WEBINAR SERIES

The new webinar series begins with an inaugural presentation on March 10th between 5-6 pm CET by Anna Berning on the German DEEP study – an exciting large-scale RCT of therapist training with three intervention arms using deliberate practice, structured feedback, and their combination. Save the date!

The second webinar will be held in May 19th between 5-6.30 pm CET. This will be an online research methods workshop on how to narrow the gap between low- and high-risk training situations, as trainees move from early practice to working with actual clients. The workshop will feature Adrian Montesano and Katrine Høyer Holgersen and be moderated by SPRISTAD's Signe Hjelen Stige.

Further webinars after Osaka will be announced as presenters and dates are set. (Feel free to also send us your suggestions for webinars and presenters.)

Finally, if you are into webinars, you may also save the date April 21st 5 pm, when Erkki Heinonen summarizes the findings of the SPRISTAD Longitudinal Study so far, in the SPR EU Webinar series.

Registration links will be sent closer to the presentations.

OTHER NEWS

We would also like to draw your attention to a call for submissions to a special section in *Psychotherapy Research*: "Advancing Clinical Training in Psychotherapy: Innovations, Challenges, and Future". The deadline for submissions is September 7th, 2026. (Please see further details in the other attachment.)

We are continuing work on other developments and initiatives – and are looking forward to continuing discussions and working together at Osaka! (We are also exploring creating a listserv or similar to facilitate discussions or exchange of ideas between section members in-between the conferences.)

WE WISH YOU A PLEASANT START
OF THE YEAR AND LOOK
FORWARD TO OUR FUTURE
COLLABORATION.

FOR THE SPRISTAD STEERING
COMMITTEE,

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(CHAIR)

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