APA

International Reception at ICAP

JUNE 26, 2018 MONTREAL, CANADA





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Dear International Leader in Psychology,

I would like to personally thank you for participating in the APA International Reception hosted by the American Psychological Association (APA) with the support of its Office of International Affairs (OIA) at the International Congress of Applied Psychology (ICAP) in Montreal, Canada, from June 26th-July 1st, 2018.

Hosted by the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) and the International Association of Applied Psychology (IAAP), ICAP welcomed over 3,000 psychologists from across the world to its quadrennial meeting. Participants came from an estimated 71 countries across Africa, Asia, Europe, the Americas, and Australia.

The APA International Reception's professional networking activity gathered together high-level leaders in the field from 25 countries around the world to discuss key issues in international psychology. Participants in the hour-long activity addressed questions about psychology and its role in global health, the contributions of international collaborations, and other critical issues in the field in a broad, cross-border context.

The four questions asked as part of the structured networking event and the resultant response themes are presented below:

1. How can we position psychology as a leader in global health?

- Promote health and well-being; take a leadership role in promoting the science of psychology as it relates to health and well-being.
- Partner with other disciplines (including public health and education)
- Develop meaningful working relationships with the United Nations and the World Health Organization in an effort to change the politics around mental health and emphasize integrated care.
- Be involved in relevant policy and legislative initiatives from original proposals to amendments to existing laws.

2. How should national and international psychological associations interact on a global scale to further advance psychology?

- Collaborate to identify and define common issues and problems in the field and to develop joint goals and shared solutions.
- Focus on similarities between organizations and their shared strengths; be inclusive of organizations at different levels of professional development and functioning.
- Use international conferences to network, identify, and address real-world problems.

3. What key topics should be identified for international collaboration in psychology?

- · Societal:
 - Migration, immigration, refugee issues
 - · Extreme poverty
 - · Global social justice
 - Psychology as a contributor to health and well-being
- · Professional:
 - Mobility/quality assurance
 - · Ethics/regulation
 - Open access/science
 - Policy efforts (statements to legislation)

4. How can mutually beneficial partnerships be developed and expanded to benefit psychologists?

- Utilize technology more effectively to improve communication, share data, communicate best practices/guidelines.
- · Identify shared goals in the field and design specific action plans for implementation.
- Form capacity-building plans and share resources across organizations.

Participant responses offered both specific and broad suggestions for international leaders of psychology to come together across associations, regions, and specializations and develop a shared action plan to advance psychology's role in health and well-being globally. The themes identified at the APA International Reception at ICAP offer important guidance for moving the field forward in a meaningful collaborative fashion to address critical issues for people across the world. Let's consider this a first step in a shared agenda in psychology!

Sincerely,

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