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Letter from the Chair

Natalie Lancer

I DON'T know if it is physiologically possible, but I am still buzzing from this June's coaching psychology conference ('Integrating Research and Practice'). Engaging with coaching psychology scientist-practitioners from all over the world and exploring our shared endeavours made it clear that we are a burgeoning community of practice. Next year, our theme is 'Coaching in Context: Psychology-informed coaching in practice' and we want to hear from practitioners about what it is like to be a coaching psychologist. What does your day-to-day life as a coaching psychologist look like and do you have any case studies to share and discuss?

As I spend more time talking to our members, my understanding of what we are doing as coaching psychologists increases. This might be a strange thing to say as Chair, but it seems to me that becoming a coaching psychologist is something that is realised backwards. Through the process of putting together our chartership applications, we come to see that the work we have been engaged in, from developing coaching skills to undertaking research, engaging with ethical dilemmas and learning about coaching psychology as a science, all adds up to something more than the sum of its parts. In fact, it adds up to being a new type of 21st century psychologist, who works beyond the medical model and who is in relationship with the client as a human being rather than a subject. This is not how it always was in psychology and we can be proud that we are the leaders in this approach.

Having taken stock, we can get back to 'doing' mode, moving forwards again with our practice, business development and research until our next bout of reflection, which may well be at a Peer Practice Group, a supervision session, a conference, or when perusing *The Coaching Psychologist* or *International Coaching Psychology Review*.

As a profession, we must now set our sights on lobbying on behalf of coaching psychologists to ensure our stakeholders understand what unique qualities coaching psychologists bring to the table. To that end, the Division of Coaching Psychology has created a new Lobbying Subcommittee to represent us within the BPS and to external stakeholders, including large coaching businesses and organisations who buy our services.

In order to have a shared understanding of our community of practice to advance our profession, we must share knowledge. I encourage you to think about your own practice in relation to the research detailed in the following pages and to think about your relationship with our community of coaching psychologists. What does it mean to be a part of this community for you, your clients and for psychology as a whole? Do you have case studies to share with us? I look forward to reading your contributions or hearing them live at next year's conference.

With my very best wishes,

Dr Natalie Lancer

Chair, Division of Coaching Psychology