

Newsletter SIPS conference on placebo studies



1st official **SIPS** conference

April 2 – 4, 2017
Leiden, the Netherlands

Late-breaking posters: deadline March 1

To offer researchers the chance to present their latest research findings at the SIPS conference, we provide the opportunity to submit a late-breaking poster abstract. Submit your abstract via the [website](#), no later than March 1.

Travel grants

Given the great quality of the submitted abstracts, we decided to award twelve junior researchers with a travel grant. The winners will be informed as soon as possible.

Registration

Are you as enthusiastic as we are about the SIPS conference, and the 30 world-leading speakers on the placebo effect? Register for the conference [here](#).

Hotels

Please note that the option on the hotels have expired. You can still get a room for the reduced conference fee, if the hotel of your choice still has rooms available. Please

Program

The conference program will be updated with abstracts and biosketches of the invited speakers in the upcoming weeks. Please check our [website](#) regularly for the updated

check with the hotels for availability of the rooms.

program.



Poster guidelines

The website has been updated with the guidelines for the preparation of your poster for the conference. Please check [this](#) webpage for more information.

Special attraction:

Amsterdam

Did you know that the Netherlands' most famous city, Amsterdam, is only thirty-five minutes by train from Leiden central station? Among other things, Amsterdam is famous for its Canals, musea and the beautiful Vondelpark. Therefore, visiting the conference can be ideally combined with a visit to this fantastic historical city. Click [here](#) for more information.





In the spotlight: Prof. Dr. Irving Kirsch (Invited speaker)

Response Expectancy and Automaticity.

Short biosketch

Irving Kirsch is Associate Director of the Program in Placebo Studies and a lecturer in medicine at the Harvard Medical School. He is also Emeritus Professor of Psychology at Plymouth University (UK), University of Hull (UK) and University of Connecticut (USA). He has published 10 books and more than 250 scientific journal articles and book chapters on placebo effects, antidepressant medication, hypnosis, and suggestion. He originated the concept of response expectancy. His 2008 meta-analysis on the efficacy of antidepressants was covered extensively in the international media and listed by the British Psychological Society as one of the “10 most controversial psychology studies ever published.” His book, *The Emperor’s New Drugs: Exploding the Antidepressant Myth*, has been published in English, French, Italian, Japanese, Turkish, and Polish Newsweek. In 2015, the University of Basel (Switzerland) awarded Irving Kirsch an

they can also operate quickly and automatically, without conscious awareness. Stimulus expectancies (i.e., expectancies about the external world) can also be self-confirming, although to a lesser degree. The degree to which an expectancy affects experience varies with the ambiguity of the stimulus and the confidence with which the expectancy is held. There are various dimensions of response expectancy that can be manipulated and measured. One is the magnitude of the expected change; another is the confidence with which the expectancy is held. Expectancies are fluid rather than static and have a reciprocal relationship with subjective outcomes. Best outcomes may be obtained by promoting very confident expectancies for initially small changes, thereby setting in motion a benign cycle. Conditioning and expectancy are not opposing processes. Instead, both classical and operant conditioning can function by influencing expectancies. This has been demonstrated both in humans and in other

Honorary Doctorate in Psychology.

Abstract

Response expectancies are anticipations of one's own automatic responses and can generate expected responses in the form of self-fulfilling prophecies. At the time of their influence on conscious experience, they can themselves be conscious, but once acquired,

animals. Classical conditioning can also produce responses that are not mediated by expectancies, as has been shown with very primitive organisms and in humans with responses that are not consciously introspectable. The adaptive value of consciousness is that it provides flexibility in considering other sources of information and allowing the organism to override automatic conditioned responses.



This newsletter is sent by the local SIPS organizing committee (chair: Prof. Dr. Andrea Evers).

Contact us by mail: SIPS2017@FSW.leidenuniv.nl

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