

## **IPPA Health Division: Group Charter**

**Name:** The IPPA Health Division

### **Mission**

The mission of the IPPA Health Division is to advance the science and practice concerning optimal human health and the positive and protective biopsychosocial factors linked to it. We seek to 1) increase the dissemination of positive health research findings, 2) improve the communication and collaboration among key stakeholders (such as researchers, clinicians, healthcare policy makers, and consumers), and 3) foster the mentoring and development of future positive health researchers, clinicians, and policy makers; all on a global basis.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the IPPA Division of Positive health is to provide an organized, collegial, member-driven collaborative platform for professionals involved in positive health (academics, researchers, clinicians, organizations, practitioners, consultants, coaches) in order to use positive psychology to advance human longevity, quality of life, and physiological and psychological wellbeing (including decreased morbidity)

### **Vision Statement**

Within the next five years, the IPPA Division of Positive Health will be a leading forum for exchange, collaboration, research, and best practices regarding the integration of positive health into the broader health/medical field. We will accomplish this by focusing on the following five objectives:

- 1) **Support positive health interventions for patients and health care providers** through documenting research, including the impact of these interventions on current healthcare issues.
- 2) **Collaborate across disciplines and organizations, with an emphasis on medicine and related healthcare disciplines**, to develop an active understanding of positive health.
- 3) **Enhance communication by publishing results of key positive health studies in leading healthcare journals in order to promote best practices** for positive health, with an international focus.
- 4) **Support and mentor both undergraduate and graduate students across all related fields and disciplines who have interests in positive health.**
- 5) **Actively represent the interests of PH to IPPA, so as to** contribute to IPPA's future policy development and interests, as well as to advance the development of IPPA as an established international organization.

Like other Divisions within IPPA, this Division's objectives are aligned under the three strands of IPPA's overall strategy:

- To promote the science of positive psychology and its research-based applications
- To facilitate collaboration among researchers, teachers, students, and practitioners of positive psychology around the world and across academic disciplines
- To share the findings of positive psychology with the broadest possible audience

## Membership

Our desire is to grow an active membership that includes academics, researchers, clinicians, public policy makers and students. Positive health, as a discipline, has tremendous potential to improve the health and wellbeing of humanity. Division membership will be open to Members, Associates, and Students of IPPA with an interest in positive health. Affiliate IPPA members will be able to register to receive news updates regarding this division but are not eligible to participate in division activities.

- Additionally, we will recommend that division members participate in at least one committee or topic group per year, in order to share and build knowledge in a particular practice area, and to build collegiality. However, this will not yet be a requirement.

## Leadership Positions

In the first 2 years of this division, the primary focus will be to recruit members, and formally install a leadership team. For the first 2 year term, we will begin with an election for a president, president-elect, and a secretary only. The president will then appoint committees/individuals as he/she needs to help with specific functions as needed. After the initial 2 years, we will increase to the full election slate of the following 6 positions:

- President: Preside over and support all activities of the Division. Tasked with consulting with members and Association leadership to identify and develop programs that advance the Division's mission. Serve as the primary spokespersons for the Division and be responsible for reports to the Executive Committee, Board of Directors, and Association Program Management about Division activities. Also responsible for ensuring Division members' interests are represented in IPPA Board meetings and collaborative discussions with IPPA Leadership. After serving this two-year term, the President will transition to an optional, non-voting Immediate Past-President role.
- President Elect: Support the Division President in ongoing efforts while acquiring knowledge needed to lead the division in the future. After serving this two-year term, the President-Elect will transition into the President role to serve that two-year term.
- Secretary: Serves as the chief administrative officer for the Division, assuring the maintenance of records and compliance with Division and Association policies and procedures. Also responsible for recording minutes of general meetings, liaising with committees, and sharing knowledge internally. The Secretary will serve a two-year term after which he or she can run for office again.  
Add:
  - Membership Chair: Responsible for activities related to cultivating and maintaining the Division's membership base including outreach activities to students and key stakeholders.
  - Event Chair: Serves as point person for any events organized by the Division and insures Division has proper content and representation at relevant events. Acts as a liaison to IPPA Leadership with regard to IPPA events like the World Congress.
  - Communication Chair: Responsible for email and web-based communications, etc.
  - *Others TBD*

Election Process:

With the support of the IPPA Divisions Committee, we would like to ask for nominees from among the Division of Positive Health membership base (i.e., members must opt to join the Division as an active member prior to submitting their nomination). We believe this will ensure not only an engaged election process, but will build a strong membership base with which to begin our Division's work. Each nominee will submit a one-paragraph bio and statement of purpose including a bulleted list describing the candidate's vision for the Division. These submissions will be shared with all Division members for a period of no more than one month before voting. Once the Division's officers have been elected these leaders will have the opportunity to finalize this charter and put it to a vote by members to ratify or provide any final commentary on.

### **Committees and Working Groups**

Elected officers will establish the need for committees and working groups. The opportunities to engage in these activities will be determined in the future.

### **Meetings**

The Division of Positive Health has existed informally for 7 years. The three founding members have communicated regularly and developed this charter. Moving forward, we propose that meetings are convened as follows:

- Bi-annually, a meeting of the Division will be held at the IPPA conference
- General quarterly teleconferences to share and discuss progress made towards the Division's vision, to be coordinated and sanctioned by elected officers
- Committee-specific meetings may be held outside of the general Division teleconferences

### **Communication**

Our primary means of communication between members has been via direct email. A Division-specific web page is a key future element to be pursued.

### **Resources and Support Available:**

The main area of support IPPA will provide the Division is with access to membership and the Board. IPPA's Board will help to promote the opportunities and activities of the Division to members and contact lists, encouraging greater participation. IPPA will also help make appropriate introductions to relevant researchers and scholars on the Board or within its network. Where possible, IPPA will share access to existing systems. IPPA will also work with the Division to determine the best way to house information online, whether on the IPPA website or via a new cross-linked website.