I just returned from APA in Washington DC. It was a great conference! I want to put out a special thanks to Autumn Krauss who was Division 14 APA conference program chair. I know she put a lot of hours into the conference and it definitely showed! I am writing to share some information concerning the next APA convention in Toronto (August 6–9, 2015).

First, before you come to the conclusion that the APA convention has nothing to offer you, please take a minute and read on. Yes, APA is big, and yes, APA has a clinical spin. So why do I go? I really appreciate the interdisciplinary nature of the conference. I am a work–family researcher, with interests in environmental sustainability, diversity, and military research. APA is a “one-stop shop.” I can attend relevant talks in many different divisions (e.g., Div. 34: Society for Environmental, Population and Conservation Psychology; Div. 44 Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues; Div. 19 Military Psychology) that help broaden the way I think about I-O issues. Getting different perspectives outside of the typical I-O focus can be refreshing and is really helpful for generating new and creative ideas, both for my research as well as in the classroom.

We have two opportunities to submit our research to APA:

A. Collaborative programming: The first opportunity is for collaborative programming. This is a new process in which APA provides us with the opportunity to develop sessions that span different disciplines within psychology. This new programming type has a symposium format (e.g., 3 to 4 papers, opportunity for a discussant) and requires topics that cross divisions. The presenters do not necessarily need to be from multiple divisions, but the topics need to represent interests of multiple divisions. For example, a session could be on “Strategies to Avoid Biases When Interviewing Sexual Minorities.” The organizers could state that this topic would appeal to Div. 44 (Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues) and Div. 14. The session is reviewed by both the Div. 44 and Div. 14 APA committees.

The deadline for collaborative programming for the 2015 convention is quickly approaching (October 15, 2014). The call is posted on the APA website. A 300-word general summary and a 300-word summary of each participant’s contribution are required for the submission. The collaborative programming has themes that were developed by the APA leadership. You don’t have to apply to a specific theme, but it probably doesn’t hurt. Remember, the speakers do not need to come from different divisions. You only need a topic that will be of interest to more than one division.
Here are the collaborative themes that will be featured at the 2015 meeting:

- Competencies at the intersections of diversities
- The promises and pitfalls of technology
- Disparities in health, wellness, justice, and education
- The psychology of work and group dynamics
- Emerging areas of science, practice, and education: Lifelong learning for psychologists
- Violence, bullying, victimization, and trauma
- Embracing interdisciplinarity: Reaching out beyond psychology

As you can see, many of the themes are relevant to Division 14, with one (The Psychology of Work and Group Dynamics) speaking directly to our division! This past conference we had a successful session in the collaborative programming. Division 14 collaborated with Divisions 13 (Society for Consulting Psychology) and 47 (Division of Exercise and Sport Psychology) on a session, Consultants and Personal Coaches Use of Telepractice to Enhance Elite Performance. The goal of this symposium was to enhance participants’ understanding of the use of telepractice-based coaching and consultation in assisting individuals, teams, and organizations achieve the highest levels of elite performance. The session included experts from the U.S. Olympic Committee, consulting firms, and academia. Although this is just one example, there are so many different potential divisions that Division 14 could include in a collaborative session.


By the time that this article is published, there will be only about 2 weeks before the deadline. If you are interested, contact me at ann.huffman@nau.edu. I will see what I can do to facilitate a session with other divisions. If you have any questions about collaborative sessions or want help with connecting with other members or divisions, please feel free to contact me.

B. Traditional Programming
Proposals for 50-minute symposia, posters, and papers in any area of I-O psychology are invited, especially those that address Division 14’s theme this year, Replication and Discovery: How to Use Our Science to Uncover Truths and Solve Real Organizational Problems. The deadline for the traditional programming is December 1, 2014. For posters and papers a 250–500-word summary is required that includes statement of the problem, participants, procedure, results, and conclusions. Symposia require a 300-word general summary and a 300-word summary of each participant’s contribution.

If you have any questions about APA 2015, please feel free to contact me. I hope to see you all there!