



Yeshayahu (Shayke) Hutzler

President's Message

Dear colleagues:

I would like to congratulate all of you for the continuing dedication to our profession, field of study, and service provision to the community. The first quarter of 2008 can be acknowledged through several important accomplishments in some of these perspectives, as well as concerns with regard to others. In the sections that follow, I will outline some of the international achievements relating APA topics to which I have been exposed during the recent months as well as issues that still concern me with regard to our profession.

APA as a Field of Study

1. Thanks to the commitment of our colleague, Martin Kudlacek, from the University of Olomouc in the Czech Republic together with the other board members of the European Region, the website of the European Region (<http://www.eufapa.upol.cz/www/>) was launched and is now regularly updating news and initiatives across the continent. Recently, this website has also become the new home for the *European Journal of Adapted Physical Activity (EUJAPA)*: 2nd item on the left *EUFAPA* menu). This new journal replaces the *European Bulletin of Adapted Physical Activity (EUBAPA)*, previously located at the University of Leuven. It includes all the back issues of *EUBAPA* and will be published twice annually. The first 2008 issue is about to be published late March or early April 2008.
2. In Spain, our colleague, Javier Perez, from the Polytechnic University of Madrid was able to initiate several symposia, under the auspices of the community as well as the popular and established club of Real Madrid. Recently, he was chosen a member of the National web-based Forum Gana Salud, whose vision is increasing well-being through active lifestyle for individuals with disability.
3. In Norway, at the Faculty of Sport Science of the University of Oslo, under the cover of snow, as many as seven PhD theses are being promoted within the scope of APA. Thanks to the efforts of our colleague Ejgil Jespersen, Chair of the Department of Pedagogy, APA is now common not only among school physical activity, but is increasingly being accepted within the field of Medical Rehabilitation. Thus, PhD theses in progress are ranging in content from evaluating outcomes of acute and post rehabilitation APA initiatives to inclusive physical education and retrospective qualitative analysis of in depth interviews with visually impaired adults. These theses represent a solid foundation of APA within different aspects of sport in this Nordic country.
4. In Turkey, our Mediterranean regional representative Dilara Özer has recently launched a specialized APA website within the framework of the Akdeniz University (<http://www.ossep.com/>). This website together with the APA session at the 4th International Mediterranean Sports Science Congress can be recognized as markers of the infusion of APA into this important bridge between Europe, the Middle East, and Asia.
5. In Doha, Qatar, the 3rd Annual International Forum on children with special needs of the Shafallah Center will host an International conference dedicated to sport and ability in April 20-22. This conference, promoting IFAPA through the efforts of our colleague Ely Wolff from the Center for the Study of Sport in Society of the Northeastern University, USA, is a promising opportunity to bring together western and eastern perspectives on APA.

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President's Message, continued

6. In Selangor, Malaysia, our colleague, Nagoor Meera Abdullah, has been successful founding a Unit for Physical Activity and Disability Research (UPAD) at the Faculty of Sport Science and Recreation of the University of Technology MARA. One of the first contributions of this unit was a talent identification project for participation in Paralympic sports (more on this project elsewhere in this Newsletter)

APA as Service Provision

1. In Africa, Steffi de Jong and Pierre Bataille, two graduates of the European Erasmus Mundus in APA program have officially founded APAID (www.apaid.org), an organization dedicated to foster sport for people with disabilities in developing countries. Kenya and Uganda in Eastern Africa are the first locations of these endeavors. Apparently other countries will follow.
2. In Bogotá, Columbia, our friend, Valli Cian, has uploaded some interesting video images into the cyber space, representing her innovative use of capoeira with individuals with diverse disabilities. Individuals interested in viewing these videos and or other materials produced by her are encouraged to contact Valli at vallician@hotmail.com. This is an example for many other practitioners around the globe that are welcome to contact IFAPA and share their expertise with the whole world of APA.
3. In Stavern, Norway, Anika Jordbru, a PhD student at the University of Oslo, is currently summarizing evidence based data and experiences within an exciting participant group, individuals with Conversion Gait Disorders, which had previous attention in neither APA nor any other exercise related literature. Participants in the three-week inpatient program are receiving a goal-directed, time-constrained, and intensive APA intervention.

I firmly believe that developing new types of APA services and implementing them with new target groups worldwide is warranted as a major task for APA professionals, and IFAPA should keep track of these activities and promote them.

APA as a Profession

In contrast to the achievements of APA described above, I have some concerns with regard to the continued existence of APA as a profession. We typically separate the professional practice of APA into competitive sports, recreation, adapted physical education, and rehabilitation sport (also called hospisport). My following comments relate to both latter ones.

1. While Beitostølen, Stavern, Sunaas (Norway) and Barcelona (Spain) are examples of clinics that continue to share Sir Ludwig Guttmann's vision of sport as a bridge between hospitalization and continuing a lifelong active lifestyle at the community level, other rehabilitation services often depart from this practice and instead of hiring APA trained personnel, engage medically oriented physical therapy professionals for similar purposes. While our colleague, James Rimmer, is continuously contributing to the establishment of APA like practices within post acute rehabilitation services, it appears that many of our other colleagues in North America do not regard rehabilitation as an appropriate domain for practicing APA. A recent PhD thesis of the Dutch Hidde Van der Ploeg (2005) completed at the Faculty of Human Movement Sciences of the Free University of Amsterdam provides a sound theoretical model as well as evidence based practices for physical activity consultation during and after rehabilitation services. From his findings (Van der Ploeg, Streppel, van der Beek et al., 2007), it appears that only a combination of in house and follow-up stimulation of physical activity within an appropriate community setting and a prescribed routine of physical exercise was able to improve physical activity behaviour and sport participation one year after discharge from rehabilitation hospital.
2. I think this notion is of particular concern, since evidence accumulates in favor of using traditional APA methods such as fitness programs incorporating strength and aerobic training, and particularly circuit training modalities with participant groups who exhibit neurological conditions such as cerebral palsy, Parkinson, multiple sclerosis, and stroke. For example, one of the strongest evidence based articles related to intervention programs in such populations come from a physical therapy group from the Netherlands (Vershuren, Ketelaar, Takken et al., 2007) rather than from APA professionals. Another important review, based on a summit meeting in the USA (Fowler, Kolobe, Damiano et al., 2007) included only three participants with a primary professional background in physical activity, while four of the others were physical therapists and one was an occupational therapist. This trend is of particular professional concern, since only twenty years ago, therapists resisted fitness training in these populations and APA professionals were the only ones in support of fitness training for example in CP (e.g., McCubbin & Shasby, 1985). While our colleague, Christina Evangelinou, has been successful in demonstrating the effect of a well designed physical exercise training program in children with CP

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(Unnithan, Katsimanis, Evangelinou et al., 2007), most of current evidence in this regard comes from PTs (e.g., Blundell, Shephard, Dean, & Adams, 2003; Palisano, Copeland & Galuppi, 2007; Unger, Faure, & Frieg, 2006; Vershuren, Ketelaar, Gorter et al., 2007). Specifically, Unger et al. (2006) and Vershuren et al. (2007) have completed their studies within school programs for children with CP. This is a typical environment for cooperation with APA professionals that was absent in these cases. Similar trends are visible in children with developmental coordination disorders (DCD), where physical and occupational therapists become dominant in designing and implementing school programs. An example is the feature article of OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health 2008 (1) entitled *Leisure Time Physical Activity Energy Expenditure in Boys With Developmental Coordination Disorder: The Role of Peer Relations Self-Concept Perceptions* (Poulsen, Ziviani, & Cuskelly, 2008). Another example is a recent PhD of Niemeijer (2007), a PT from Groningen, who promotes what she calls Neuromotor task training with children with DCD. This type of population was a major target group of children served with well designed and established practices by leading APA professionals such as B.J. Cratty in the US and E.J. Kiphard in Germany.

3. I contend that APA professionals have a broader knowledge base of physical activity science than either physical or occupational therapists. The experiences gained through sport science in competitive sports provide a comprehensive view of the exercising youngster, including his or her motivational and social constraints. Thus, long term educational concepts should be developed for children with CP, DCD, as well as those with Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), aiming on life-long participation, rather than short term interventions, as most PT/OT services provide. Grouped together, these target groups comprise about 10% of the school aged population, still with very limited evidence based conceptual preparation from the side of APA professionals and other educational service providers. I recommend that APA professionals designate the task of providing evidence for intervention modalities and practices as high priority in this population, in order to (a) well serve their life-long physical activity participation and (b) become a dominant factor in program development and implementation. International consensus meetings in this regard could be an important facilitator of this task.
4. Another issue that deserves thought is professional certification. While I acknowledge the views represented by some APA professionals that certification would narrow the scope of expertise and "chain" the individualized perception of the profession, we must be aware of the professional developments within the health and education systems, where our profession is strongly anchored. For example, the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) has recently acknowledged a system of certifications including a clinical one reading. The Registered Clinical Exercise Physiologist® is an allied health professional who works in the application of exercise and physical activity for those clinical and pathological situations where it has been shown to provide therapeutic or functional benefit. It appears to me that such a certification would gain power in many countries and not only in the USA and that IFAPA should consider developing its own system of international certification, perhaps based on regional subsystems.

Dear colleagues, in posting these issues, I would like to facilitate some feedback and discussion. Until we establish an easily accessible IFAPA forum online, please don't hesitate to mail your feedback to me and it will be published in our next newsletter.

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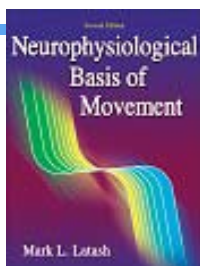
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Best greetings,

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New Resources

Updated Guide to the Neurophysiology of Movements and Movement Disorders. This second edition covers a wide range of topics, including movement disorders and current theories of motor control and coordination. It emphasizes the neurophysiological mechanisms relevant to the processes of generating voluntary movements, helping readers better understand how the brain generates control signals and how the peripheral apparatus executes them. Ancillaries are offered online at (www.HumanKinetics.com/NeurophysiologicalBasisofMovement).

European Thematic Network “Ageing and Disability: A New Crossing Between Physical Activity, Social Inclusion, and Life-long Well-Being”

Results of our THENAPA II Project “Ageing and Disability: A New Crossing Between Physical Activity, Social Inclusion and Life-long Well-Being” can be found on the THENAPA website (www.thenapa2.org), including recommendations for all European countries. Also produced is a wonderful motivating DVD for elderly persons “Never too old to be Active: The Joy of Movement,” in which we present movement activities done by elderly persons with and without disabilities in order to motivate all elderly persons to become more physically active. The DVD is available in 18 languages.

Regional News

North America:

New Director of BlazeSports Institute of Applied Science

BlazeSports America is pleased to announce that Jeff Jones will be joining the BlazeSports staff and management team April 1 as Director of the BlazeSports Institute of Applied Science. He will be responsible for leading technical assistance, coordinating coaching and officials education programs, as well as providing guidance on sport events and organizational development.

“Jeff brings over 25 years of leadership in the field of disability sport to our organization,” said Carol Mushett Johnson, executive director of BlazeSports America. “His vast experience in coaching Paralympic and national teams, directing disability sports programs, and advancing knowledge in the field through his many publications will be a strong asset to BlazeSports America.”

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New Director of BlazeSports, continued

The BlazeSports Institute of Applied Science, a division of BlazeSports America, provides training, education, and professional growth opportunities which translate science into evidence-based practice. As Director, Jones will oversee a variety of educational programs and technical assistance to cross-disciplinary professionals, persons with disabilities and their families, and community-based practitioners to encourage best practice in the fields of disability sport, physical activity, and health promotion.

Jones comes to BlazeSports America from the Portage Parks and Recreation Department in Portage, IN, where he served as Assistant Superintendent. Prior to that, he was the Director of the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago's (RIC) Center for Health and Fitness and the Wirtz Sports Program, one of the largest disability sports and recreation programs in the United States. The program offered 18 sports and recreation activities and had 30 different athletes attend five Paralympic Games and more than a dozen world championships, World Cup, and other international events during his tenure at RIC.

While at RIC, Jones was the Principal Investigator of two U.S. Department of Education NIDRR research grants studying the effects of exercise on individuals with disabilities. He was also a founding Director of the National Center on Physical Activity and Disability (NCPAD). Additionally, he has co-authored the book *Disability Sport and Recreation Resources*, which is in its third edition.

Jones has organized more than 50 regional or national sports competitions and was an Assistant Event Coordinator at four United States Olympic Festivals. Jones has been a staff member of two world championship and two Paralympic teams. His past coaching experience includes sled hockey, quad rugby, wheelchair soccer, track and field, and boccia.

Jones received his Masters degree in Adapted Physical Education from Springfield College. He has done post-graduate work in Recreation Administration at both Wayne State University and Aurora University. He is also a Certified Park and Recreation Professional, a certification established by the National Recreation and Park Association.

Jerry McCole, Director, BlazeSports National Disability Sport Alliance

jmccole@blazesports.org, www.blazesports.org

Southeast Asia:

Faculty of Sports Science and Recreation Has Established a Unit for Physical Activity and Disability Research (UPAD)



Background

The objectives of the unit are (a) to explore new areas of adapted physical activity and disability sports where Malaysians still lack awareness and knowledge of the importance of physical activity and sports for the special or disabled population; (b) to organize research and development activities and also produce information in the form of brochures and related articles about disability sports to be distributed to various rehabilitation centres and special schools nationwide; (c) to be a centre of reference for all organizations that deal with special populations since this is the only centre in Malaysia that deals solely with physical activities and sports for people with disabilities; (d) to promote exercise and sports especially for people with disabilities so that they can live independently and also enjoy leisure and recreational activities to the same extent as their able-bodied peers; (e) to collaborate with other universities in Malaysia and also other organizations worldwide in terms of sharing knowledge, expertise, and research findings related to people with disabilities; and (f) to organize local and international conferences with themes on the latest knowledge in research and practice as they relate to people with disabilities.

UPAD welcomes all organizations in Malaysia and worldwide to share their knowledge and offer ideas in improving the quality of life for people with disabilities.

For further correspondence, contact: Nagoor Meera Abdullah, Founder/Head, Unit for Physical Activity and Disability Research (UPAD), Faculty of Sport Science and Recreation, Universiti Teknologi MARA, 40450 Shah Alam, SELANGOR, MALAYSIA. E-mail: nameera_ab@yahoo.com.my; nagoor@salam.uitm.edu.my.

Southeast Asia, continued:

Talent Identification Program for Sports for Persons With Disability

Talent Identification Program for Sports for Persons with Disabilities in Malaysia: A Pilot Project in Nurturing Talent in Disability Sports. To get more people with disabilities in Malaysia to fulfil their talent in disability sports, a talent identification program was held on the 25th of August, 2007 at the Bangi Industrial Training and Rehabilitation Centre. The program was launched by Dato Zainal Abu Zarin, Chief Executive Officer and President of the Malaysia Paralympic Council (MPC). This program was organized with the collaboration of MPC, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Disability Sports, National Sports Institute, and the Unit for Physical Activity and Disability Research (UPAD), University Technology MARA (UiTM), Malaysia.

In his speech, Dato Zainal was very happy and delighted with the program that was organized for the first time in Malaysia, with the objective to nurture talent that can be moulded to represent the country for years to come. He hoped that there will be similar programs organized every year in order to identify more talent nationwide. He also thanked the National Sports Institute who helped to oversee the technical part of the program.

The program was organized by the Disability Sports under the guidance of Nagoor Meera Abdullah. About 40 undergraduate students from the Faculty of Sports Science and Recreation, University Technology MARA (UiTM), Malaysia were involved in this project. The Athletes Preparation Department, MPC, also helped in organizing the program.

About 111 participants (98 male participants and 13 female participants) with various types of disabilities registered and took part in the program. Most of the participants came from the Klang Valley (Kuala Lumpur and Selangor). A total of 23 types of testing procedures were applied to all participants. The testing procedures used in the program were based on *Disability of South Africa Talent Identification Manual* and was adapted to the local setting. The testing procedures included general ability tests such as arm span, basketball throw test, 20 meters sprint/wheel, vertical jump, hand grip dynamometer, and cricket ball throw.

Most participants showed determination and passion to finish all the tests assigned to them. All the participants did well to complete all the tests without facing any difficulties. The program started at 9 a.m. and finished at 2 p.m. All the data collected were compiled and computed and analyzed by the National Sports Institute of Malaysia.

Africa: <http://www.ifapa.biz/ShowDoc.asp?MenuID=272>

Middle East: <http://www.ifapa.biz/ShowDoc.asp?MenuID=277>

Europe: <http://www.ifapa.biz/ShowDoc.asp?MenuID=276>

Calendar of Events for 2008 and Beyond

16th ICSPEs Biennial Conference, "Global Merging: A new Era for Sport and Physical Education"
July 23-26, 2008. Macau, China

For more information: www.umac.mo/fed/conference/iscpes08/en/en_main.html

10th International Symposium of the Asian Society for Adapted Physical Education and Exercise
August 1-3, 2008. Seoul, Korea.

Contact: Korean Society of Adapted Activity and Exercise (KOSAPE); Phone: 82-31-321-1019;
E-mail: kosape@hanmail.net.

International Convention on Science, Education and Medicine in Sport
August 1-5 2008, Guangzhou, China

Organized by ICSSPE, IPC, FIMS and IOC. Please contact the ICSSPE Office for more information.

Conference Announcements

Power of Sport Summit: A Participatory Forum on Sport and Social Change

June 14-15, 2008

Northeastern University, Boston MA, USA

On behalf of the Center for the Study of Sport in Society, we would like to cordially invite you to the first Power of Sport Summit: A Participatory Forum on Sport and Social Change on June 14th and 15th, 2008 to be held at Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts. The Summit will be an interactive meeting of academics, practitioners, and advocates working together to define and address current and emerging issues involving the intersection of sport and social justice. The objective of the Summit is to generate discussion around current trends, including what's working, what's possible, and what important actions are needed to help advance the sport and social change movement.



All those interested in the intersection of sport and social justice are invited to attend and participate in the Power of Sport Summit, where experts in the fields of research, education, and advocacy will unite to celebrate, reinvigorate, and advance this very important work. All participants will be vital contributors able to share their expertise. Coaches, program managers, athletes and activists, both youth and adult, will be among those whose tangible experiences are key components in understanding the vital intersection of sport and social justice.

The Power of Sport Summit marks the conclusion of a year of innovative research carried out by Sport in Society's inaugural team of Research Fellows. Their research activities cut across disciplines and demonstrate the powerful connection between sport and social change. Due to the breadth and depth of possible topics, the Power of Sport Summit will combine interactive breakout sessions led by Sport in Society's Research Fellows with "Open Space Technology" (OST) working groups. Rather than concretely define all topics and presenters in advance, participants will also take active roles as self-organizers, setting the agenda for a collaborative working meeting. This dual structure offers participants an opportunity to learn about the latest trends and research currently advancing the sport and social change movement, while also allowing unforeseen topics to emerge and ensuring that the best outcomes are everyone's to create. These working sessions are intended to foster concrete action steps that can make a valuable impact in a variety of ways.

For more information regarding the Summit, including event details and the use of Open Space Technology, registration information and visitor information, please visit the event website at <http://www.sportinsociety.org/powerofsportsummit.php>. Any questions may be directed to my attention at: e.wolff@neu.edu, 617-373-8936.

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Additional Conference Announcements

All the announcements that follow are on the IFAPA.biz website:
<http://www.ifapa.biz/ShowList.asp?MenuID=282>

3rd Annual International Shafallah Forum
Disability Rights and Social Participation: Ensuring a Society for All

ALACD 2008 Youth Exchange
National Consortium for Physical Education and Recreation for Individuals with Disabilities NCPERID
July 21-25, 2008, Washington DC, USA

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Additional Conference Announcements, *continued*

10th International Symposium of ASAPE Seoul Korea
August 8-10, 2008, Seoul

9th North American Federation of Adapted Physical Activity Symposium
September 3-6, 2008, Indianapolis, IN, USA

“Setting the Pace for the Future: Innovations in Inter and Multi-disciplinary Research in APA”

Deadlines:

Submission of Abstracts: April 30, 2008
Acceptance of Abstracts: May 31, 2008
Conference Registration Deadline: July 15th, 2008
Conference Dates: September 3-6, 2008

Focused research sessions: These sessions will focus on presentation of research results. Topics will be grouped by similarity with each presenter getting approximately 15 minutes to present and 5 minutes for questions.

Poster Presentation: Poster presentation must be submitted based upon already completed research.

Building Sessions: The building sessions are designed to develop key research ideas discussing the merits and issues related to the topic. These sessions will be 75 minutes in length with 3 to 4 topics being presented.

Submission of Abstracts:

Abstracts must be submitted via an e-mail attachment and in a Word document only.

Once your abstract is received, you will receive a confirmation e-mail. If you do not receive a confirmation e-mail within 48 hours after sending your abstract, please contact Katie Stanton immediately (contact information listed below). Please include the following information when submitting your abstract. All abstracts must be complete for consideration.

Author Information: Name, University Address, Contact phone number, Fax number, E-mail address

Presentation Format: Indicate whether you are submitting a presentation for either (a) focused research presentation, (b) poster presentation, (c) building session, or (d) Pat Austin Research award consideration (graduate students only). Also include the following: Title of Paper, Target Audience, Presentation Format, Abstract (500 words). E-mail all abstracts to (kstanton@iupui.edu). 317-274-2295.

The Patricia Austin Graduate Student Award will be offered for outstanding graduate student research in adapted physical activity. The award is given by the Patricia Austin Centre located at the University of Alberta in conjunction with the North American Federation of Adapted Physical Activity (NAFAPA) organizing committee. The Centre promotes research and program development in adapted physical activity.

Purpose: The award is given to recognize scholarly research conducted by a graduate student in adapted physical activity.

Eligibility: The applicant must submit an unpublished scholarly paper reporting a research study in adapted physical activity. Traditional literature reviews are not acceptable for this award. The applicant must be the principal author of the submitted scholarly paper.

The paper must have been written within 24 months of the date of application, and the work completed while the student was registered in a recognized graduate program.

At the time of submission for the Pat Austin Graduate Student Award, the paper must be unpublished. This means that the paper cannot already be published, in press, or under review for publication in a scholarly journal. The author(s) certify this to be true through the submission of the paper for this award.

The applicant must not have been a previous recipient of the Patricia Austin Graduate Student Award.

Only one submission will be accepted from each applicant.

Application: Individuals must submit four copies of an unpublished scholarly research paper (up to a maximum of 30 pages, including references, tables, and figures; use American Psychological Association format, 5th edition) to: Dr. Janice Causgrove Dunn, Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation, E488 Van Vliet Centre, The University of Alberta Edmonton, Alberta Canada T6G 2H9.

A confirmation letter written by the student's advisor must be included in the submission, indicating (a) that the student was registered full-time or part-time when the paper was written, and (b) that the student was the principal investigator of the research project. Applications will not be considered without this confirmation letter.

Applications for the 2008 competition must be **received by June 4, 2008.**

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Additional Conference Announcements, *continued*

Award: The value of the award is \$2000.00 in Canadian funds. The recipient of the award is expected to attend the NAFAPA 2008 conference in Indianapolis, Indiana and present the scholarly paper in a special session for this award. Please direct any questions to Dr. Janice Causgrove Dunn (phone: 780-492-3615 or e-mail: janice.causgrovedunn@ualberta.ca).

EUCAPA 2008

October 9-11, 2008, Torino Italy

At (www.eucapa2008.com) you will find the web site of the European Congress on Adapted Physical Activity (EUCAPA)2008, which will take place in Turin (Italy) from October 9th to 11th 2008. Among the wide-ranging supply of national and international congresses, why choose this one rather than another? For at least four reasons: APA is a strongly expanding sector and is integrated into European training courses for Bachelor's and Master's Degrees as well as for PhDs; APA enables researchers into human motility to communicate in life sciences and/or human and social sciences; the primary goal of APA is to link theory and practice so as to promote and optimise professionals' training; EUCAPA 2008 guarantees that presentations will be published in the European Journal of Adapted Physical Activity (www.bulletin-apa.com).

37th National Adapted Physical Education Conference

November 20-22, 2008, The Westin Horton Plaza, San Diego CA

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Symposium Directors

2009 Symposium Director

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2007 Symposium Director

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International Federation of Adapted Physical Activity

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