New York is a city of bridges. The many bridges that link different parts of the city assure a rich, vibrant and ever-renewed traffic in ideas, cultures, food, entertainment, science and commerce. Part of the City University of New York (CUNY) and located in upper Manhattan, the Lois V. and Samuel J. Silverman School of Social Work at Hunter College CUNY (formerly Hunter College School of Social Work) is known for its historic efforts to integrate practice and research, a distinctive aspect of CUNY’s PhD Program in Social Welfare under the aegis of its Graduate Center but affiliated with the Silberman School of Social Work.

Likewise, the encouragement of practitioner research has been an integral aspect of social work professional development at Mount Sinai Medical Center. Over the years, many of its social workers have received MSW training at Hunter and several have gone on to their PhD's at Hunter with institutional support from Mount Sinai.

Working both collaboratively and independently, these New York institutions have promoted practice-research and fostered its development locally, nationally and internationally. This remarkable organizational development could not have taken place without the vision, inspiration and support of Dr. Helen Rehr a true pioneer and a staunch advocate of practice-based research. The conference is dedicated to her memory.

Conference sessions will take place in the newly built, "state-of-the-art", Silberman School of Social Work, with visits to Mount Sinai practice-research settings, where appropriate.

Conference organizers are currently in negotiation with a nearby Marriott Hotel which will serve as the official conference hotel, where accommodations will be offered at reduced rates dependent on when reservations are made. We are as well exploring the possibility of on-campus accommodation for Emerging Practice-Research Scholars who have limited or no access to travel funds.