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WPA Affective Disorders Section– Activity Report (2024)

Chair: Kürşat Altınbaş

Co-Chairs: Marin Veldic & Yoji Hirano General

Secretary: DanMela WaMssbluth Panzer

1. Scientific Collaboration and Online Intersectional Meeting

In collaboration with the WPA Section on Genetics in Psychiatry, we organized a highly successful online intersectional meeting in October 2024 titled:

“Genetics and the Treatment of Bipolar Disorder”

The event featured two internationally renowned experts:

- **Martin Alda, MD** (Dalhousie University), who presented *“Response to Long-Term Lithium Treatment: The Importance of Clinical Profile.”*
- **Sergi Papiol, PhD**, lead analyst of the **Consortium on Lithium Genetics (ConLiGen)**, who delivered a presentation titled *“Updates from the Consortium on Lithium Genetics.”*

This collaborative session drew global attention and strengthened the scientific exchange between sections.

2. Section Contributions to the 24th WPA World Congress of Psychiatry (Mexico City, 14–17 November 2024)

During the WPA World Congress in Mexico City, our section was represented by Prof. Melvin McInnis, who delivered a keynote lecture titled:

“Modernizing the Diagnostic Process in Mood Disorders: Common Data Models, Dark Data, & Psychopathology.”

The talk emphasized the intersection of technology, clinical psychiatry, and translational science, reinforcing our section’s commitment to innovation in mood disorder diagnostics.

3. Membership Expansion and Engagement

Throughout 2024, we made significant efforts to increase member engagement and visibility, including:

- Circulating announcements via WPA channels and affiliated networks.
 - Encouraging early-career professionals and researchers to join.
 - As a result, our membership has grown steadily over the year.
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4. Strengthening Diversity and Governance

To ensure gender balance and geographic representation within our section leadership, we welcomed Dr. Daniela Waissbluth Panzer (Clínica Alemana, Department of Psychiatry, Santiago, Chile) to the Section Executive Committee.

Her appointment reflects our ongoing efforts to strengthen inclusion and global perspective in section activities.

We look forward to further advancing scientific dialogue, collaboration, and education in affective disorders in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

Prof. Kürşat Altınbaş, MD

Chair, WPA Affective Disorders Section

