

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE WORLD PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION (WPA)**

16 October 2020 from 13:00 - 16:30 CET (Central European Time)

VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE AND ELECTRONIC PLATFORM

To the Presidents of Member Societies

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the WPA Executive Committee I confirm that the **2020 World Congress of Psychiatry** scheduled for 13-16 October 2020 in Bangkok has been postponed because of the pandemic. The postponed 2020 World Congress of Psychiatry will be held in Bangkok from 10-13 March 2021. You will receive more information about this in due course.

Despite the postponement of the 2020 World Congress of Psychiatry, it is necessary to hold the Ordinary General Assembly this year, for the issuing of the various reports, the approval of the financial statements, the statutory elections, and various amendments to the statutes.

You are aware that WPA is incorporated under Swiss law, established in Switzerland and fully subject to Swiss law. In view of the COVID-19 health crisis, the Swiss Government (Federal Council) issued extraordinary ordinances intended to amend numerous legal rules, compliance with which was made impossible by the difficulty or prohibition of bringing together several people.

This is particularly the case for the holding of general meetings. Extraordinary ordinances of the Swiss Federal Council give the directors of all Swiss legal entities the power to decide that general meetings shall be held in writing or electronically, even if the statutes of the legal entity do not so provide.

Considering the situation that will not allow for the physical meeting of delegates of WPA Members in 2020, its Executive Committee has decided to convene the **General Assembly by video conference on 16 October 2020 from 13:00 to 16:30 CET (Central European Time)**. It will be held in English.

WPA Secretariat

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If the statutory quorum is not reached, a second statutory meeting for a vote without quorum on relevant agenda items will be held the next day, **17 October 2020**, at the same time and according to the same procedure and agenda.

Voting for election of office bearers and voting on other agenda items will be conducted electronically. An online voting platform for election of WPA officers will be available for the delegates of Member Societies to cast their votes from **1 October until 16 October 2020** (to be closed during the General Assembly). Voting on other agenda items will be conducted electronically during the General Assembly.

Please find attached a draft agenda of the General Assembly of 16 October 2020 for your review and comments.

You are invited to request inclusion of additional items on the agenda by **15 July 2020**. **Please send any proposals you may have by email to: wpasecretariat@wpanet.org.**

You will have received an earlier communication from me seeking your approval to introduce provision for offsite electronic voting ahead of the WPA General Assembly for the WPA elections and other agenda items. This was agreed by all who voted. There will be a vote formally adopting this amendment for the future organization of General Assemblies by electronic means should this be necessary.

You will receive all the usual documents including reports, financial statements, list and CV of candidates for election, amended statutes in the course of July.

You will also receive before the General Assembly detailed information explaining the process for video conferencing, electronic voting, identification, and any other matters.

According to our Statutes, the vote will be open only to those delegates whose Member Societies have paid the dues for the current triennium. **This payment must be received by the WPA by 1 September 2020 CET (Central European Time).**

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Those Member Societies who have not paid their dues by **1 September** will not be eligible to vote. We are unable to extend this deadline because it is essential to allow the Accreditation Committee to do its work and transmit the necessary data to the online voting platform.

We shall also require by **1 September 2020** information about your Society's delegate to the virtual General Assembly, so that we can forward this information to the organizers of the electronic voting and of the video conference. We will send you a detailed request in due course.

We are already looking forward to meeting you in person next year in March 2021 at the Bangkok Congress.

Sincerely yours,



Helen HERRMAN AO
WPA President

Enclosure: Draft Agenda of the WPA General Assembly

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