



WORLD PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

Advance Psychiatry and Mental
Health Across the World

Executive Committee

President

Helen Herrman AO (Australia)

President-Elect

Afzal Javed (Pakistan)

Secretary General

Roy Abraham Kallivayalil (India)

Secretary for Education

Roger Man Kin Ng (Hong Kong, China)

Secretary for Finances

Armen Soghoyan (Armenia)

Secretary for Scientific Meetings

Masatoshi Takeda (Japan)

Secretary for Scientific Publications

Michel Botbol (France)

Secretary for Scientific Sections

Thomas G. Schulze (Germany)

Board/Zonal Representatives

- Zone 1: K. Sonu Gaind
- Zone 2: Edmond Hsin-tung Pi
- Zone 3: Virginia Rosabal
- Zone 4: Silvia Gaviria
- Zone 5: Alfredo Horacio Cía
- Zone 6: Gisèle Apter
- Zone 7: Jyrki Korkeila
- Zone 8: Zvi Zemishlany
- Zone 9: Stojan Bajraktarov
- Zone 10: Oleg Skugarevsky
- Zone 11: Nahla Nagy
- Zone 12: Suhaila Ghuloum
- Zone 13: Owoidoho Udofia
- Zone 14: David M. Ndeti
- Zone 15: Khalid Attaullah Mufti
- Zone 16: M.S.V.K. Raju
- Zone 17: Winston W. Shen
- Zone 18: Allister Bush

Council (Past Presidents)

- Pierre Pichot (France) (1977-1983)
- Jorge A. Costa e Silva (Brazil) (1989-1993)
- Felice Lieh-Mak (China) (1993-1996)
- Norman Sartorius (Switzerland) (1996-1999)
- Ahmed Okasha (Egypt) (2002-2005)
- Juan E. Mezzich (USA) (2005-2008)
- Mario Maj (Italy) (2008-2011)
- Pedro Ruiz (USA) (2011-2014)
- Dinesh Bhugra (UK) (2014-2017)

WPA Secretariat

Geneva University Psychiatric Hospital
2 chemin du Petit-Bel-Air
1226 Thônex / Geneva
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 305 5737
Fax: +41 22 305 5735
Web: www.wpanet.org

Press Release

World Psychiatric Association advises Ukraine

Today the World Psychiatric Association (WPA) issued a Mental Health Policy Brief with recommendations on how to solve the current crisis in psychiatry in Ukraine and take steps to reform mental health care services soundly and structurally. The policy brief was developed at the request of the two Ukrainian psychiatric associations that are members of the WPA. A copy of the brief was also forwarded to the Ukrainian Ministry of Health. The policy brief was developed by an international team of experts chaired by the President of the Georgian Psychiatric Association, Professor Eka Chkonia, and comprising half a dozen top experts in the field of modern mental health care services who are also well-informed about the Ukrainian context.

The crisis in Ukrainian psychiatry was the result of the second stage of the health reform that was implemented on April 1, 2020, and led to a reduction of funds for in-patient treatment. On top of this came the problems of coping with mental health care in the face of the COVID pandemic which hit Ukraine at almost the same time. As a result of the crisis, many mental health professionals were losing their jobs, hospital departments were closed and many chronic patients were discharged, often without any other place to go.

The WPA Expert Committee recommended the Ukrainian government implement the existing draft National Mental Health Action Plan after having been fine-tuned by an inter-Ministerial working group that would include representatives of other relevant Ministries e.g. the Ministries of Social Policy and Education, as well as professional mental health related associations and consumer representatives. The Expert Committee also stressed the necessity of a twin-track financing approach that would provide adequate resources for in-patient care (possibly with an increase of funding during the actual shift to community care) while developing community-based mental health care services. It also pointed out the importance of a regular consultation process between the Ministry and the professional psychiatric associations. It further recommended to set up train-the-trainer programs for multi-disciplinary approach in community-based mental health-services to support the de-institutionalization process and called upon Ukraine to meet its international obligations, e.g. with regard to the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities-CRPD.

For more information: Prof. Robert van Voren, rvvvoren@gip-global.org, +31-651534123