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Author: Prof. Angelos Halaris - Chair of the section  
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## **SECTION ON IMMUNOPSYCHIATRY – Annual Report 2024**

**Chair:** Angelos Halaris (USA)

**CO-Chair:** Karl Bechter (Germany)

**Secretary:** Michael Benros (Denmark)

The main goal of the WPA Section on Immunopsychiatry during 2024 was to follow through with the unanimous recommendation of the members who met during the WPA Congress held in Vienna in 2023 to rename the Section in accord with the rapid evolution of psychoneuroimmunology. The former name was appropriately chosen when the Section was first created a few decades ago. Since then, it became clear that immunology and psychiatry are intricately related disciplines and therefore the name “Immunopsychiatry” would be far more appropriate. The proposal was submitted to the entire membership and after useful and constructive exchanges among the members, the new name was unanimously approved. The proposal was submitted to the WPA leadership and after providing rigorous justification it was approved.

The membership also addressed the restructuring and expansion of the activities of the Section. Since many of the original members had retired or had chosen not to actively participate in the activities of the Section and resigned, it was critical to revise the list of members and update it. This activity was completed early in 2025, and the revised list has been posted.

Officers and members of the Section on Immunopsychiatry have published articles and given presentations at local, national and international congresses and conferences aimed at the dissemination of new findings covering the multifaceted aspects of the immune system as it relates to psychiatric disorders.

The Section actively participated in the 9th Congress on Neurobiology, Psychopharmacology and Treatment Guidance held in Porto Palace hotel, Thessaloniki, Greece on March 8th-10th 2024. Members organized and gave presentations in two symposia titled:

Symposium #1: New targets for psychotropic drug development- focus on depressive disorders

Symposium #2: Immunopsychiatry and Autoimmunity: Gateway to Precision Psychiatry

The WPA Section on Immunopsychiatry has a strong affiliation with the Psychoimmunology Expert (PIE) Meetings held biennially at Ulm University/Reisensburg castle, Germany. Members of the Section actively participate in the biennial meetings of PIE and give presentations about their research, which is of high relevance to the thematic interests of PIE. Section members prepared a workshop and presentations for 17th PIE meeting that took place in May 2025 (<https://pie-meeting.org>). Based on the agreement reached by Section members in attendance, efforts are being made to restructure the Section and expand its scope by offering educational workshops and symposia at upcoming WPA congresses as well as organizing thematic conferences in conjunction with other WPA sections. The promotion of collaboration with other WPA Sections and among researchers interested in the field across the world is an additional goal. These efforts will provide for greater involvement of its members in the activities of the Section in the coming years.