

Document Title: Annual Activities Report 2024

Document Type: Report

Author: Section Officers

Date Created: April 2025



WORLD PSYCHIATRY ASSOCIATION SECTION FOR ART AND PSYCHIATRY: ACTIVITIES REPORT 2024

Membership

In 2024, the Section welcomed six new members from Italy, Chile, Brazil, Australia, Germany and Romania. The Section began a new newsletter to members sent three times per year. The first was sent in December 2024. Correspondence with members also occurred by email as needed.

Leadership

The Secretary for the Section Dr Pia Brous (Australia) retired from the position with thanks for her contribution. Dr Jamuna Krishnan (Darwin, Australia) was appointed as Interim Secretary. The leadership committee for 2024 remained:

Dr. Jennifer Harrison: Chair (Australia)

Dr. Ekaterina Sukhanova: Vice-Chair (USA)

Dr. Jamuna Krishnan: Secretary (Australia)

Dr. Hans Otto Thomashoff: Honorary Emeritus Chair (Austria)

Dr. Alexander Merkin: International (At-Large) Representative (New Zealand)

Professor Diane Waller: International (At-Large) Representative (UK).

Meetings

A 2024 Section face-to-face meeting took place in Mexico City and was attended by Dr. Ekaterina Sukhanova and Dr. Jennifer Harrison. Regular zoom section meetings throughout 2024 were attended by Dr. Jennifer Harrison, Dr. Pia Brous and more latterly Dr. Jamuna Krishnan.

Conferences, Symposia and Workshops

Dr. K. S. Pavitra (India). Mental Health promoting Sociocultural interventions in industrial setups at National Conference of Industrial Psychiatry held at BodhGaya, India, Dec 2024 – presentation on dance therapy for mental health issues.

Dr. K. S. Pavitra (India). Thematic Classical Dance recital on Buddhacharana exploring arts and Psychiatry utilizing Buddha stories by Dr. K, S, Pavitra National Conference of Industrial Psychiatry held at BodhGaya, India, Dec 2024.

Dr. K. S. Pavitra (India). Annual South Zone Conference of Indian Psychiatric Society-Symposium on Humanities in Psychiatry in the digital era. Attended as an invited speaker at NIMHANS, Bengaluru, October 2024.

Dr. Valentin-Veron Toma (Romania, 2024) organized a workshop on the topic "Art therapy and its place in the social assistance system, in Romania, in the context of the recent paradigm shift, by moving from the institutional model to the community model of care for people with mental disabilities." (Great Hall, ARCUB Gabroveni, September 23, 2024).

Dr. Valentin-Veron Toma (Romania) was an invited presenter at the National Conference of the Association of Independent Psychiatrists in Romania (APLR), titled "Psychic disorders and somatic diseases." He presented a paper entitled "Art-Therapy, a neglected tool in supporting the mental well-being of oncology patients in Romania" (Novotel Hotel, Bucharest, October 1 – 2, 2024).

Dr. Valentin-Veron Toma (Romania) presented a paper entitled "Recovering the Voice" of people with a mental health condition through Plastic Works: About the Need for a Digital Museum of Psychopathological Art Collections in Romania (c.a. 1961-2024)". International conference "Health organization and medical practices during communism. Attempts at social history". National Institute for the Study of Totalitarianism, Romanian Academy. (Bucharest, June 18, 2024).

Dr. Valentin-Veron Toma (Romania). Invited presenter at the National Conference with International Participation "Medical and Scientific Days of the Clinical Hospital of Psychiatry Prof. Dr. Alexandru Obregia." Organizer Clinical Psychiatry Hospital "Prof. Dr. Alexandru Obregia," ASSMB, PMB. The theme of the presentation: "Pioneers in the field of plastic expression psychopathology and art therapy, in Romanian psychiatry, in a European context." (Palace of the Parliament, Bucharest, 03/04/2024).

Dr. Harrison, Jennifer: 11.10.2024: video recording for WPA promotion of the Symposium for the Section of Art and Psychiatry at the WPA Congress Mexico City November 14th-17th 2024.

Professor Daniela Polese (Italy): Rome, October 18-19, 2024, 'Psychotherapy, Creativity and the Arts'.

Dr. Harrison, Jennifer (Australia). Presenter, WPA Congress, Mexico City. Chaired Art and Psychiatry Symposium, WPA Mexico City. Presented a paper on 'Ekphrasis as a way of teaching youth about mental health.'

Dr. Sukhanova, Ekaterina (USA). Presenter, Art and Psychiatry Symposium, WPA Congress, Mexico City. Presented a paper titled 'Translating the pain: narrative medicine in medical school curricula.'

Emeritus Professor Dörr, Otto (Chile): Presenter, Art and Psychiatry Symposium, WPA Congress, Mexico City. Presented a paper on 'The poet Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832) as a scientist and the emergent paradigm of the sciences.'

Dr. Hans-Otto Thomashoff (Austria) was also an invited symposium speaker but was prevented participating through illness. His paper was entitled 'How psychodynamics should shape politics towards a society of the future.'

Dr. Harrison, Jennifer: 21.9.2024: panel discussant, 'Building Confidence in the Arts', *Confidence 2 Anthology* launch, Minds Shine Bright, hosted by Amanda Scotney, Geelong (Australia).

Dr. Harrison, Jennifer: Participated in the Australian/Korean Poetry Interchange throughout 2024 culminating on 16.2.2024 with a zoom reading and presentation with Lecturer from University of South Australia, Amelia Walker, Australian and Korean poets, Invisible Walls Project, Around the World with Women Writers, University of Cambridge (UK).

Publications

Pavitra, K. S. (2024). Combining Art and Science: Adapting Poetry, Dance, and Music to Create Awareness of Women's Mental Health—Observations from a Novel Experiment in the Community. *Journal of Integrated Social Sciences and Humanities*.
<https://doi.org/10.62836/jissh.v1i1.173>

Bezerra, G.A.M., Piasentim, S.M.S., Cliquet, G.B. *et al.* Bringing Psychotherapy Closer to Medical Students: the Experience of Revamping an Educational Program in Brazil. *Acad Psychiatry* **49**, 204–205 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40596-024-02073-8>

Toma, V.V., Dorneanu, O., Tița, M. (2024). *Collections of psychopathological art and art-therapy in social care services*. Bucharest: RAO

Dr. Valentin-Veron Toma (2024). Book chapter: Collections d'art psychopathologique - reliques du passé ou base matérielle pour les futures études scientifiques en psychiatrie? *Les Actes du Symposium de la recherche scientifique francophone en Europe Centrale et Orientale*. Editura Tehnică & Editura AOSR, Bucarest. Tome I, p. 73. ISSN 3061 - 2543 ISSN-L 3061 – 2543.

Dr. Harrison, Jennifer. 'Art and Psychiatry', article published in the newsletter of the RANZCP Section for Philosophy and Humanities, October 2024.

Dr. Harrison, Jennifer, 2004: Poems published in *Crow & Cross Keys* (UK), *Gutter Magazine* (Scotland), *The Ekphrastic Review* (USA), *Book of Matches* (USA), *Etched Onyx* (USA), *Dancing about Architecture: and other ekphrastic maneuvers* (USA), *Finding My Feet: an anthology of poetic voices* (Australia), *2024 New Zealand Poetry Society International Poetry Competition Anthology* (New Zealand), *MacGuffin Poetry Hunt 29 Anthology* (USA), *Faith: 2024 Australian Catholic University Prize for Poetry* (Australia), *Dombóvár, Newcastle Poetry Prize Anthology* (Australia), *Heroines International Poetry Anthology*, Number 5 (Australia), *Poetry of Change: The Liquid Amber Prize 2024 (Australia)*, *Temple: Anthology of the South Coast Writers. Centre*, 2024 (Australia).

Dr. Harrison, Jennifer: Review of *Troubled Minds* by Professor Sidney Bloch and Dr. Nick Haslam, *Australian Book Review*, No. 464, May 2024.

Dr. Harrison, Jennifer: *Every family has a story: short stories from the 2024 EM Fletcher Award*; ed. Ann Peut, EM Fletcher Family History, ACT (Australia).

Projects

Dr. Valentin-Veron Toma (Romania, 2024) participated in the project "Through Art Therapy to the Soul of the Voiceless: Mental Disorders in the Urban Environment." Bucharest City Hall financed the project through the Bucharest City Project Center (ARCUB). Psych. Loredana Larionescu, president of the Entuziart Art Therapy Association, Bucharest, coordinated the project.

Exhibitions

Dr. Valentin-Veron Toma (Romania, 2024) was co-organizer of a new scientific exhibition of psychopathological art, included in the Art In/Sane cycle of exhibitions, titled: "Through Art Therapy to the Soul of the Voiceless - mental disorders in the urban environment." (ARCUB Gabroveni Gallery, Sala Arcelor, Bucharest, September 13 – October 4, 2024).

Media

Dr. K. S. Pavitra (India). All India radio programme interview on Sri Ramayana Darshanam Jnanapeetha work of Poet Kuvempu and how psychology has played a prominent role in interpreting Ramayana –the Indian epic in diverse ways.

Dr. Harrison, Jennifer: 2.10.2024: podcast interview (Story Discovery Podcast) with J. W. McAteer and Becky Hinshaw, Nashville (USA).

Collaborations

The WPA Section for Art and Psychiatry has defined their collaboration with the RANZCP Section for Philosophy and Humanities through a series of 2024 meetings. Dr Harrison will be their speaker at the 2025 RANZCP Congress, Gold Coast, Australia, in May 2025, and will present on Art and Psychiatry as part of their symposium.

Dr. Harrison, Jennifer: April 2024: studio recording for solo violin 'Colombine' poem IV with soloist Loretta Frances Meagher. August 2024: 'Colombine' poem IV recorded at Ginger Music Studio by composer Barry McKimm featuring Loretta Francis Meagher, Concert Master of the Victorian State Concert Orchestra

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/svw5t8u7vcyel02lyqjct/Colombine-IV-...more-or-less-a-woman.mp3?rlkey=4wdmop0ykp0pb6du46ohzm3b3&st=7p6ozu07&dl=0>

25.10.2024: reading of 'Colombine' poem X' followed by Phoebe Smithies' horn solo: world premiere composed by Barry McKimm, performed as part of the Forest Collective's 'It's a Matter of Time' program at the Eleventh Hour Theatre, Melbourne (Australia).

Research

Pavitra, K. S. (2024). Combining Art and Science: Adapting Poetry, Dance, and Music to Create Awareness of Women's Mental Health—Observations from a Novel Experiment in the Community. *Journal of Integrated Social Sciences and Humanities*.
<https://doi.org/10.62836/jissh.v1i1.173>

Senior fellowship work on Dance therapy for mental health using Bharatanatyam an Indian classical dance form submitted to Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India, New Delhi.

Harrison, Jennifer; Peres, Lisa; Cooper, Katie, Hopkins, Liza. Alfred Hospital ethics approval for the 'Draw a Tree' 9.3.2021. Alfred Child and Youth Mental Health Service Developmental Assessment and Management Program research pilot looking at drawing and visual spatial abilities of autistic children, Melbourne, Australia. Videos and client assessments completed in 2024. Paper being written for publication.

Teaching

Dr. Gustavo Bezerra, psychiatrist and psychotherapist; Supervisor of the Psychotherapy Service at the Institute of Psychiatry, Hospital das Clínicas, Faculty of Medicine, University of São Paulo (IPq-HCFMUSP); Group therapist and a psychotherapy teacher at the Faculty of Medicine. As a psychotherapy teacher, Dr. Bezerra lectures to third- and fifth-year medical students and also works as a psychotherapy supervisor in the psychiatry residency program. Dr. Bezerra states: "We have a large and well-structured Psychotherapy Service at our psychiatric hospital, which brings together different therapeutic approaches . . . In our medical school psychiatric rotation, we ask students to create a subjective work reflecting on their experience during the rotation, and they often develop artworks . . . Since attending the Art and Psychiatry symposium as part of the WPA Congress in Mexico, 2024, I started using *ekphrasis* in medical psychology classes last year (2024) and it was a success, so we're expanding it this year (2025)."

Member Awards

Dr. K. S. Pavitra (India). VK Razdan Oration award for work on Dance, literature and mental health by Indian Association of Private Psychiatry, at National Conference held at Aurangabad, Maharashtra, India in October 2024.

Dr. Harrison, Jennifer: 26.2.2024: first prize 2023 Troubadour International Poetry Competition (UK).

Dr. Harrison, Jennifer: 30.10.2024: co-winner of the 2024 Heroines International Poetry Prize (Australia)).

Community Activities

Dr. K. S. Pavitra (India). Released six books in Kannada (state language of Karnataka), four on mental health (various aspects), one on Dance and mental health, one on creativity and mental health different aspects for general public.

Dr. K. S. Pavitra (India). AAnanda aarogya–Happiness and Health–a Dance Lec-demo series 12 in number between October to December 2024 for youth targeting schools and colleges depicting the therapeutic and mental health promotional values of Kannada poetry combined with traditional story telling aspect of Bharatanatyam–Indian classical dance form.

Dr. Harrison, Jennifer, 2024: co-judge of the Ann Morgan Prize for Creative Writing about the Infant, The Australian Association for Infant Mental Health, Australia and New Zealand.

Dr. Harrison, Jennifer: 31.8.2024: presented as part of the judging panel of the Ann Morgan Prize for 'Creative Writing About the Infant' at a meeting of the Australian Infant Mental Health Association (Australia).

Dr. Harrison, Jennifer: Co-judge, Minds Shine Bright Light and Shadow Prize, 2024 (Australia).

Dr. Harrison, Jennifer, 2024: Member of the Art Acquisitions Committee, The Cunningham Dax Collection, The Dax Centre, Melbourne (Australia).

Dr. Harrison, Jennifer, 2024: Ongoing management of The Dax Poetry Collection, The Cunningham Dax Art Collection, The Dax Centre, University of Melbourne (Australia).

Website

The section website was redeveloped in 2021-2022. New membership details were added in 2024. Other new items added in 2024 included:

- 1) pre-conference advertising for the 2024 Rome conference 'Psychotherapy, Creativity and the Arts'
- 2) PowerPoint presentation from Dr. Hans-Otto Thomashoff (Austria) on "How psychodynamics should shape politics towards a society of the future"
- 3) link to Dr. Valentin-Veron Toma's (Romania) Art IN/SANE website for the applied research project "Psychopathological Art and its place in material cultural heritage", Institute of Anthropology 'Francis I. Rainer' of the Romanian Academy and 2019 publication *Art IN/SANE* <https://www.artinsane.eu/en/>
- 4) links to the 2023 publication by Professor Rainer Holm-Hadulla, *The Creative Transformation of Despair, Hate and Violence*: https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-27384-https://www.academia.edu/121052414/The_Creative_Transformation_of_Despair_Hate_and_Violence.

The Future

Several symposia have been submitted for the WPA Prague Congress 2025. Several individual abstracts have also been submitted for WPA Prague 2025. These include abstracts from Dr. Valentin-Veron Toma (Romania), Professor Daniela Polese (Italy), Professor Rainer Holm-Hadulla (Germany), Dr. Gustavo Bezerra (Brazil), Dr. Álvaro Loewen (Spain) and Associate Professor Michael Feldman (USA) (apologies if there are more). Details will be included in the 2025 report.

RANZCP (Australian and New Zealand psychiatry) will sponsor a webinar on 'Art and Psychiatry' in April 2025.

A regional Art and Psychiatry Conference is planned for 2025, curated by Dr. Dr Vinay Kumar (Jaipur, India). A regional Art and Psychiatry Conference is also planned for 2027 (Perth, Australia). Dr. Hans-Otto Thomashoff will present at the Regional WPA Conference in Alexandria, Egypt, April, 2025 (theme: "Embracing the Complexity of Mental Health: Neuroscientific Foundations and Novel Interventions").

The Section has also welcomed six new members so far in 2025 (from Chile, Brazil, India, UK and USA).

The World Congress of Psychotherapy with a theme of "Psychotherapy, Mental Health and Human Rights" will take place June 4-6, 2026, CUNY, NY (USA) and will feature section members with the organisers also encouraging members to attend:
<https://wfpsychotherapy.org/world-congress-of-psychotherapy/>

The Section is also preparing an online international art resource for children who have experienced trauma.

Compiled by Dr. Jennifer Harrison, April, 2025 (Chair, WPA Section for Art and Psychiatry)