



Executive Summary

The World Psychiatry Association (WPA) Addiction Psychiatry Section continues to demonstrate significant impact in the field of addiction psychiatry through member engagement, high-quality education initiatives, and scholarly contributions. As of 2026, the section maintains a global membership base with active participation across all WPA regions and has established itself as a leading forum for knowledge dissemination and professional development in addiction psychiatry.

1. Membership and Organization

Membership Overview

The WPA Addiction Psychiatry Section has established a robust international membership structure:

- **Total Members:** 106 members representing all WPA regions globally
- **Regional Distribution:** Members distributed across all major WPA geographic regions, ensuring global representation
- **Official Membership List:** Current member list (with positions, names, countries, and contact information) maintained on the WPA website

Leadership and Elections

- **Election Cycle:** Elections held in 2024
 - **Leadership Transition:** Elected officers took office at the WPA General Assembly in Mexico City, 2024
 - **Leadership Information:** Complete list of elected members and their regional assignments available on the website
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2. Strategic Planning and Action Initiatives

Action Plan Framework

The WPA Addiction Psychiatry Section operates under a structured planning framework:

- **Plan Type:** Rolling action plan established at section inception (2024), updated annually
- **Strategic Alignment:** Action plan developed according to the section's three-year triennium plan
- **Coverage:** Includes tasks completed during 2025 and planned initiatives for 2026
- **Documentation:** Current action plan and task completion status available for review

Key Accomplishments

The section has successfully carried out the following activities aligned with its action plan:

- Produced position statements in addiction psychiatry
- Published materials supporting WPA educational programmes
- Conducted relevant research work in the field
- Facilitated international collaboration on addiction psychiatry topics

3. Educational Symposia and Workshops

Overview

The WPA Addiction Psychiatry Section has demonstrated a strong commitment to clinical education and knowledge dissemination through comprehensive symposia and workshop programs. Over the three years between General Assemblies, the section organised:

- **Total Symposia:** 15 symposia
- **Total Workshops:** 3 workshops
- **Total Educational Sessions:** 18 major educational initiatives

Organized Sessions

S. No	Title of Symposia/Workshop	WPA Meeting
1	Psychopharmacology of Addiction Psychiatry	WPA 2025, Prague
2	Reshaping the Future of Addiction Training and Education: Global, National, and Classroom Initiatives	WPA 2025, Prague
3	Women and Addictive Behaviours: Understanding Experiences and Optimising Clinical and Public Health Interventions	WPA 2025, Prague
4	Addiction in the Perinatal Period and Motherhood: Intersections, Stigma, Clinical Management, and Legal Aspects	WPA 2025, Prague
5	International Perspectives on Gambling Disorder: Innovations in Prevention, Policy, Technology, and Neuroscience	WPA 2025, Prague
6	Psychopharmacology for Addiction Psychiatry: Recommendations, Clinical Guidelines and Case Discussions	WPA Regional Congress, Alexandria
7	Psychopharmacology of Addiction Psychiatry	WPA 2024, Mexico City

8	Stigma and Addiction Psychiatry	WPA 2024, Mexico City
9	Women's Mental Health and Addiction	WPA 2024, Mexico City

Table 1: WPA Addiction Psychiatry Section—Organised Symposia and Workshops

Thematic Focus Areas

The educational programming demonstrates key priority areas:

- **Psychopharmacology:** Multiple symposia addressing pharmacological management of addictive disorders
- **Specialised Populations:** Focus on women and perinatal addiction
- **Behavioural Addictions:** International perspectives on gambling disorder and emerging technologies
- **Professional Development:** Training and education initiatives for global audiences
- **Stigma Reduction:** Clinical and public health approaches to addressing stigma in addiction psychiatry
- **Professional Education:** Clinical guidelines and case-based learning approaches

4. Publications and Scholarly Contributions

Peer-Reviewed Publications

The section has contributed significantly to the international addiction psychiatry literature:

1. Elkholy, H., Bhad, R., Ekhtiari, H., & Baldacchino, A. M. (2024). Addictive disorders through the lens of the WPA Section on Addiction Psychiatry. *World Psychiatry*, 23(3), 459–460.
 - DOI: 10.1002/wps.21256
 - PMID: 39279387
 - PMCID: PMC11403166
2. Siste, K., Kamal, R., Baldacchino, A., Elkholy, H., Bhad, R., Ekhtiari, H., et al. *New Psychoactive Substances (NPS Related Specialities)*. ISBN: 9780190095697

Publication Impact

- **High-Impact Journal:** World Psychiatry publication positions the section prominently in global addiction psychiatry discourse
 - **Multi-Author Collaboration:** Publications reflect international collaborative efforts across section membership
 - **Specialized Topics:** Coverage includes new psychoactive substances and emerging trends in addiction psychiatry
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5. Professional Development and Training Activities

Webinar Initiatives

The section actively pursues professional development through webinar programming:

- **Title:** "Gaming Disorder in ICD-11: Training Clinicians"
 - **Date:** November 19, 2025
 - **Collaborating Organisation:** European Psychiatry Association (EPA)
 - **Focus:** Training mental health clinicians on ICD-11 diagnostic criteria and clinical management of gaming disorder
 - **Significance:** Demonstrates alignment with WHO ICD-11 updates and commitment to clinician education on emerging diagnostic categories
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6. Strategic Initiatives and Future Directions

Section Accomplishments (2024–2026)

The WPA Addiction Psychiatry Section has demonstrated:

- **Organisational Excellence:** Established functioning leadership structure with clear governance
- **Global Reach:** Built membership across all WPA regions
- **Educational Leadership:** Organised comprehensive symposia addressing cutting-edge topics in addiction psychiatry
- **Scholarly Contribution:** Published high-impact research and educational materials
- **International Collaboration:** Established partnerships with allied organisations (EPA)
- **Policy Alignment:** Contributing to WPA educational programmes and position statements

Areas of Focus

Key areas of concentration include:

- Psychopharmacology of addictive disorders
 - Women and gender-specific addiction issues
 - Perinatal and reproductive aspects of addiction
 - Behavioural addictions (gaming, gambling)
 - Stigma reduction and anti-discrimination initiatives
 - Clinical education and professional development
 - New and emerging psychoactive substances
 - ICD-11 implementation and clinician training
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Conclusion

The WPA Addiction Psychiatry Section has successfully established itself as a vibrant, internationally

engaged professional organisation advancing the field of addiction psychiatry. Through its membership, educational initiatives, publications, and collaborative partnerships, the section is making significant contributions to clinical practice, professional education, and policy development in addiction psychiatry globally.

The section's commitment to addressing emerging topics such as behavioural addictions, gender-specific considerations, and ICD-11 updates ensures its continued relevance and impact on the international addiction psychiatry community.

References

- [1] Elkholy, H., Bhad, R., Ekhtiari, H., & Baldacchino, A. M. (2024). Addictive disorders through the lens of the WPA Section on Addiction Psychiatry. *World Psychiatry*, 23(3), 459–460.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/wps.21256>
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