



Chair: Angelos Halaris (USA)

Co-Chair: Karl Bechter (Germany)

Secretary: Michael Benros (Denmark)

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 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 presented workshops, symposia and individual presentations for 17th PIE meeting that took place in May 2025 (<https://pie-meeting.org>).

Here are the titles:

Workshop 2 | Genomics of immune biomarkers: Genomics of immune biomarkers assist in understanding treatment resistance and contribute to the practice of personalized psychiatry

- Immune genomics in treatment-resistant bipolar depression
- Exploring immunity and genetics in depression
- Plasma and CSF Levels of T-cell activation markers for Neuro- inflammation and Autoimmunity in Patients with Suspected Psychiatric Manifestations of Immunological Disease Compared to Surgical and Population-Based Controls
- Autoimmunity in Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder - An Update

Symposia

Symposium 2: The emerging field of autoimmune psychiatry, continued

- Two Decades of Discovery: Inflammation, Aging, and Glutamate in Depression
- Updating the Peripheral CSF Outflow Pathway Hypothesis: proof for neurological and psychiatric immune/inflammatory relevance emerging

Symposium 5: Evolving disease concepts with insights on mild neuroinflammation

- Innovative inflammation diagnostic for the detection of low- grade inflammation in patients with schizophrenia: the journey from idea to market-ready product

Symposium 6: Evolving diagnostics of mild neuroinflammation

- Cerebrospinal fluid free kappa light chains in psychiatric disorders associated with neural autoantibodies
- New data on the immune response to specific peptides of Epstein Barr Virus (EBV) relating to psychiatric disorders and suicide behaviors

Symposium 7: The antidepressant effect of T cell correcting and anti-inflammatory immunotherapies in patients with major depression preselected by immune tests (precision immunotherapy)

- T cellular immune abnormalities in major depression and bipolar disorder with a focus on premature aging.

The Section actively participated in the WPA 2025 Congress held in Prague and presented a symposium titled:

Immune genomics and autoimmunity pave the way toward precision psychiatry

The Section held a meeting of the section members who attended the above-mentioned Psychoimmunology Expert (PIE). Twelve members participated in the meeting and discussed the restructuring of the Section and expansion of 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.

It was agreed to form a **Steering Committee** that would meet at regular intervals to address the above goals.

The purpose of appointing a **Steering Committee** is to include select members, no more than five, each of whom would assume responsibility for one of the following new initiatives the membership agreed to launch:

- a) Recruit new and young clinician/scientists from other parts of the world to increase diversity.
- b) Organize educational workshops for the WPA congresses and possibly other international congresses.
- c) Enhance the connection between Section members and engage more young people, by holding regular online meetings and thematic presentations.
- d) Enhance the web visibility of our Section by linking up and cooperating with other thematic related groups like national psychiatric associations.

The Committee was formed expeditiously and includes the following members who volunteered to serve:

Dr. Angelos Halaris as chair, Dr. Ebrahim Haroon, Dr. Sabrina Leal Garcia, Dr. Andy Zamar and Dr. Ute Meier.