



Dr. M. S. Renuka Prasad

BSc · MBBS · FRCPsych (UK) · DGM (UK) · FRCPC · DFCPA · DFAPA

Candidate for WPA President-Elect 2026

Chair, WPA Section of Old Age Psychiatry
 Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, University of Saskatchewan
 Past President, Canadian Psychiatric Association

Dr. Renuka Prasad is an internationally recognised psychiatrist and health-system leader with more than three decades of clinical, academic, and governance experience across Canada, the United Kingdom, and global organisations. He currently chairs the WPA Section of Old Age Psychiatry and has represented WPA in United Nations engagement on dementia, rehabilitation, and the human rights of older persons. His leadership style is marked by humility, perseverance, and a steady focus on bringing out the best in others.

CORE THEMES

- **Dignity in psychiatric care for older adults**

Rights-based, compassionate, culturally responsive care across settings.

- **Team leadership that brings out the best in others**

Consensus-building, encouragement, and shared ownership of outcomes.

- **Systems change**

Service redesign, capacity-building, and stronger institutional memory.

- **Human rights of older persons**

Advocacy carried through WPA into United Nations engagement.

- **Humility and perseverance**

Steady, attentive leadership across regions, cultures, and systems.

- **Service to patients, families, and communities**

The constant centre of his professional work.

WHY THIS MATTERS FOR WPA

WPA is navigating rapidly evolving needs across its Member Societies and the populations they serve. Dr. Prasad's intentions for the President-Elect role speak to that moment: strengthening the WPA Secretariat and institutional memory; promoting inclusivity and diversity across policy, education, and clinical practice; supporting Member Societies in advocating for adequate mental-health budgets; aligning WPA initiatives with the UN Sustainable Development Goals; expanding multilingual, user-friendly resources; and empowering Sections, Working Groups, and Action Groups for greater shared impact. Throughout, he returns to one commitment — timely, affordable, and accessible psychiatric care delivered with dignity, worldwide.

Candidate video submitted to WPA Candidates Corner; theme: 'Leadership for a Changing World'.