

## Personal Statement

My professional career has been dedicated for more than three decades to the advancement of psychiatry in Ukraine and internationally. I am Director of the Institute of Psychiatry at Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Professor, Doctor of Medical Sciences, President of the Ukrainian Psychiatric Association, and Honorary Member of the World Psychiatric Association. In the context of war, I have led initiatives to support the mental health of the population and to integrate international practices into the national system, demonstrating my ability to act under the most challenging circumstances and to ensure the resilience of the professional community.

Through my involvement in international projects, including chairing The Lancet Psychiatry Commission on Mental Health in Ukraine, I have learned to bridge global standards with local needs. I believe that this combination—universal principles adapted to unique regional contexts—is the foundation for sustainable development in psychiatry.

The role of Zone Representatives within WPA is not merely administrative; it is deeply meaningful. They serve as the voice of their regions, articulating both the challenges and the opportunities that define their geographic areas. They foster collaboration, encourage the exchange of knowledge and best practices, and work closely with colleagues to identify and address mental health needs specific to their regions. As members of the WPA Council, Zone Representatives also play a pivotal role in advancing WPA initiatives and expanding its global reach.

My vision as Zone 9 Representative is to build a strong platform for cooperation among national associations in Central Europe. I aim to promote sustainable dialogue among professional communities, encourage the sharing of practices, and jointly implement innovative models of psychiatric care. I attach particular importance to integrating the experience gained during the war in Ukraine into international collaboration. This includes organizing emergency care, supporting populations under conditions of mass stress, rehabilitating veterans and their families, and maintaining the resilience of the mental health system. Sharing this knowledge across Zone 9 will strengthen preparedness for crises, improve the effectiveness of psychiatric care systems, and foster more adaptive models of support.

Equally important is the development of cooperation between Zone 9 and other WPA regions. Interregional initiatives, joint projects, and conferences can broaden the impact of WPA, transforming it into a space where local practices contribute to global knowledge. I see this as an opportunity to ensure that the unique experiences of our region enrich the wider professional community and strengthen the collective voice of psychiatry worldwide.

My professional journey, international collaborations, and ability to adapt global models to national contexts give me confidence that I can fulfill the responsibilities of Zone 9 Representative with dedication and vision. I am committed to contributing to the development of the World Psychiatric Association, strengthening its role both within Zone 9 and globally, and serving as a bridge between regional needs and international opportunities.

Sincerely,



**Irina Pinchuk**

**Professor, MD, PhD**

**Director, Institute of Psychiatry, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv  
President, Ukrainian Psychiatric Association**