



Triennial report: WPA Section on Psychiatry, Medicine and Primary Care

The work of the Section on Psychiatry, Medicine and Primary Care is grounded in the recognition that mental health care cannot be separated from broader health systems, including primary care delivery. During the past three years, the Section's activities have been shaped by the goal of empowering students and early-career professionals to support the integration of mental health into primary healthcare. As part of this goal, we have organized and delivered monthly online meetings for the past five years. These meetings, called 'Intergenerational meetings', connect experienced psychiatrists and internationally renowned experts with early-career professionals and medical students. The sessions are broadcast live on YouTube and remain available online, expanding their educational reach beyond those able to attend live. These meetings are part of the Section's SEED (Students Education, Empowerment, and Development) initiative.

The Section has also organized an annual Zoom gathering on World Mental Health Day. These gatherings, which we call 'Zoom parties', have provided an inclusive space for members and colleagues from different parts of the world to connect, exchange ideas, and celebrate mental health. They have included artistic presentations from SEED members. These gatherings, as well as the intergenerational meetings, are commonly organized via SEED's WhatsApp group, where members can also further exchange ideas and promote events.

The Section currently hosts 38 members. Members of the Section have also contributed to research dissemination, and education and training. For example, Section members reported invited presentations on topics aligned with the Section's remit, including lifestyle psychiatry in urology at the Global Men's Health Conference in Panama in February 2026. The Section also has a member delivering a presentation related to women and mental health at the upcoming WPA Congress in Stockholm. Additionally, the Section has an accepted State of the Art Symposium, which will focus on mental health referrals and healthcare continuity. During the WPA Congress in Stockholm, the Section will also hold its election for new committee members.

The Section has also produced scholarly outputs. Two recent publications are: first, one published in *World Psychiatry* that examines the role of psychiatry in primary care and highlights the Section's contributions to this field¹. The second, published in *BJPsych International*, offered recommendations for improving mental health responses in earthquake-prone regions, drawing on lessons following the recent earthquake in Türkiye. This second publication was put together with members of SEED, and it was -for some of them- their first academic publication.

Looking ahead, the Section is well-positioned to continue its contribution to the WPA through continued educational activities, expanded engagement with students and early-career professionals, and further collaboration with other WPA Sections.

References

1. Baron, D., Koh, E., Ramalho, R., & Coskun, B. (2025). The role of psychiatry in primary care: WPA Section contributions. *World Psychiatry*, 24(2), 289.
2. Ramalho, R., Ersönmez, R., Kına, İ., Keçeci, İ., Apparao, R., Koh, E. B., & Coskun, B. (2024). Improving mental health response in earthquake-prone regions: recommendations following the recent earthquake in Türkiye. *BJPsych International*, 21(4), 97-99.