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Chair: Kürşat Altınbaş

Co-Chairs: Marin Veldic & Yoji Hirano

General Secretary: Daniela Waissbluth Panzer

This report summarizes the scientific, educational, and organizational activities of the WPA Affective Disorders Section during the 2023–2026 term. Over this period the Section has expanded its international collaborations, broadened its membership base, contributed to two consecutive WPA World Congresses, hosted intersectional online meetings, and laid the groundwork for a dedicated thematic congress in 2027.

1. Scientific Contributions to the 23rd WPA World Congress of Psychiatry (Vienna, 28 September – 1 October 2023)

Our Section organized a State-of-the-Art Symposium at the 23rd WPA World Congress of Psychiatry in Vienna, Austria, bringing together internationally recognized experts in mood disorder research and clinical practice.

Symposium Title: *“From Etiology to Treatment of Bipolar Disorders”*

Chair: Prof. Kürşat Altınbaş (Selçuk University Faculty of Medicine, Türkiye)

Speakers and Presentations:

- **Prof. Dost Öngür** (Harvard University, McLean Hospital, USA) – *“Neurobiology of Bipolar Disorders”*
- **Dr. Lina Martinsson** (Karolinska Institutet, Centre for Psychiatric Research and Education; Karolinska University Hospital, Sweden) – *“Diagnosis of Bipolar Disorders”*
- **Prof. Alan Young** (King’s College, Department of Psychiatry, London, UK) – *“Maintenance Treatment of Bipolar Disorders”*

The symposium covered the latest advances in the neurobiology, diagnostic evolution, and long-term management of bipolar disorder, including neuroimaging findings, diagnostic challenges, and contemporary pharmacological and psychotherapeutic strategies for relapse prevention. The session was well attended and generated substantial discussion among congress participants.

2. Scientific Collaboration and Online Intersectional Meeting (October 2024)

In collaboration with the WPA Section on Genetics in Psychiatry, the Section organized a highly successful online intersectional meeting in October 2024 titled:

“Genetics and the Treatment of Bipolar Disorder”

The event featured two internationally renowned experts:

- **Martin Alda, MD** (Dalhousie University) – *“Response to Long-Term Lithium Treatment: The Importance of Clinical Profile.”*
- **Sergi Papiol, PhD** (Lead Analyst, Consortium on Lithium Genetics – ConLiGen) – *“Updates from the Consortium on Lithium Genetics.”*

This collaborative session drew global attention and strengthened the scientific exchange between sections, with participants from multiple continents joining the live discussion.

3. Section Contributions to the 24th WPA World Congress of Psychiatry (Mexico City, 14–17 November 2024)

During the 24th WPA World Congress in Mexico City, our Section was represented by Prof. Melvin McInnis, who delivered a keynote lecture titled:

“Modernizing the Diagnostic Process in Mood Disorders: Common Data Models, Dark Data, & Psychopathology.”

The talk emphasized the intersection of technology, clinical psychiatry, and translational science, reinforcing the Section’s commitment to innovation in mood disorder diagnostics and the integration of large-scale data resources into clinical practice.

4. International Collaborations and Inter-Society Partnerships (2023–2026)

A central priority of the 2023–2026 term has been to strengthen the Section's ties with leading international and regional scientific societies working in affective disorders, mood disorders, and psychopharmacology. Cooperative relationships have been established and progressively deepened with:

- **International Society for Affective Disorders (ISAD)**
- **International Society for Bipolar Disorders (ISBD)**
- **Turkish Bipolar Disorder Society**
- **Brazilian Association of Psychopharmacology (Associação Brasileira de Psicofarmacologia)**

These partnerships have facilitated joint scientific sessions, mutual visibility at international congresses, exchange of speakers, and coordinated planning for upcoming educational and research initiatives. They have also reinforced the Section's role as a connecting hub between regional bipolar/mood disorder communities and the wider WPA network.

5. Membership Expansion and Engagement

Throughout the 2023–2026 term, significant efforts have been made to increase member engagement, visibility, and geographic diversity. Key initiatives include:

- Regular circulation of announcements via WPA channels and affiliated networks.
- Active outreach to early-career psychiatrists, researchers, and trainees working in mood disorders.
- Promotion of Section activities through collaborating societies (ISAD, ISBD, Turkish Bipolar Disorder Society, and the Brazilian Association of Psychopharmacology).
- Direct invitations to colleagues from underrepresented regions to encourage broader participation.

As a result of these efforts, the Section's membership has grown steadily, **surpassing 40 members** during this term, with increasing representation from Europe, the Americas, Asia, and the Middle East.

6. Strengthening Diversity and Governance

To ensure gender balance and geographic representation within Section leadership, Dr. Daniela Waissbluth Panzer (Clínica Alemana, Department of Psychiatry, Santiago, Chile) was welcomed to the Section Executive Committee as General Secretary.

Her appointment reflects the Section's ongoing commitment to inclusion, gender balance, and a genuinely global perspective in governance. The current Executive Committee — combining members from Türkiye, the United States, Japan, and Chile — embodies this commitment in practice.

7. Upcoming Initiatives: Thematic Congress in Curitiba (2027)

Building on the partnerships strengthened over the 2023–2026 term — and in particular the close collaboration with the Brazilian Association of Psychopharmacology — the Section is actively planning a dedicated thematic congress to be held in:

Curitiba, Brazil – 2027

The congress will focus on the full spectrum of affective disorders, with particular attention to bipolar disorder neurobiology, precision psychiatry, pharmacogenomics, and long-term treatment outcomes. The event is being designed as an inter-societal initiative, bringing together WPA Section members and partner societies (ISAD, ISBD, Turkish Bipolar Disorder Society, and the Brazilian Association of Psychopharmacology) in a single scientific platform.

Preparatory work during 2026 includes venue selection, scientific committee formation, identification of plenary and symposium topics, and coordination with local Brazilian colleagues to ensure strong regional participation alongside international faculty.

Over the 2023–2026 term, the WPA Affective Disorders Section has consolidated its scientific visibility, broadened its membership, deepened inter-society collaborations, and prepared a major thematic congress for the coming year. We look forward to further advancing scientific dialogue, collaboration, and education in affective disorders in 2027 and beyond.

Respectfully submitted,

Prof. Kürşat Altınbaş, MD

Chair, WPA Affective Disorders Section