



Document Title: Perinatal Psychiatry and Infant Mental Health Section Triennial Report (2023-2026)

Author: Miri Keren, Chair; Gisele Apter Danon, Co-Chair

Date: June 2026

WPA Perinatal Psychiatry and Infant Mental Health Section Report (June 2026)

Authors: Miri Keren, Chair; Gisele Apter Danon, Co-Chair

In continuation with our previous report (April 2025), we wish to share what we have done during 2023-2026.

Activities

The Perinatal and Infant Mental Health Section of the WPA has been actively present at all the WPA conferences in Vienna, Mexico and Prague. As already stated in our previous report we have especially invested in initiating Intersectional Symposia, such as the Child and Adolescent Section and the Women Mental Health, with the goal to create a real dialogue within the wide domain of psychiatry from infancy to adulthood. A State of the Art lecture of our Section has been accepted for the coming congress in Stockholm, as well as a joint symposium with the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Section, focused on training.

In parallel, we are improving the communication between the members of our Section through planned zoom calls and webinar.

We have published a review on Infant Psychiatry in the PWA CAP e journal (Jan 2025 Issue).

Administrative issues

We have held an electronic vote at the beginning of this month (June 2026). Prof. Dan Schechter (Lausanne, Switzerland) has been unanimously elected as Chair, so was Prof. Sylvie Viaux-Savelon (Lyon, France), as Secretary, Prof. Miri Keren (Tel Aviv, Israel) as Co-Chair.

We have no budget to present, as we have no sources of income (unfortunately!).

Conclusion

We wish to emphasize that the main goal of this Section is that the infant's voice needs to be heard among those psychiatrists who treat their parents, as well as among our colleagues, child and adolescent psychiatrists who tend to believe that child psychiatry and early interventions start at the age of 6 years. We call for close collaboration between adult psychiatrists and the child psychiatrists in order to better care for and potentially prevent or reduce impact of mental illness for generations to come. Today, when research in mental health is still underfunded, while the impact of wars and other serious adverse events on very young children is too well known, the importance of perinatal and early infant mental health should be our first and foremost target.

We hope WPA Intersectional Symposia will facilitate such a dialogue within and outside of Psychiatry. Tomorrow's children and future adults deserve we all do better worldwide.

Miri Keren, M.D.
Chair of the Section

Gisele Apter, M.D.
Co-Chair of the Section