



Document Title: **WPA Section on Education in Psychiatry Report**

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Overview

The WPA Section on Education in Psychiatry continues to promote excellence in psychiatric education globally through initiatives in capacity building, research collaboration, member engagement, and educational innovation. The Section particularly emphasizes strengthening psychiatric education in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), enhancing global collaboration, and supporting educators, trainees, and early-career psychiatrists. It also facilitates academic collaboration between psychiatrists in high-income countries and LMICs, fostering mutual learning and enduring professional connections.

In this section, triennium activities focus on improving member engagement, strengthening educational capacity-building initiatives, expanding digital communication channels, and presenting at WPA congresses.

Action plan

1. Completed Activities

On 24 July 2025, a new office was elected for the Section on Education in Psychiatry with Mariana Pinto da Costa as Chair, Savita Malhotra as Co-Chair and Nagesh Pai as Secretary. The new officers are focusing on strengthening educational collaboration, global engagement, policy development, research activities, and digital communication. These activities aim to support the advancement of psychiatric education worldwide while promoting collaboration across regions and career stages.

Member Engagement (Lead – Ozge Kilic)

Strengthening member engagement and communication has been a key priority for the Section.

A Member Engagement Lead was appointed, and several initiatives were implemented to facilitate collaboration and communication among members.

Key actions included:

- Creation of a Google mailing list to facilitate direct communication and information sharing among members.
- Updating and consolidating the contact database of Section members to improve outreach and participation.
- Launch of a membership feedback survey to identify priority areas for Section activities and collaborations.

Preliminary survey findings indicated that members prioritised:

- Strengthening member engagement activities
- Expanding outreach to psychiatrists in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)
- Increasing digital networking opportunities
- Expanding the number of Section activities and collaborations

The survey results are informing the Section's future priorities and strategic planning.

The Section Chair is leading regular communication with members through a **monthly summary update**, highlighting activities, opportunities for collaboration, and international initiatives relevant to psychiatric education.

Social Media and Digital Engagement Initiatives (Social Media Lead – Francisco Araniva Garcia; Digital Engagement Lead – Sami Ouanes)

Expanding digital engagement has been an important strategy to strengthen global communication and collaboration.

The Section has created new accounts on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram, to increase its presence across additional social media platforms to promote educational initiatives and highlight members' work.

Key activities included: coordination of social media communication across multiple platforms, dissemination of updates on Section projects, publications, and educational initiatives, and encouraging members to share their professional social media profiles to enable the Section to highlight their work and promote collaboration. The Section currently maintains active accounts on: Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and X/Twitter.

These platforms are used to share highlights from conferences, publications, educational activities, and collaborative initiatives.

World Psychiatry Journal Club

A major new initiative launched in 2025 was the **World Psychiatry Journal Club**, led by the Section's Digital Engagement Lead in collaboration with the **WPA Early Career Psychiatrists Section**.

The Journal Club aims to: strengthen critical appraisal skills, promote evidence-based psychiatric practice, and facilitate global academic dialogue among psychiatrists.

Each quarterly session includes:

- an early-career psychiatrist presenting a recently published article
- a senior discussant from the Education in Psychiatry Section
- participation from the authors of the selected paper

The first session, held on **10 December 2025**, focused on a psychopharmacology randomised controlled trial and received positive feedback from participants.

The second session, held on **30 March 2026**, was organised in collaboration with the **WPA Early Career Psychiatrists Section** and the **WPA Digital Mental Health Section**, and discussed a systematic review on digital mental health interventions in inpatient settings. Participation from Section members as moderators and discussants further strengthens interdisciplinary dialogue.

Capacity Building and Professional Development (Lead – Djibril Moussa)

Capacity building remains central to the mission of the Section.

Activities during the reporting period included:

- Engagement with psychiatry education groups in Latin America to strengthen collaboration in psychiatric education.
- Development of institutional collaborations aimed at improving psychiatry education in resource-limited settings.
- Support for medical students, residents, fellows, and early-career psychiatrists, particularly in contexts where access to educational resources is limited.
- Sharing educational websites and learning resources regularly to Section members to support ongoing education and knowledge sharing.

These initiatives aim to build sustainable international educational networks and improve global access to training opportunities.

Policy (Lead – Snehil Gupta)

Recognising the substantial variation in psychiatric education across countries, the Section initiated policy-oriented activities to better understand global training structures and inform future educational frameworks.

A key initiative is being developed, the **"Global Survey on Standards of Psychiatry Education and Training"**. This will be a survey targeting national psychiatric associations, aiming to assess certification and accreditation of psychiatry subspecialty courses, maintenance of certification processes, and the role of national psychiatric associations in regulating training standards.

Research (Lead – Rodrigo Ramalho)

The research group will contribute to the above-mentioned project focused on **certification and recertification policies in psychiatry across countries**, examining how systems regulate entry into the profession and the maintenance of professional competence. By mapping international structures and requirements, the project aims to identify patterns and differences across settings, contributing to discussions about **quality assurance and continuing professional development in psychiatry**.

The Section is also preparing a research initiative examining **representation in psychiatric education**, including gender representation, cultural diversity, and inclusion of lived-experience perspectives in training

environments. The project will aim to support the development of **more inclusive and culturally responsive psychiatric education globally**.

Participation in International Scientific Meetings

Section members actively contributed to international scientific events during the reporting period.

During the **World Congress of Psychiatry 2025 in Prague**, members of the Section participated in several symposia and scientific sessions, reflecting the expertise and engagement of the Section in advancing psychiatric education.

On 22-23 November 2025, our Section Chair, Dr Mariana Pinto da Costa, and our Policy Lead, Dr Snehil Gupta (also the organizing secretary of the event), presented at the National Conference on Psychiatry teaching-learning practices in Indian Institutes with a focus on psychotherapy, in Bhopal, India.

On 15-17 January 2026, the Section Chair and several members participated in the **World Association for Social Psychiatry (WASP) Congress in Marrakech**, organised by Section member Professor Driss Moussaoui. The Section led a symposium entitled:

“The Emotional Curriculum: What Psychiatry Training Often Misses – Patients’ Involvement in Psychiatry Education and Educating at the Interface of Law and Mental Health.”

Speakers included Dr Samra Zafar, Hasanen Al-Taiar, and Dr Mariana Pinto da Costa, with Professor Norman Sartorius serving as Chair.

The symposium generated rich discussion on: empathy in psychiatric education, patient and lived-experience involvement, and the relationship between mental health, education, and legal systems.

These discussions highlighted the importance of more humane, inclusive, and socially grounded approaches to psychiatric training.

2. Planned Activities

In line with the Section’s triennium strategic plan, several activities are planned for 2026:

- Continued capacity-building initiatives, particularly supporting educational development in LMICs.
- Implementation and dissemination of findings from the global surveys on psychiatric education and certification policies.
- Development of training-of-trainers and mentorship programmes linking senior educators with early-career psychiatrists.
- Expansion of digital engagement initiatives, including online learning and academic discussion platforms.
- Further development of the World Psychiatry Journal Club.
- Promotion of educational research collaborations among members and across WPA Sections.
- Strengthening partnerships with academic institutions and psychiatric associations worldwide.
- Continued promotion of opportunities for early-career psychiatrists and medical students, including WPA fellowships and educational competitions.

3. Organised Symposia

The Section actively contributes to the scientific programmes of WPA congresses.

WPA World Congress of Psychiatry 2025 – Prague

The Section had a symposium on Education in Psychiatry, where we discussed .AI, Psychotherapy and the impact of COVID19 on early career psychiatrists with Norbert Skokauskas, Mariana Pinto da Costa, Larnaout Amine, Dina Mohamed Aly El Gabry & Daniela Almeida Borges.

WPA World Congress of Psychiatry 2026 – Stockholm

A symposium entitled “Education in Psychiatry – Current Practice and Future Directions” has been accepted, with Djibril Moussa, Sami Ouanes, Nagesh Pai, and Snehil Gupta as speakers, and Mariana Pinto da Costa and Rodrigo Ramalho as Chairs.

4. Other Activities

Publications

Members of the Section contributed to scholarly work supporting global psychiatric education.

Publications during this period included:

Sampogna, G., Al-Taïar, H., Baessler, F., Coskun, B., Elkholy, H., Pinto da Costa, M., Ramalho, R. and Fiorillo, A. (2024), Improving education in psychiatry in an evolving scenario: the activities of the WPA Section on Education in Psychiatry. *World Psychiatry*, 23: 461-462. <https://doi.org/10.1002/wps.21258>

Pinto da Costa M, Malhotra S, Pai N, Killic O, Moussa D, Ouanes S, Garcia FA, Gupta S, Ramalho R. Shaping psychiatry education worldwide: lessons from the past and future directions. *Int Rev Psychiatry*. 2026 Feb-May;38(1-3):102-111. doi: 10.1080/09540261.2025.2584633. Epub 2025 Dec 10. PMID: 41369082. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41369082/>

Pinto da Costa, M., Squeri, T., Pérez Gómez, L. and Flôr-Rodrigues, B. (2025), Patient involvement in undergraduate psychiatric education: an international survey. *World Psychiatry*, 24: 459-460. <https://doi.org/10.1002/wps.21372>