



WPA Section on Evolutionary Psychiatry

Triennial Report 2023–2026

Officers

Chair Dr Annie Swanepoel (UK), Co-Chair Prof Henry O’Connell (Ireland), Secretary Dr Gurjot Brar (Ireland). Elections were held in September 2025; all officers were appointed uncontested.

Membership

The Section currently has 73 members drawn from multiple countries and regions. The full membership list is available on the WPA website.

Plan of Action

The Section’s objectives include raising awareness of evolutionary theory’s contribution to psychiatry, encouraging research, fostering cross-disciplinary networking with evolutionary scientists, biologists, psychologists and philosophers, and advocating for the inclusion of evolutionary biology in undergraduate and postgraduate psychiatric training curricula globally.

Symposia at WPA Meetings

The Section participated in two symposia at the WPA World Congress in Vienna 2023, jointly with the Perinatal and Public Policy Sections.

Activities

The Section has run an active bimonthly webinar series featuring international speakers on topics including depression, ADHD, Alzheimer’s disease, compassion-focused therapy, and evolutionary mismatch. A two-day Evolutionary Psychiatry conference was held at Durham University in August 2024.

Publications

Section officers and members have published extensively, including in *World Psychiatry*, *Annals of Neurology*, *Psychological Review*, and the *Irish Journal of Psychological Medicine*.

Website

The Section page is regularly updated with events, membership lists, recommended readings, and links to affiliated national groups in the UK and Ireland.

Financial Reports

No financial reports have been required or requested during this period.