



Name of the Section	WPA Section on Psycho-Oncology and Palliative Care
Number of Section sessions organised at WPA conferences	1. Section Symposium at 23rd World Congress of the World Psychiatric Association, Sept-Oct, 2023, Vienna 2. Section Symposium held at the World Congress of World Psychiatric Association in Mexico City, Mexico , November 14-17, 2024 3. Section Symposium held at the World Congress of World Psychiatric Association in Prague, Czechoslovakia, October 5-8, 2025 4. Section Symposium to be held at the World Congress of World Psychiatric Association in Stockholm, Sweden, September 23-26, 2026
Number of activities in collaboration with other Sections	Collaboration with 1. WPA sections- Section on Psychiatry and Primary Care; 2. WPA Section on Women; 3. WPA Section on Urban Mental Health
Number of activities in collaboration with member societies	1. Co-organized Symposium at 24th World Congress of Psycho-Oncology — September 2023, Milan Italy 2. Co-organized Symposium at 26th World Congress of Psycho-Oncology — September 2025, Adelaide, Australia 3. Co-organized Symposium at 6th National and 2nd International Conference on Psycho-Oncology, September 17-19, 2026, Bucharest, Romania 4. Co-organized Symposium at 26th World Congress of Psycho-Oncology — November 2026, Barcelona, Spain
List of educational programmes / courses done by the Section	1. Continuation of the collaboration with the International Psycho-Oncology society (IPOS) and its activities including the implementation of the of multilingual core-curriculum in psycho-oncology (https://www.ipos-society.org/professionals/multi) 2. Development of the <i>International Network on Cancer in patients with severe mental illness</i> (about 80 members) and relative educational material (in preparation) and a specific book by Springer (see publications). This Network is in liaison with other international societies both in cancer care (e.g. European Society of Medical Oncology) and psychiatry an CL Psychiatry (e.g. European Association of Psychosomatic Medicine and CL Psychiatry) as well as IPOS to create inter-societies SIGs in this field. The members of the Network have been invited to join the WPA section on PO & PC 3. Training collaboration in Psycho-Oncology with the “Restart La Viata” Association, designed for psychologists in Romania. Program has been approved by the Romanian College of Psychologists
List of Guidelines / Recommendation,	1. The WPA section has supported and continue to support the International Standard of Quality Cancer Care indicating that 1.

Consensus or Position statements prepared during the triennium	Psychosocial cancer care should be recognised as a universal human right; 2. Quality cancer care must integrate the psychosocial domain into routine care; 3. Distress should be measured as the 6th Vital Sign after temperature, blood pressure, pulse, respiratory rate and pain. 2. The WPA section has collaborated, through its members with the European Society of Oncology (ESMO) guidelines for the treatment of anxiety, depression and sleep disorders in cancer patients (see publications) 3. The WPA section has participated in the update of National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Distress Guidelines – 2024, 2025, 2026 (panel Chair: Michelle B. Riba) 4. Panel Discussant at American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois, June 1, 2026 on Distress and Sleep Guidelines
Main Publications by Sections or Section members (Papers, books, monographs)	Books : Daniel C. McFarland, Luigi Grassi, Samuel M. Silver, Michelle B. Riba (Eds) The Complex Role of Patient Trust in Oncology. Springer, Cham, 2024 - ISBN 978-3-031-48556-5 (see summary at the end of the document) Luigi Grassi, Daniel C. McFarland, Michelle B. Riba (Eds): Cancer in patients with severe mental illness - Screening, assessment, and management. Springer, Cham, 2026 (in press) ((see summary at the end of the document) Three chapters in collaboration with members in the WPA book: Andrea Fiorillo; Afzal Javed, Norman Sartorius (Eds) Comorbidity between Mental and Physical Disorders: Identification, Management and Treatment. Springer, Cham, 2025 ISBN 978-3-031-81801-1 Chapter: Ivona Šimunović Filipčić, Luigi Grassi, Igor Filipčić: Severe Mental Disorders and Cancer, pp 203–220 Chapter: Luigi Grassi, Daniel McFarland, Daisuke Fujisawa, Michelle Riba: Managing Mental and Physical Comorbidities in Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry. pp 333–352 Chapter Daisuke Fujisawa, Luigi Grassi, Daniel McFarland, Michelle Riba: Humanistic Cancer Care: A Comprehensive Approach: pp 353–367 Most recent papers: Grassi L,, Mac Farland D. Riba M.: Cancer in patients with severe mental illness: a report by the WPA Section on Psycho- oncology and Palliative Care published in the World Psychiatry journal (in press) McFarland D, Bergerot C, Bidstrup P, Cohen M, D'Alton P, Zamani S, Mullen L, Riba M, Grassi L, Irwin K.: Serious mental illness and cancer: A call to action for equitable care CA Cancer J Clin. 2026 Jul-Aug;76(4):e70095. doi: 10.3322/caac.70095.

	Grassi L, McFarland D, Riba M, Ferrara M, Zaffarami G, Belvederi Murri M, Cruciata M, Caruso R.: The Challenging Problems of Cancer and Serious Mental Illness Curr Psychiatry Rep. 2025 Jan;27(1):41-57. doi: 10.1007/s11920-024-01570-9. Grassi L, Nanni MG, Riba M, Folesani F.: Dignity in Medicine: Definition, Assessment and Therapy Curr Psychiatry Rep. 2024 Jun;26(6):273-293. doi: 10.1007/s11920-024-01506- Grassi L, McFarland D, Riba M.: The Risk and The Course of Cancer Among People with Severe Mental Illness Clin Pract Epidemiol Ment Health. 2023 Dec 3;19(Suppl-1):e174501792301032. doi: 10.2174/17450179-v17-e211208-2021-HT2-1910-8. Grassi L, Zachariae R, Caruso R, Palagini L, Campos-Ródenas R, Riba MB, Lloyd-Williams M, Kissane D, Rodin G, McFarland D, Ripamonti CI, Santini D; ESMO Guidelines Committee: Insomnia in adult patients with cancer: ESMO Clinical Practice Guideline .ESMO Open. 2023 Dec;8(6):102047. doi: 10.1016/j.esmoop.2023.102047. Grassi L, Caruso R, Riba MB, Lloyd-Williams M, Kissane D, Rodin G, McFarland D, Campos-Ródenas R, Zachariae R, Santini D, Ripamonti CI; ESMO Guidelines Committee. Anxiety and depression in adult cancer patients: ESMO Clinical Practice Guideline ESMO Open. 2023 Apr;8(2):101155. doi: 10.1016/j.esmoop.2023.101155.
Details of Section's Journal (s) / websites	The section has its web page at the WPA website https://www.wpanet.org/section-page/psycho-oncology-and-palliative-care/ In the web page the work-plan, activities, links to other clinically and research useful websites, and documents can be downloaded (new material to be uploaded)
Plans for holding a business meeting at Stockholm congress	YES
Any other information: liaison with other international societies	The WPA section on PO & PC is continuing its collaboration with other societies involved in the field creating exchanges and new opportunities, mainly: 1. International Psycho-Oncology Society (IPOS) and the Federation of the National Psycho-Oncology Societies (https://www.ipos-society.org/). 2. International College of Psychosomatic Medicine (ICPM) (chair Prof. Juan Mezzich) (www.icpmonline.org) 3. European Association of Psychosomatic Medicine (EAPM). The section has activated the cooperation with the EAPM (www.eapm.eu.com/) for common interests in the area of C-L psychiatry for patients with cancer or in advanced stage of illness8https://eapm.eu.com/) 4. European Association of Palliative Care (EAPC). The WPA section on PO & PC has contributed to the development of the EAPC Task Force on Palliative Care in patients with severe mental illness,

formally instituted in Spring 2026 and which meets monthly for the new strategies, educational material and proposals for the 2027 (<https://eapcnet.eu/>)

Respectfully submitted

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Chair WPA Section on PO & PC



Co-Chair WPA Section on PO & PC



SUMMARY OF THE CONTENTS OF THE TWO BOOKS PUBLISHED IN THE TRIENNIUM

McFarland D., Grassi L., Riba M.: **The Complex Role of Patient Trust in Oncology.** Springer-Verlag, Cham, Switzerland, 2024 ISBN 978-3-031-48556-5

Patient trust is vital to the practice of medicine. A diagnosis of cancer and the inherent vulnerability require trust in treating physicians, institutions, and the medical establishment. Breaches of trust on clinical and research fronts (e.g. Tuskegee, Willowbrook) created public backlash, distrust, and interests in new avenues of alternative treatments, for example. Many well-intentioned, well-informed patients forego standard cancer treatments and opt for complementary, alternative, or no additional treatment. While these choices are certainly an expression of autonomy and self-determination, the medical community tends to overlook the ethical implications of patients who freely opt out of care. Therefore, many of these situations are not accounted for by the medical literature. This book will attempt to explain the role of patient trust in the doctor-patient relationship and its implications for the receipt of appropriate medical care using cancer care as a specific application. In the modern era, we face a medical audience armed with online information, salient opinions that may or may not be applicable to the medical situation, incredulosity, and even disdain. As a medical community, we have not figured out how to effectively communicate in this era of mass information and with the subpopulation of patients who fundamentally lack trust in physicians and the medical community. This book provides a comprehensive description of the complex role of trust in oncology with its many facets with clinical implications where they may exist. Authors are encouraged to approach their chapters creatively drawing from multiple and multidisciplinary literature sources.

Luigi Grassi, Daniel C. McFarland, Michelle B. Riba (Eds): **Cancer in patients with severe mental illness - Screening, assessment, and management** Springer, Cham, Switzerland, 2026 (in press)

Worldwide, 1 out of 4 people have a diagnosis of psychiatric disorders, with about 300 million living with depression, 280 million with anxiety disorders, 46 million with bipolar disorders and 21 million with schizophrenia. From the physical point of view, scientific literature shows, amongst people with primary psychiatric disorders, major disparities in screening and treatment for cancer and higher risk of incidence of cancer, maintenance of at-risk behavior (e.g., smoking, poor diet, lower adherence to anticancer treatment) and, therefore, worse prognosis and higher mortality from cancer. Also, treatment results to

be complicated or with disparities with respect to the general population. Interpersonal problems are also evident in caring for people with MI (e.g., patient's unusual behavior or inappropriate affect, psychotic symptoms that may be unfamiliar and incomprehensible to the oncology and primary care physicians). Therefore, the area of communication skills, management of emotions and psychiatric symptoms (including delusions and hallucinations or other symptoms), the assessment and management of dysfunctional coping (e.g., pathological denial) and behavioral problems (e.g., poor adherence), is extremely important when dealing with people with psychiatric disorders who have developed cancer. This book will be a resource for oncology, primary care and mental health professionals regarding: how to screen for cancer in people with mental illness, including both severe mental disorders (i.e., schizophrenia spectrum disorders, mood and depressive spectrum disorders, severe personality disorder) and common mental disorders (i.e. anxiety, stress-related, minor depressive disorders; how to manage the problems of cancer treatment and behavioural and psychiatric symptoms in this population; how to create an optimal collaboration between mental health, primary care and oncology service and guidelines - for management and training