WORLD PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

Advancing Mental Health For All

Triennium Report 2023-2026

Stockholm, Sweden
23 to 26 September 2026

Leading the WPA through ethically, politically and economically challenging times



WORLD PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

Triennium Report 2023-2026

Advancing Mental Health For All

Preface by the President



Prof. Danuta Wasserman
M.D., Ph.D.

President, World Psychiatric Association

Mental health is a fundamental component of human well-being and a shared global responsibility spanning continents, cultures, and all stages of life. In an increasingly complex world, marked by rapid social change and widening inequalities, its promotion requires coordinated, evidence-based, and inclusive action.

In response to these challenges, the WPA adopted the Action Plan 2023–2026, entitled Advancing Mental Health for All. It was inspired by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and aimed to promote a comprehensive, prevention-oriented, evidence-based, and inclusive approach to mental health care and research. It acknowledges the close interdependence between mental health and social, economic, and environmental determinants, underscoring the need to address mental health not only within healthcare systems but also through population-wide public health strategies.

The report reviews the four strategic priorities that guided the WPA's activities during this triennium.
The first priority, Improving Clinical Practice and Comprehensive Care, focused on strengthening the translation of scientific advances into clinical practice. Through initiatives such as the Specialist Corner, suicide prevention programmes, and support for professionals working in environmentally induced emergency settings, the WPA promoted evidence-based, person-centred, and holistic psychiatric care.

The second priority, Early prevention and early intervention, recognised the importance of addressing risk factors and promoting mental well-being throughout the life course. Particular emphasis was placed on healthy lifestyles, preventive approaches, and the development of educational resources that support both patients and mental health professionals.

The third priority, Equity and inclusivity, reflected our commitment to reducing inequalities and ensuring that psychiatry serves diverse populations with sensitivity and respect. By implementing the EDIT principles (Equity, Developmental perspectives, Inclusion, and Transcultural awareness), the WPA worked to strengthen representation, diversity, and cultural competence across its structures and activities.

The fourth priority, Strengthened collaborations, highlighted the importance of collective action in addressing global mental health challenges. By working closely with international organisations, scientific societies, academic institutions, and advocacy groups, the WPA contributed to advancing mental health as a shared global responsibility and to promoting integrated approaches to brain health and well-being.

The achievements described in this report would not have been possible without the dedication and support of numerous colleagues. I wish to express my deepest appreciation to the members of the WPA Executive Committee, Board and Council, the Standing Committees, the Zonal Representatives, the Member Societies, the Scientific Sections and Expert Groups and all colleagues who contributed their time, knowledge, and passion to our common mission.

Serving as President of the World Psychiatric Association has been one of the greatest honours of my professional life. I am deeply thankful for the trust placed in me and for the opportunity to contribute to the advancement of global psychiatry during this important period. Together, we have demonstrated that through science, collaboration, and shared commitment, meaningful change is possible.

WORLD PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

Executive Committee 2023-2026



Danuta Wasserman

President

The WPA Executive Committee (EC) is a group of representatives elected by WPA members at the triennial WPA General Assembly.
Its primary role is to guide the work of the WPA and to deliver on the relevant Action Plan for the triennium.



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President-Elect

Secretary General
(Since October 2025)



Norbert Skokauskas

Secretary, Education
& Scientific Publications



Paul Summergrad

Secretary, Finances
& Fundraising



Armen Soghoyan

Secretary, Scientific Sections
Support Scientific Meetings



Saul Levin

Secretary General
(October 2023 to September 2025)



Edmond H. Pi

Secretary for Scientific Meetings (October 2023 to May 2024)

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Kumar, Vinay
Zone 16 – South-East Asia
Charnsil, Chawanun
Zone 17 – Eastern Asia
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Zone 18 – Australasia & South Pacific
Eapen, Valsamma

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Yatham, Lakshmi

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Rao, Prasad
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Kim, Yoshiharu
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Williams, Sheehan

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Bhugra, Dinesh
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Gasparyan, Khachatur
Jatchavala, Chonnakarn
Summergrad, Paul

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Hanna, Fahmy
Karaliuniene, Ruta
Kim, Yoshiharu
Ma, Hong
Pfeiffer, Elisa
Sartorius, Norman
Skokauskas, Norbert
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Szabo, Christopher
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Pinto da Costa, Mariana | Co-chair
Basar, Koray
Brendel, Rebecca Weintraub
Córdoba Rojas, Rodrigo Nel
Herrman, Helen
Javed, Afzal
Larnaout, Amine
Moussaoui, Driss
Rao, Prasad
Samochowiec, Jerzy
Sanchez, Thelma
Schouler-Ocak, Meryam
Sylla, Aida

PAST & CURRENT WPA PRESIDENTS

1950	Delay, Jean – France
1957	Delay, Jean – France
1961	Cameron, D. Ewen – Canada
1966	Lopez-Ibor, Juan J., Jr. – Spain
1972	Rome, Howard – USA
1977	Pichot, Pierre – France
1983	Stefanis, Costas – Greece
1989	Costa e Silva, Jorge A. – Brazil
1993	Lieh-Mak, Felice – Hong Kong
1996	Sartorius, Norman – Switzerland
1999	Lopez-Ibor, Juan J., Jr. – Spain
2002	Okasha, Ahmed – Egypt
2005	Mezzich, Juan E. – USA
2008	Maj, Mario – Italy
2011	Ruiz, Pedro – USA
2014	Bhugra, Dinesh – UK
2017	Herrman, Helen – Australia
2020	Javed, Afzal – UK
2023	Wasserman, Danuta – Sweden

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Advancing Mental Health for All

Background and strategic framework

The 2023–2026 triennium of the World Psychiatric Association (WPA) unfolded during a period of profound global transformation, marked by geopolitical instability, humanitarian crises, economic pressures, and environmental threats. These challenges have reinforced the understanding that mental health, as well as stigma and access to care, is profoundly shaped by the social, economic, cultural, and environmental conditions in which people live. Therefore, the WPA Action Plan 2023–2026 was built on the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs; https://sdgs.un.org/goals), a blueprint for creating a sustainable, inclusive, and prosperous world by 2030. The Action Plan recognised that good mental health is pivotal to individual and collective decision-making, harmonious relations, and thriving communities and became the foundation for a brighter future for all.

Mental disorders constitute one of the greatest public health concerns of the twenty-first century. According to the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) 2023 study, approximately 1.1 billion people worldwide live with mental disorders, while an additional 170 million people experience substance use disorders and around 18 million people are affected by self-harm-related conditions. The burden associated with mental disorders extends far beyond prevalence alone. Mental disorders contribute substantially to disability, premature mortality, reduced quality of life, economic losses, and social exclusion. In 2023, mental disorders accounted for approximately 6.1% of total global Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALYs), placing them among the leading causes of global disease burden. The economic implications are equally alarming. Recent estimates suggest that mental disorders generate approximately USD 5 trillion in annual economic losses globally through reduced productivity, increased healthcare expenditures, disability, and social costs. Despite this immense burden, mental health remains chronically underfunded. Globally, only around 2% of health budgets are allocated to mental health, with only limited proportions directed toward community services, prevention, and mental health promotion.

Mental disorders often begin early in life, with approximately one-third of disorders emerging before the age of 14 and almost half before the age of 18. This early onset seriously impacts education, employment, social functioning, and long-term physical health. Individuals living with mental disorders experience significantly higher rates of cardiovascular disease, diabetes, metabolic disorders, infectious diseases, and reduced life expectancy. Lifestyle-related factors such as physical inactivity, poor nutrition, sleep disturbances, smoking, alcohol misuse, and substance use contribute to this excess morbidity and mortality.

The WPA Action Plan 2023–2026[1,2] was developed in direct response to these global challenges, recognising the urgent need for integrated, preventive, and multisectoral approaches. Central to this was the understanding that mental health is not limited to clinical settings but is a universal concern affecting people of all ages, cultures, and regions across every continent. The Action Plan proposed a multi-level strategy structured around four priorities: (i) improving clinical practice and comprehensive care, (ii) early prevention and early intervention, (iii) advancing equity and inclusivity, and (iv) strengthening collaborations (Fig. 1).



Figure 1: Priorities of the WPA Action Plan 2023-2026

I. Improving clinical practice and comprehensive care

Specialist Corner: Advances of Science and Their Application in Clinical Practice

Although effective pharmacological and psychotherapeutic interventions for mental disorders exist, major challenges remain regarding treatment accessibility, variability in clinical response, continuity of care, and implementation in routine practice. Furthermore, many individuals living with mental illness continue to experience fragmented healthcare systems, poor physical health management, stigma, and limited access to specialised services.

To address these gaps, the WPA prioritised translating scientific advances into everyday psychiatric practice by establishing the Specialist Corner: Advances of Science and Their Application in Clinical Practice (https://www.wpanet.org/specialist-corner/). This educational platform offers expert-led lectures on major psychiatric disorders and contemporary treatment approaches. Importantly, the initiative adopted a multidimensional perspective that went beyond symptom management alone. Educational content incorporated discussions of comorbidities, physical health, ethical and legal considerations, lived experience, public mental health, digitalisation, transcultural psychiatry, and lifestyle-related interventions (Fig. 2).

This initiative strengthened the capacity of psychiatrists and mental health professionals worldwide to deliver more personalised, evidence-informed, and holistic care. It also helped narrow the gap between scientific research and clinical implementation.

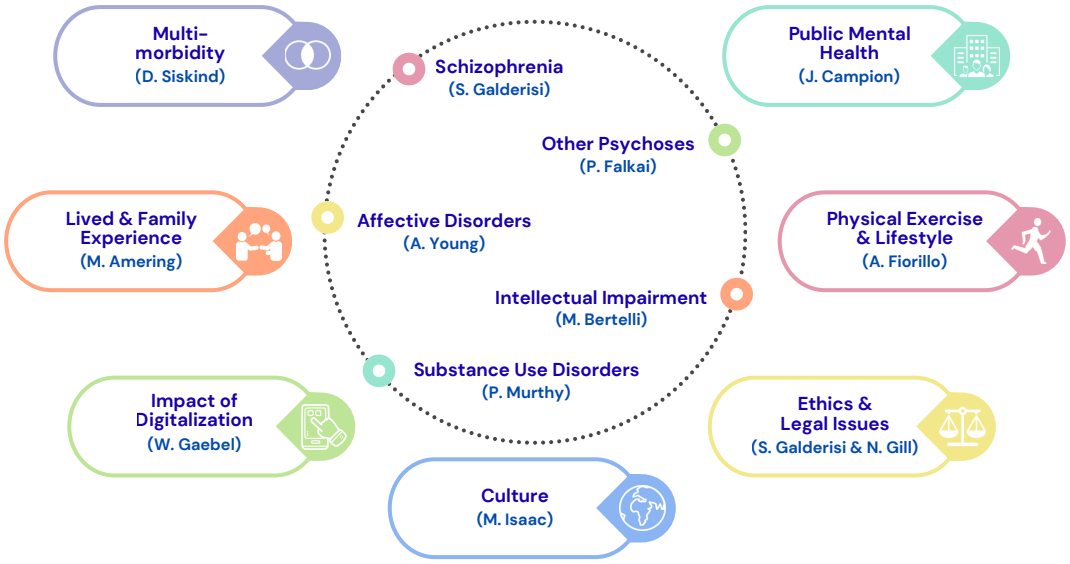


Figure 2 : The Specialist Corner. Advances of Science and Their Application in Clinical Practice

Specialist Corner sessions were included in the programme of the 25th World Congress of Psychiatry held on 5-8 October 2025 in Prague, Czech Republic (Tab. 1). The sessions were recorded and are freely available on the WPA website (https://www.wpanet.org/specialist-corner/).

Similarly, dedicated Specialist Corner sessions (Table 2) are included in the programme of the 26th World Congress of Psychiatry (23–26 September 2026, Stockholm, Sweden).

Table 1

WPA Specialist Corner sessions, Prague, October 2025
Expert group & Main Disorder Speakers

Specialist Corner – Advances of sciences and their application Main disorder **Presented by:**	Expert group on **Comorbidity** - Chaired by **Dan Siskind** **Speakers**	Expert group on **Public Mental Health** -Chaired by **Jonathan Campion** **Speakers**	Expert group on **Lived & Family Experience** - Chaired by **Michaela Amering** **Speakers**	Expert group on **Ethics & Legal Issues** - Chaired by **Silvana Galderisi & Neeraj Gill** **Speakers**	Expert group on **Impact Of Digitalization** - Chaired by **Wolfgang Gaebel** **Speakers**	Expert group on **Physical Exercise and Lifestyle** - Chaired by **Andrea Fiorillo** **Speakers**	Expert group on **Culture** - Chaired by **Mohan Isaac** **Speakers**
Schizophrenia **Silvana Galderisi**	**Dan Siskind**	**Vinay Lakra**	**Miia Männikkö**	**Antonio Melillo**	**Maddalena Cipriani**	**Dan Siskind**	**Mohan Isaac**
Other Psychoses **Peter Falkai**	**Ivona Š. Filipčić**	**Jonathan Campion**	**Miia Männikkö**	**Antonio Melillo**	**Umberto Volpe**	**Bianca Della Rocca**	**Sneha Karmani**
Affective Disorders **Allan Young**	**Sean Halstead**	**Vinay Lakra**	**Guadalupe Morales/ Carlos Vinacour**	**Calina Ouliaris**	**Heleen Riper**	**Matteo di Vincenzo**	**Meryam Schouler-Ocak**
Intellectual Impairment **Marco Bertelli**	**Sean Halstead**	**Jonathan Campion**	**Afzal Javed**	**Calina Ouliaris**	**Taishiro Kishimoto**	**Francesca Cirulli**	**Neeraj Gill**
Substance Use & Misuse **Pratima Murthy**	**Sean Halstead**	**Jonathan Campion**	**Miia Männikkö**	**Antonio Melillo**	**Hussein Elkholy**	**Lukole Atwoli**	**Marianne Kastrup**
Anxiety Disorders **Short presentation by Prof. Danuta Wasserman**	**Ivona Š. Filipčić**	**Jonathan Campion**	**Miia Männikkö**	**Helen Herrman**	**Bridianne O'Dea**	**Lukole Atwoli**	**Lamia Jouini**

Table 2

As per 10 September 2026

WPA Specialist Corner sessions, Stockholm, September 2026
Joint session of expert groups
Chaired by Danuta Wasserman & Norman Sartorius

Specialist Corner – Advances of sciences and their application	Expert group on **Multi-morbidity** - Chaired by **Norman Sartorius & Ivona Šimunovic Filipčić**	Expert group on **Public Mental Health** - Chaired by **Jonathan Campion**	Expert group on **Lived & Family Experience** - Chaired by **Roxanna Ruiz & Guadalupe Morales Cano**	Expert group on **Ethics & Legal Issues** - Chaired by **Silvana Galderisi & Neeraj Gill**	Expert group on **Impact Of Digitalization** - Chaired by **Wolfgang Gaebel**	Expert group on **Physical Exercise and Lifestyle** - Chaired by **Andrea Fiorillo**	Expert group on **Culture** - Chaired by **Mohan Isaac**
Speakers	**Marco Solmi:** "Mortality across mental disorders, risk and mitigating factors including disparities in care and biological treatments" **Sean Halstead:** "Cumulative physical multimorbidity in severe mental illness: earlier accumulation and premature mortality" **Ivona Šimunovic Filipčić:** "Multimorbidity across mental disorders: time to shift the paradigm"	**Jonathan Campion** "Public mental health: A key cross cutting theme and required actions" **Geert Dom** "Alcohol and other substances of abuse: A public mental health cross cutting theme" **Vinay Lakra** "Saving Psychiatry from itself – solutions and future considerations rooted in public mental health"	**Michaela Amering:** "Together we are stronger: Research and Practice of Mental Health Trialogue" **Miia Männikkö:** "Family Burden and Support related to diagnosis specific issues" **Ramya Pillutla:** "Lived Experience Expertise for Global Mental Health" **Discussant:** Thomas Schulze	**Silvana Galderisi :** "Ethical and Legal Issues: Schizophrenia and other psychosis" **Antonio Melillo:** "Ethical and Legal Issues – Substance Use Disorders" **Neeraj Gill:** "Ethical and Legal Issues – Affective and Anxiety Disorders" **Kerim Munir:** "Ethical and Legal Issues – Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities"	**Laura Orsolini:** "Telepsychiatry and blended models of care" **Bridianne O'Dea:** "Internet- and app-based interventions" **Taishiro Kishimoto:** "Methodology and impact of AI and machine learning for digital psychiatry" **Rodrigo Ramalho:** "Cultural safety and equity"	**Felipe Schuch:** "Integrating Physical Activity Into Routine Psychiatric Care: Myth or Reality?" **TBC:** "Managing Comorbidities for the Promotion of Adolescence Mental Health" **Gaia Sampogna:** "The Role of Psychosocial Interventions Focused on Lifestyle and Physical Activity" **TBC:** "Physical Exercise Therapy in Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorders: Current Evidence and Treatment Recommenda-tions"	**Marianne Kastrup:** "Issues and challenges in addressing mental health needs of immigrants and refugees" **Neeraj Gill:** "Influence of cultural constructs in mental health to pathways to care for mental, health problems" **Lamia Jouini:** "Cultural factors and influences in caring for caregivers of mentally ill **Meryam Schouler-Ocak:** Training of psychiatrists for culturally centered care"

WORLD PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

WPA Specialist Corner sessions, Stockholm, September 2026
Joint session of expert groups
Chaired by Danuta Wasserman & Norman Sartorius

Specialist Corner - Advances of sciences and their application **Joint Session / Expert Group**	**Speakers**
Expert Group on **Impact of Digitalization**	**Wolfgang Gaebel**
Expert Group on **Culture**	**Mohan Isaac**
Expert Group on **Lived & Family Experience**	**Guadalupe Morales**
Expert Group on **Public Mental Health**	**Jonathan Campion**
Expert Group on **Multi-morbidity**	**Sean Halstead**
Expert Group on **Ethics & Legal Issues**	**Neeraj Gill**
Expert Group on **Physical Exercise & Lifestyle**	**Gaia Sampogna**

Brief Motivational Intervention and Long-term Regular Follow-up Contact Program (BIC)

Reducing suicide mortality represents a key indicator within the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Therefore, the WPA decided to contribute to this achievement by disseminating and implementing the Brief Motivational Intervention and Long-term Regular Follow-up Contact Program (BIC). This evidence-based intervention focuses on individuals who have attempted suicide and aims to reduce future suicidal behaviour through structured follow-up and sustained contact after discharge from care.
The program includes a motivational session before hospital discharge, followed by regular supportive contacts over an extended period. The WPA provides training materials, educational resources, implementation protocols, and opportunities for research collaboration to Member Societies interested in adopting the intervention (https://www.wpanet.org/bic/).

II. Early prevention and early intervention

Life-course approach to health and mental health

Scientific evidence increasingly demonstrates that many mental disorders emerge early in life and are shaped by a complex interaction between biological vulnerability, environmental adversity, social determinants, and lifestyle factors. Early prevention, therefore, represents one of the most effective strategies for reducing the long-term burden of mental illness, while also promoting general well-being.
In this context, the WPA promoted a life-course perspective on mental health, recognising that prevention must begin early and continue across all developmental stages. The WPA especially highlighted the importance of addressing adverse childhood experiences, adolescent risk behaviours, and social isolation among the elderly.
The WPA also advocated for increased recognition of environmental changes and climate-related stressors as emerging determinants of mental health, especially among younger generations

Healthy Lifestyles Hub

Growing evidence demonstrates that healthy lifestyles improve both mental and physical health outcomes across numerous psychiatric conditions.

Everyday behaviours such as regular physical activity, balanced nutrition, and healthy sleep patterns play a crucial role in both preventing and managing mental health conditions, and they are relevant to people in all regions of the world, regardless of income level or healthcare access. These healthy lifestyles are also important for supporting the well-being of mental health workers, since burnout, chronic stress, and emotional exhaustion have become increasingly significant concerns globally.

The WPA strongly promotes the integration of healthy lifestyle interventions into mental health care and launched the Healthy Lifestyles Hub. The Hub provides psychoeducational videos (Tab. 3) and practical resources aimed at patients, healthcare professionals, and the general public. These materials promote lifestyle-based interventions as an integral component of psychiatric care. Karolinska Institutet (Stockholm, Sweden) has produced three videos (each 3-5 minutes long) to guide psychiatric staff and patients in incorporating exercises of varying intensity into daily routines. Furthermore, the University of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli (Naples, Italy) has produced three videos promoting awareness of healthy dietary choices and habits that support mental well-being. The videos are tailored for adolescents and young adults and can also be used in clinical adult psychiatric wards.



Let's move together 1



Let's move together 2



Let's move together 3



Let's eat healthy 1



Let's eat healthy 2



Let's eat healthy 3

Table 3 Healthy Lifestyle Hub educational videos

The WPA Action Plan for 2023-2026 also emphasizes the promotion of healthy lifestyles to enhance mental health among psychiatric professionals. This initiative acknowledges that psychiatrists often face demanding workloads, making it challenging to prioritize their own well-being. By integrating healthy lifestyle practices, such as regular physical activity, psychiatrists can improve their own mental health, serve as role models for patients, and effectively incorporate lifestyle interventions into clinical practice. This holistic approach aims to foster a culture of health within psychiatric care, benefiting both healthcare providers and those they serve.

Incorporating physical activity as a shared experience between psychiatric staff and patients offers additional benefits beyond improved physical and mental health. Engaging in exercise together can strengthen the connection between healthcare providers and patients by fostering a sense of unity, improving communication, and increasing empathy. This shared activity helps reduce hierarchical barriers, creating a more personalized and supportive therapeutic environment. At the same time, it enhances the well-being of participating staff, reinforcing the importance of a healthy lifestyle within psychiatric care settings.

III. Equity and inclusivity

By statute, the WPA is committed to preserving the rights of people with mental disorders and promoting non-discrimination in the provision of care, as well as protecting the rights of psychiatrists. Nevertheless, stigma, discrimination and inequalities remain pervasive and continue to shape mental health care and research worldwide.

During the 2023-2026 triennium, the WPA introduced and promoted the EDIT principles as a framework to strengthen equity and inclusivity across psychiatric research, education, governance, and clinical practice.

The EDIT framework emphasises:

- Equity across genders, ages, and ethnicities;
- Developmental perspective that encompasses the entire lifespan, from childhood to older adulthood;
- Inclusion of underrepresented populations;
- Transcultural awareness and sensitivity.

The WPA actively works to integrate the EDIT principles into its internal structures and international activities. Efforts were made to improve gender and geographical representation within committees, expert groups, congress sessions, and fellowship winners.

In particular, a monitoring system was introduced to evaluate the diversity of speakers and participants at WPA congresses and activities, thereby increasing accountability and transparency. Data on diversity were made publicly available through reports in World Psychiatry, the official WPA journal.

Additionally, the themes for the Medical Student Essay Competition were thoughtfully chosen to inspire future generations of healthcare professionals to address global mental health challenges with a focus on equity, inclusivity, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals:

- 2024 - Improving Mental Health in the Global World Using the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals;
- 2025 - Reducing Inequalities and Promoting Inclusion to Improve Mental Health;
- 2026 - Partnerships for SDGs in the Implementation of Scientific-Based Preventive Methods to Improve Global Mental Health.

The WPA also increasingly emphasised partnership with persons with lived experience and their families, shifting toward collaborative models of care that value patient autonomy, dignity, and participation. Similarly, the emphasis on inclusivity extended to transcultural psychiatry and the recognition of the need for culturally informed mental healthcare. Expert groups on lived experiences and the role of culture were included in the Specialist Corner initiative.

IV. Strengthening collaborations

In accordance with the World Health Organization (WHO) integrated operational framework for mental health, brain health and substance use, the WPA recognised that these challenges cannot be addressed by single organisations or disciplines alone, and therefore devoted substantial efforts during the triennium to strengthening collaborations and strategic partnerships. The WPA worked closely with international organisations, professional societies, academic institutions, and advocacy groups to promote coordinated and multisectoral responses to mental health needs.

World Health Organization

The WPA supported the WHO through advocacy and scientific exchange, contributing to the strengthening of global mental health policies and the promotion of integrated care approaches. The WPA regularly participated in the annual World Health Assembly (WHA) held in Geneva, Switzerland. At the 77th World Health Assembly (27 May–1 June 2024), the WPA called on Member States to ensure sustained political commitment by allocating dedicated and long-term government funding for mental health within national health systems. At the 78th World Health Assembly (19–27 May 2025), the WPA encouraged the WHO to strengthen its Global Mental Health and Brain Health initiatives by adopting an Integral Brain Health strategy and promoting closer collaboration among psychiatry, neurology, primary care, and public health. At the 79th World Health Assembly (18–23 May 2026), the WPA broadened its advocacy beyond the health sector, urging governments, international financial institutions, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and global capital markets to recognise investment in mental health as a driver of sustainable economic development and societal resilience.

United Nations (UN)

The WPA participated in the historic United Nations (UN) Intergovernmental Working Group on the Human Rights of Older Persons, convened by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) during the 58th Session of the Human Rights Council (13–17 July 2026). The WPA's contribution reflected the longstanding work of its Section on Old Age Psychiatry (SOAP) in advancing the human rights of older persons. (See the Section's report for further details.)

Agreement of Americas

In January 2024, *the "Agreement of Americas"* was signed between the World Psychiatric Association (WPA) and eight other organizations: the Latin American Psychiatric Association (APAL), the World Association on Dual Disorders (WADD), the American Psychiatric Association (APA), the Canadian Psychiatric Association (CPA), the American Society of Hispanic Psychiatry (ASHP), Warmi Mental Health (which promotes mental health for women), the Spanish Society on Dual Disorders (SEPD), and the Mexican Consortium of Neuropsychopharmacology (MCNP).

The Prague Agreement

The WPA endorsed the Royal College of Psychiatrists' initiative to establish the Prague Agreement, a coalition of psychiatric associations and mental health charities advocating for increased global investment in mental health. This initiative reframes mental health not only as a critical human rights issue but also as a fundamental component in fostering economic development and enhancing societal resilience. The Prague Agreement was signed during the 25th World Congress of Psychiatry held in October 2025 in Prague, Czech Republic. In January 2026, the agreement was formally presented in an *open letter* addressed to the leaders of global finance, development institutions, and capital markets convening in Davos for the World Economic Forum.

Integral Brain Health

The WPA also initiated a collaboration with the World Federation of Neurology to promote the concept of integral brain health, recognising the interconnectedness between psychiatric, neurological, and cerebrovascular conditions and encouraging more integrated prevention and treatment strategies. The joint efforts culminated in a list of recommendations presented to *the 51st G7 summit held in June 2025* in Kananaskis, Alberta, Canada.
Furthermore, the WPA supports the International Alliance on Brain Health and attended the *alliance's second meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina* (24-25 April 2026), delivering a keynote on "Psychiatry's Role in Integrated Brain Health Strategies".

Member societies and other organisations

The WPA also continued strengthening its collaborations with Member Societies and Affiliated Associations across all regions of the world through active participation in person or virtually. Educational webinars, scientific congresses, training opportunities, and expert consultations facilitated knowledge exchange and international cooperation.

The WPA further encouraged interdisciplinary dialogue involving other medical specialities and social sciences through participation in meetings of other organizations : XXVI World Congress of Neurology - Montreal, Canada, 15–19 October 2023; Foro Nacional de Salud Coparmex 2023 -Mexico City, Mexico, 23 November – 2 December 2023; 13th World Congress for Neurorehabilitation - Vancouver, Canada, 22–25 May 2024; 2nd European Society of Social Psychiatry Congress - Rome, Italy, 2–3 October 2024; WPA & Swiss Mental Health Stakeholders Network - Geneva, Switzerland, 12 May 2025; XXVII World Congress of Neurology - Seoul, South Korea, 12–15 October 2025; 2nd Meeting of the International Alliance on Brain Health - Buenos Aires, Argentina, 24–25 April 2026.

Importantly, the WPA emphasised that achieving meaningful progress in global mental health requires partnerships extending beyond healthcare systems alone. Collaboration with educational institutions, governments, community organisations, and civil society remains essential for addressing the social determinants of mental health.

WPA WORLD CONGRESSES (WCP)

The president serves as a Chair of the Scientific and Organisation Committees at the World Congress. The World Congresses of Psychiatry remained the WPA's scientific flagship during the triennium.

WCP 2024 – 24th World Congress of Psychiatry, Mexico City, Mexico, 14-17 Nov. 2024

- "New Horizons for Good Mental Health for All"
- Total participants : 3669
- Countries: 96 countries
- Programs: 148 scientific sessions, more than 700 speakers, and 70 oral poster sessions.

WCP 2025 – 25th World Congress of Psychiatry, Prague, Czech Republic 5-8 Oct. 2025

- "The Role of Psychiatry in the Changing World"
- Total participants : 3424
- Countries: 115 countries
- Programs: 96 symposia, 8 plenary lectures, 8 distinguished lectures, 12 free communication sessions, 6 Specialist Corner sessions, and 517 oral poster presentations.

WCP 2026 – 26th World Congress of Psychiatry, Stockholm, Sweden 23-26 Sept. 2026

Figures as of 1 September 2026

- **"**Guided by compassion, grounded in science: Psychiatry for our time"
- Total participants: 4117
- Countries: 130
- Programs: 192

Follow up of the Triennium Action Plan

Updates on the status and achievements of the Action Plan 2023-2026 were regularly published in the scientific journals.

- *Wasserman, D., Arango, C., Fiorillo, A., Levin, S., Peters, A., Rao, P., Sanchez-Villanueva, T. & Sylla, A.* Improving mental health through fostering healthy lifestyles in young people: one of the targets in the WPA Action Plan 2023-2026. World Psychiatry 22, 488–489 (2023).
- *Wasserman, D.* Mental health for all: fostering healthy lifestyles. World Psychiatry 22, 343–344 (2023).
- *Wasserman, D.* The WPA Action Plan 2023-2026. World Psychiatry 23, 165–166 (2024).
- *Wasserman, D.* Achieving equality, inclusiveness, and cultural sensitivity in mental health (EDIT). World Psychiatry 23, 302–303 (2024).
- *Pinto da Costa, M., Ng, B., Sanchez, T., Molina, A., Cortés Morelos, J., Saucedo-Martinez, D., Pica Ruiz, Y., Mahdanian, A., Medved, S. & Wasserman, D.* Breaking the glass ceiling: women's scientific participation in the 24th World Congress of Psychiatry. World Psychiatry 24, 291–292 (2025).
- *Wasserman, D., Iosue, M., Avan, A. & Hachinski, V.* Integral Brain Health: a collaborative approach for psychiatry and neurology. World Psychiatry 24, 452–453 (2025).
- *Wasserman, D., Iosue, M., Petros, N. G. & Riblet, N.* Incorporating suicide prevention in the WPA Action Plan 2023-2026. World Psychiatry 24, 284–285 (2025).
- *Wasserman, D.* Advancing mental health for all: WPA 2023–2026 action plan on clinical education and healthy lifestyles. Neuropsychiatrie 40, 1–5 (2025).
- *Pinto da Costa, M., Dragasek, J., Iosue, M., Kasparek, T., Mohr, P., Nyametie, M., Wiffen, H. & Wasserman, D.* Towards a more inclusive psychiatry: diversity among presenters and participants in the 25th World Congress of Psychiatry. World Psychiatry 25, 338–339 (2026).
- *Wasserman, D., Arango, C., Fiorillo, A., Prasad Rao, G., Sanchez-Villanueva, T., Sylla, A., Iosue, M.* Advancing mental health for all as a response to global change: WPA achievements under the Action Plan 2023-2026 (in press).

Advancing Mental Health for All: The Way Forward

Facing a world characterised by instability, social inequalities, environmental crises, humanitarian emergencies, and rapidly evolving technological landscapes, the WPA adopted a broad and forward-looking vision of mental health. The WPA recognised that improving mental health globally requires far more than expanding psychiatric treatment alone. Advancing equitable and sustainable mental health for all requires an integrated, multi-level approach that addresses social and structural determinants, fosters supportive environments, and combines preventive strategies with accessible, effective treatment.

While major challenges remain, including persistent treatment gaps, underfunding of mental health services, workforce shortages, stigma, and rising psychosocial stressors, the activities undertaken during this triennium established important foundations for future progress. Equally important will be the continued application and expansion of the EDIT principles (promoting Equity, recognising Developmental perspectives across the life course, ensuring the Inclusion of underrepresented populations, and fostering Transcultural awareness in research, education, leadership, and clinical practice). Embedding these principles throughout the WPA's future activities will be essential to achieving more equitable, culturally responsive, and person-centred mental health care worldwide.

The WPA enters the next phase of its work with strengthened international partnerships, expanded educational initiatives, and a renewed commitment to advancing mental health for all through science, collaboration, prevention, and inclusion.



Reports from Executive Committee Members and their Standing Committees

STATUTORY ACTIVITIES

- **09-10/2023 :** Assembling the Planning Committee (https://www.wpanet.org/planning-committee/)
- **Since 11/2023:** Working with the Planning Committee on revisions of the Statutes and Bylaws and Manual of Procedures and the Action Plan 2026-2029
- **2026:** Member Jean-Delay-Prize Committee
- **2026:** Member Nomination Committee
- **2026:** Member Accreditation Committee

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

- **10/2023 :** Psychiatric Days of Bosnia & Herzegovina, Mostar, Bosnia & Herzegovina
- **01/2024 :** 75th Annual National Conference of the Indian Psychiatric Society (ANCIPS 2024)
- **03/2024 :** 21st Annual World Congress of the Society of Brain Mapping and Therapeutics, Los Angeles, California, USA
- **04/2024 :** European Congress of Psychiatry, Budapest, Hungary
- **05/2024 :** Meeting of the American Psychiatric Association, New York, NY, USA
- **06/2024 :** Nordic Congress of Psychiatry, Riga, Latvia & International Congress of Psychiatry, Cairo, Egypt
- **10/2024 :** XLI Brazilian Congress of Psychiatry (CBP), Brasilia, Brazil
- **11/2024 :** Serbian Psychiatric Days, Belgrade, Serbia & APAL Congress, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- **04/2025 :** European Congress of Psychiatry, Madrid, Spain & WPA Regional Congress, Alexandria, Egypt
- **05/2025 :** International Congress on Mood Disorders, Zagreb, Croatia & Meeting of the American Psychiatric Association, Los Angeles, CA, USA
- **09/2025 :** 48th Congress of the Polish Psychiatric Association, Kraków, Poland
- **11/2025 :** WPA Regional Congress, Quito, Ecuador & Colombian Congress of Psychiatry, Pereira, Colombia
- **02/2026 :** 1st Kuwait Pediatric Psychiatry Conference, Kuwait City, Kuwait
- **03/2026 :** Psykiatriveka (Meeting of the Norwegian Psychiatric Association), Oslo, Norway
- **03/2026 :** European Congress of Psychiatry, Prague, Czech Republic
- **04/2026 :** 3rd Samarkand Spring School for Young Psychiatrists and Narcologists, Samarkand, Uzbekistan
- **04-05/2026 :** International Congress on Mood Disorders, Ljubljana, Slovenia
- **04/2026 :** RANZCP Congress, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia (virtual participation)
- **05/2026 :** 6th Global Summit on Spirituality, Religion, and Mental Health, Boston, MA, USA
- **05/2026 :** Meeting of the American Psychiatric Association, Los Angeles, CA, USA

MEETING WITH ZONAL REPRESENTATIVES

- **06/2025 :** Meeting with representatives of Zone 10 (Eastern Europe) in Almaty, Kazakhstan, and Tashkent, Uzbekistan, discussing challenges and chances to/for the region and future developments:
  - Expanding Early Career Psychiatrists (ECP) activities in the region, closer ties with ECP Section warranted
  - Planning a WPA Regional Congress in the region in 2027
  - Establishing closer ties between the WPA and Samarkand Spring School for Young Psychiatrists and Narcologists (to be held 2026)
  - Suggested name change for Zone 10: Eastern Europe & Central Asia

- **2025 :** Several online/in-person meetings with Zonal Representatives discussing opportunities for Regional/Thematic Congresses

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES, MEETINGS WITH NGOS, PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS ETC.

- **04/2025 :** Discussion with Tajik Psychiatric Association about joining WPA (formal application in 04/2026)
- **09/2025 :** Participation at various mental health/brain health meetings in conjunction with the 80th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 80), New York, NY, USA
- **09-10/2025 :** Participation at the 6th Global Ministerial Mental Health Summit, Doha, Qatar
  - Meeting with WHO Mental Health representatives
  - Meeting with the leadership of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP), discussing opportunities for joint activities and closer collaboration
  - Meeting with the leadership of WPA's Collaborating Center in Doha

- **01/2026 :** Meeting with various NGOs, philanthropic organizations, foundations in conjunction with the World Economic Forum, Davos, Switzerland
- **05/2026 :** Discussion with Omani Psychiatric Association about joining WPA

GRANT MANAGEMENT

Since 2023 :

- PSY-PGx - A New Intervention for Implementation of Pharmacogenetics in Psychiatry www.psy-pgx.org/PSY-PGx
- A Stratified Treatment Algorithm in Psychiatry: A program on stratified pharmacogenomics in severe mental illness (https://psych-strata.eu/)

CONGRESS ORGANIZATION

Since 2024 :

- Working with the Planning Committee and a number of member societies on identifying future venues for World Congresses on Psychiatry (2027, 2028, 2029)
- Negotiating a new, more flexible contract with Kenes for managing World Congresses of Psychiatry

2024 : World Congress of Psychiatry, Mexico DF, Mexico

2025 : WPA Regional Congress, Alexandria, Egypt
2025 : World Congress of Psychiatry, Prague, Czech Republic
2025 : WPA Regional Congress, Quito, Ecuador

2026 :

- Planning the World Congress of Psychiatry Stockholm, Sweden
- Planning a Regional Congress to be held in Tunis, Tunisia in December 2026
- Planning a Regional Congress to be held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan in June 2027

WORLD PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

TRIENNIUM REPORT FOR MEETINGS

WPA REGIONAL AND THEMATIC CONGRESSES AND CO-SPONSORED MEETINGS

In addition to the annual World Congress of Psychiatry, the WPA promotes scientific exchange and professional development through a diverse programme of Regional and Thematic Congresses, as well as Co-sponsored Meetings organised in collaboration with Member Societies, Scientific Sections, academic institutions, and other partner organisations. During the 2023–2026 triennium, the WPA supported 4 Regional Congresses (Tab. 6), 2 Thematic Congresses (Tab. 7), and more than 40 Co-sponsored Meetings (Tab. 8) across all world regions, reflecting its commitment to expanding access to high-quality scientific education and international collaboration.

During this triennium, Prof. Armen Soghoyan supported the Executive Committee in coordinating activities, regional, thematic and co-sponsored meetings:

WPA REGIONAL CONGRESSES

Meeting	Location	Dates	Title	Participants
WPA Regional Meeting	Quito, Ecuador	14–16 Nov 2025	"From the Middle of the World Towards a Transformative Psychiatry"	450 (200 international + 250 local)
WPA Regional Meeting	Alexandria, Egypt	11–14 Apr 2025	"Embracing the Complexity of Mental Health: Neuroscientific Foundations and Novel Interventions"	366 (77 international + 286 local)

WPA THEMATIC CONGRESSES

Congress	Location	Dates	Title	Participants
WPA Thematic Congress	Abu Dhabi, UAE	5–7 May 2023	"Innovations in Treatment and Psychosocial Rehabilitation"	NA
WPA Thematic Congress	Karachi, Pakistan	3–5 Mar 2023	"Mental Health in a New Era"	NA

WORLD PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

WPA CO-SPONSORED MEETINGS

Meeting	Location	Dates	Title
21st World Congress of World Association for Dynamic Psychiatry	Vienna, Austria	22–26 Mar 2027	"Identity: Person, Group, Society – Implications for Psychotherapy and Psychiatry"
19th International Conference on Psychiatry in Saudi Arabia	Jeddah, Saudi Arabia	26–28 Nov 2026	"Psychiatry in a Changing World: Challenges, Progress, and New Possibilities"
Together Against Stigma Conference	New Delhi, India	12–14 Nov 2026	"Addressing stigma related to child and adolescent mental illness and promoting their mental health"
WPA Co-sponsored International Conference for Forensic Psychiatry	Ohrid, North Macedonia	15–18 Oct 2026	"Forensic Psychiatry and Prison Psychiatry between Medicine and Law"
8th World Congress of Positive and Transcultural Psychotherapy	Budva, Montenegro	11–16 Oct 2026	"Healing Across Cultures: Positive Mental Health in a Complex World"
The 11th World Congress of Asian Psychiatry	Sapporo, Japan	6–8 Oct 2026	Harmonization between Urbanization and Nature in Future Mental Health
Mental Health In An Increasingly Polarized and Uncertain World: The Role of Epidemiology and Public Health	Cagliari, Sardinia, Italy	30 Sep–2 Oct 2026	Psychiatric Epidemiology and Public Health
Expert Group Meeting	New Delhi, India	30 Aug 2026	The Future DSM: South Asian Cultural Perspectives
WPA Zone 15 Coordination Committee and Member Art & Psychiatry Section	Virtual, India	16 Jul–3 Sep 2026	Global Voices: Shared Hope
Rencontres de Suze-La-Rousse 2026	Uchaux, France	26–27 Jun 2026	Intimacy and the intimate: Clinical, Anthropological, Legal and Literary Perspectives
122nd Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Psychiatry and Neurology	Yokohama, Japan	18–20 Jun 2026	"Psychiatry in Society, Psychiatry for Society"
World Federation for Psychotherapy – 24th World Congress	New York City, USA	4–6 Jun 2026	"Psychotherapy, Mental Health and Human Rights – Caring for Vulnerable Populations, Humanitarian Relief Workers, and Healthcare Professionals"
27th Virtual International Congress of Psychiatry (Interpsiquis 2026)	Cartagena, Spain & Latin America (Virtual)	26–29 May 2026	"International Congress of Psychiatry"
6th Global Summit on Spirituality, Religion, and Mental Health	Boston, USA	14–15 May 2026	Spirituality/Religion and Mental Health
International Congress On Mood Disorders (ICOM 2026)	Ljubljana, Slovenia	30 Apr–3 May 2026	Mood Disorders
Psychotherapy Workshop	Jaipur, India	6–7 Dec 2025	"Psychotherapy workshop for young psychiatrists"

Meeting	Location	Dates	Title
WPA Art and Psychiatry Section Meeting	New Delhi, India	4–6 Dec 2025	"Narratives of the Mind: Bridging Art, Literature & Psychiatry"
Pakistan's First Child & Adolescent Psychiatry International Conference	Lahore, Pakistan	28–29 Nov 2025	"Building Future: promoting mental health across Childhood & Adolescents"
18th International Conference on Psychiatry	Jeddah, Saudi Arabia	20–22 Nov 2025	"Future of Psychiatry as a Clinical Neuroscience"
42nd Brazilian Congress of Psychiatry	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	5–8 Nov 2025	"Research, Innovation and Technology in Medicine"
WPA Co-sponsored International Conference for Forensic Psychiatry	Ohrid, North Macedonia	15–18 Oct 2025	"Forensic Psychiatry and Prison Psychiatry between Medicine and Law"
International Twinned Congress	Mogliano Veneto, Treviso, Italy	25–26 Sept 2025	"Psychiatry in Contemporary World: No Health without Mental Health"
WPA Inter-Zonal Seminar	New Delhi, India	6–7 Sept 2025	"Indigenous Mental Health Resources: A Global Perspective"
121st Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Psychiatry and Neurology	Kobe, Japan	19–21 Jun 2025	"Enhancing and Developing Psychiatry and Neurology: Issues to Be Addressed"
26th Virtual International Congress of Psychiatry (Interpsiquis 2025)	Cartagena, Spain & Latin America (Virtual)	19–30 May 2025	"International Congress of Psychiatry"
International Congress on Mood Disorders (ICOM 2025)	Zagreb, Croatia	1–4 May 2025	"Mood Disorders"
Sri Lanka College of Psychiatrists	Colombo, Sri Lanka	27–28 Feb 2025	"International Rethinking Mental Health Care Conference"
Biopsychosocial Advances in Evidence-Based Therapies in Psychiatry	Manila, Philippines	21–24 Jan 2025	"51st Annual Convention of the Philippine Psychiatric Association & Regional Meeting of the World Federation for Psychotherapy"
21st Annual National Conference of the Association of Industrial Psychiatry of India (AIPI)	Bodhgaya, India	20–23 Dec 2024	"Mental Health & Productivity"
WPA Zone 15 Coordination Committee & Psychiatric Associations of South Asia	Bodhgaya, India	20 Dec 2024	"Indigenous Mental Health Resources in South Asia"
17th International Conference on Psychiatry	Jeddah, Saudi Arabia	7–9 Nov 2024	"New Horizons in Mental Health Services"

Meeting	Location	Dates	Title
31st National Conference of IASP	Mysore, India	4–6 Nov 2024	"Generational Transformation in the 21st Century: Focus on Sexuality, Gender and Relationships"
Changing Environments, Well-being & Population Mental Health	Bangkok, Thailand	9–11 Oct 2024	"Changing environments, well-being & population mental health"
41st Brazilian Congress of Psychiatry	Brasília, Brazil	23–26 Oct 2024	"Psychiatry and Artificial Intelligence: How to Integrate New Technologies"
CGH Psychodynamics Conference	Singapore	25–26 Jun 2024	"Psychodynamics in Everyday Clinical Practice"
Obsessive Compulsive Spectrum Disorders Conference	Taormina, Italy (Virtual)	19–23 Jun 2024	"Obsessive Compulsive Spectrum Disorders: From Translational Models to Clinical Management"
XI National Emergency Conference	Online	21–22 Jun 2024	Online conference organized by the Brazilian Association of Psychiatry
ISPS International Conference	Espoo/Helsinki, Finland	5–8 Jun 2024	"Need Adapted Care – The Power of Human Interaction"
Diplomacy and Psychiatry Webinar	Washington DC, USA (Virtual)	4 Jun 2024	"The Human Factor is the Basis of Crisis, and the Individual is the Source of Solutions"
WPA Section on Stigma Biennial Conference	Reykjavik, Iceland	3–5 Jun 2024	"Together with Diverse Communities"
Asia, Asia-Pacific & Middle East Psychiatric Federations Conference	Abu Dhabi, UAE	1–2 Jun 2024	"New Frontiers of Psychiatry"
International Congress on Mood Disorders (ICOM 2024)	Belgrade, Serbia	23–26 May 2024	"Mood Disorders"
25th Virtual International Congress of Psychiatry (Interpsiquis 2024)	Cartagena, Spain & Latin America (Virtual)	20–31 May 2024	"International Congress of Psychiatry"
IX ABP/WPA Update Course on Schizophrenia	Online	17–18 May 2024	"Update on Schizophrenia"
20th WADP Congress	Marrakech, Morocco	16–20 Apr 2024	"Social Challenges – Shared Responsibility"
9th Congress on Neurobiology, Psychopharmacology & Treatment Guidance	Thessaloniki, Greece	8–10 Mar 2024	"Neurobiology, Psychopharmacology & Treatment Guidance"
Psychoanalysis in Psychiatry	Campinas/São Paulo, Brazil	22–24 Feb 2024	"The Future of the Relationship Between Medicine, Psychiatry and Psychoanalysis"
Scientific Summit Psychiatry at Sea 2024	Caribbean Cruise	26–29 Feb 2024	"XXI Psychiatry in the Americas"

WPA TRIENNIUM REPORT OF THE 2023-2026 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Chair
Thomas G. Schulze — USA & Germany
Members
Radwa Said Abdelazim Elfeqi — Egypt
Peter Falkai — Germany
Chonnakarn Jatchvala — Thailand
Rodrigo Nel Córdoba Rojas — Colombia
Co-opted Members
Miguel Angel Cuellar Hoppe — Member
Masaru Mimura — Japan
Bibilola Oladeji — Nigeria
Perminder Sachdev — Australia
Gautam Saha — India
Lakshmi N. Yatham — Canada

INFORMATION

- The Planning Committee met in person (and virtually) at the WCP 2024 (Mexico City) and 2025 (Prague).
- At the WCP 2025, Robert Van Voren was invited as a special guest.
- The Planning Committee also met throughout the past 2.5 years virtually at irregular intervals.
- The Planning Committee was invited by the Chair to:
  - brainstorm about the future direction of the WPA to inform the 2026-2029 Action Plan; and
  - thoroughly review the Statutes and Bylaws as well as the Manual of Procedures and make recommendations for useful changes.

CORE SUGGESTIONS

- While clearly maintaining its character as the global umbrella organization of national psychiatric associations, WPA should strive to become a global mental health brand allowing opening to partnerships and collaborations with a variety of stakeholders.

- Support the President-Elect's vision of:
  - enhancing WPA's global visibility by expanding the network of WPA Collaborating Centers to all regions and making them hubs for WPA-initiated and/or facilitated projects on education, research, and care;
  - strengthening the voice of early career psychiatrists in the association and at meetings;
  - further developing WPA platforms for organizations representing people with lived and family experience;
  - actively exploring avenues for fundraising.

- Develop a comprehensive policy for meetings (frequency, types of meetings; flagship World Congress vs. Regional and Thematic Congresses; flexibility to maximize attractiveness, outreach, and revenue).

- Open membership to psychiatric associations beyond the standard "one society per country" approach may be a way forward to grow the membership, revenue, and most of all to strengthen its mission. (Example: national associations of child and adolescent psychiatry).

- Establish the office of Immediate Past President within the EC to allow for more fiscal and logistical continuity at Executive Committee and to lend support to the incoming President.

- Change the term of Council membership of Past Presidents from 5 years to lifetime membership (as it used to be until an ad-hoc motion was previously passed by the General Assembly).

- Redefine and clarify criteria of who can run for office and how many times (e.g., candidates from same countries/territories, societies; hiatus before being eligible to run for an office again).

- Strengthen human rights aspects (to be integrated into the Ethics Committee).

- Develop a globally acceptable approach to increasing diversity at all bodies and levels of the WPA.

- These suggestions informed a first revision of the Statutes and By Laws as well as of the Manual of Procedures, drafted by the Chair and shared with the EC, Council, and Board. After various discussions with these bodies, the final revisions of the aforementioned documents were approved by the EC. These revisions also include suggestions made by other members of the EC.

- The 2023-2026 PC will continue working on the formulation of the 2026-2029 Action Plan to be presented to the WPA membership at the WCP 2026 in Stockholm.

Document Title : Report of the Secretary for Finances and Committee on Finance and Fundraising (2023-2026)
Author : Prof. Paul Summergrad
Date : August 2026

It has been an honor to serve as Secretary for Finances of the WPA since October 2020 and during this most recent triennium. I am grateful to our President Danuta Wasserman, our President- elect Thomas Schulze, my colleagues on the Executive Committee Prof. Armen Soghoyan and Prof. Norbert Skokauskas, and our WPA executive staff led by our Director Atina Ivanovski.

I have also been ably supported by the experienced members of the WPA Standing Committee on Finances which has met both in person and remotely during this triennium: Prof. Paul Summergrad (Chair) Prof. Wendy Burn, Prof. Vinay Lakra, Prof. Yong Chon Park, Prof. Juliet Nakku, Prof. Zvi Zemishlany and Prof. Mahdi Abu Madini. I thank them for their, wise counsel, guidance and commitment to WPA and our joint work.

We have been fortunate to have the leadership of Atina Ivanovski. As our executive director has led along with the executive committee continuous efforts to manage our expenses and resources and carefully assess our opportunities for improvement. Working closely with our accountants and legal team she has guided us in able and

This has been a period of sustained recovery from the pandemic, careful assessment of our activities and expenses, successful World Psychiatric Congresses all of which have led to sustained improvement in our finances. Prof. Wasserman's leadership has been essential throughout this process and we will end this triennium and enter the next triennium with the opportunity to continue to grow the WPA's global impact while continuing to do so from a firm financial footing.

Finally, while we increased membership dues modestly over the past few years, continued inflationary pressures have led us to propose a modest increase in dues over the coming triennium. A formal proposal for dues increases has been approved by the ExecutiveCommittee and is also linked below:

WPA Budget 2026
Proposal for Increase of Membership Dues

Author: Paul Summergrad, M.D., Secretary for Finances, WPA

MEMBERS

Norbert Skokauskas[1,2], Gary Chaimowitz[3,4], Dina Aly El-Gabry[4,6], Andrea Fiorillo[4,7], Anusha Lachman[4,8], Angeles Lopez Geist[4,9], Paul Robertson[4,10], Hee Jeong Yoo[4,11], Bennett L. Leventhal[4,12]

- [1] WPA Secretary for Education and Scientific Publications
- [2] Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway
- [3] McMaster University, Hamilton, ON, Canada
- [4] WPA Committee on Education and Scientific Publications
- [5] Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt
- [6] United Arab Emirates University, Al Ain, United Arab Emirates
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- [8] Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch, South Africa
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- [11] Seoul National University College of Medicine, Seoul, South Korea
- [12] University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA

ABOUT

The World Psychiatric Association Committee on Education and Scientific Publications coordinates and leads the WPA's global strategy in psychiatric education, training, and scientific dissemination. The Blueprint for Advancing Psychiatric Education and Scientific Publications set out a six-year strategic framework to strengthen education and publications globally through integration, innovation, and collaboration[1]. During the current triennium, this strategy has been implemented with a clear focus on integrating education and publications in psychiatry and translating this into coordinated action.

An important focus has been the consolidation and expansion of publication activities. "World Psychiatry" has been further strengthened as the WPA flagship journal, with the Editor and editorial leadership continuing to maintain its position as the most prominent journal in psychiatry and the journal with the highest impact factor in the field. "World Psychiatry" provides a global platform for research, clinical practice developments, and perspectives on policy development. The WPA e-journal "Education and Psychiatry" was launched as a peer-reviewed, open-access platform dedicated to psychiatric education and international knowledge exchange, achieving rapid global engagement with contributions from all regions. Of special note, "Education and Psychiatry" has strong participation from early-career professionals and colleagues in low- and middle-income countries[2], providing confidence that they, too, have a voice in this important area.

Collaboration with journals linked to the WPA and its Scientific Sections has been systematically reviewed, ensuring clearer alignment with WPA priorities, improved coordination, and support for joint initiatives and special issues[1]. New external collaborations are also being developed, including a forthcoming special issue with BMC Medical Education on "Global Training in Psychiatry – Inclusion, Equity, and Shared Learning." This will mark a strategic effort by the WPA to move beyond educating psychiatrists alone into the active engagement of the wider medical education community. Publishing activities have further expanded through books and educational materials, including handbooks and thematic volumes, culminating in the WPA Books Triennium Forum planned for the 2026 WPA World Congress of Psychiatry which will provide a platform for advancing scholarly publishing and international collaboration.

Substantial progress has also been made in education. The WPA Global Study on Psychiatric Training addresses the core questions about what elements of psychiatry are being taught by medical schools worldwide. The study collected data from more than 100 countries represented by WPA Member Societies, providing the most comprehensive global overview of psychiatry in medical education, to date[3]. It examines curriculum structure, clinical exposure, and training challenges, offering an evidence base for improving education and workforce development.

Extensive in-person educational opportunities have been delivered at the WPA's World Congress of Psychiatry and other scientific meetings, all with the focus on supporting professional development and international exchange. The Committee has also advanced a structured approach to continuing professional development (CPD), including accreditation of WPA educational activities, as well as co-sponsored meetings, contributing to the standardization and recognition of high-quality psychiatric education.

Significant efforts have been invested in the development of the WPA Education Portal as a central digital infrastructure for global e-learning. The platform provides multilingual access to courses, clinical resources, and educational materials and continues to undergo substantial technical and content development. The creation of the WPA Education Portal required considerable time, energy, and coordination. The full impact of the Portal will become clearer as it is fully implemented and more widely used.

The World Psychiatric Association Committee on Education and Scientific Publications has been very active in this triennium. These many initiatives demonstrate how education and publications have created resources and that can be integrated into policy and practice while also establishing a coherent system to support global training, knowledge dissemination, and capacity building.

REFERENCES

1. Skokauskas N, Chaimowitz G, El-Gabry DA et al. The blueprint for advancing psychiatric education and scientific publications. World Psychiatry. 2024;23:304–306.
2. Skokauskas N, Chaimowitz G, El-Gabry DA et al. Advancing global mental health through education. World Psychiatry. 2025;24:453–454.
3. Skokauskas N, Chaimowitz G, El-Gabry DA et al. The WPA Global Study on Psychiatric Training. World Psychiatry. 2025;24:147–148.

The WPA currently comprises 66 Scientific Sections and 4 Special Interest Groups, covering virtually every aspect of psychiatry. Following the 2026 GA, their number will be reduced, as we are in the process of applying for mergers among some of them.

At present, well-established and dynamic mechanisms underpin the work of the WPA Scientific Sections. However, the landscape is uneven: while some Sections are exceptionally active - even surpassing international associations in their respective fields -others require revitalization to meet the basic requirements set forth in the WPA by-laws.

To maintain their status, all Scientific Sections are subject to a mandatory review and reinstatement process every three years. Recognizing that some Sections may face challenges, the WPA has established a supportive framework to guide them back to full activity, avoiding dissolution whenever possible. This reflects a pragmatic and supportive approach to governance, focusing on nurturing potential rather than simply enforcing rules.

For Sections that do not initially meet the standards, the following options are available:
Revitalization, Merger, Dissolution

We are actively focusing on the first two options, working diligently with Section leaders to foster growth and collaboration.

Beyond these organizational and structural matters, we have achieved considerable progress in the generation and dissemination of scientific knowledge.

WORLD PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

STATE-OF-THE-ART LECTURES FROM SCIENTIFIC SECTIONS FOR 2026

Pres. Title	Speaker Lastname	Speaker Firstname	Session Name	Session Date
Innovations in Treatment of Addiction and its Psychiatric Comorbidities: From Medications to Neuromodulation	Ekhtiari	Hamed	State of the Art Symposium 01: Advances in Addiction and Dual Disorders	24.09.2026
How to Treat Gambling Dual Disorder? Shedding Light on Clinical Uncertainty?	Szerman	Nestor	State of the Art Symposium 01: Advances in Addiction and Dual Disorders	24.09.2026
Beyond the Clinical Space: State-of-the-Art Design and Implementation of Perinatal Bereavement Rooms to Optimize Mental Health Outcomes	Castilla Puentes	Ruby	State of the Art Symposium 02: Supporting Families in the Perinatal Period: Bereavement Care and Parent–Infant Psychotherapy	24.09.2026
Update on the Current Modalities of Parent–Infant Psychotherapy	KEREN	Miri	State of the Art Symposium 02: Supporting Families in the Perinatal Period: Bereavement Care and Parent–Infant Psychotherapy	24.09.2026
Strategies in the Management of Perinatal Bipolar Disorder: Bridging Evidence and Clinical Practice	ELNahas	Gihan	State of the Art Symposium 03: Complex Clinical Presentations in Mood and Related Disorders	24.09.2026
The role of overvalued ideas and aberrant beliefs in obsessive-compulsive and related disorders.	Brakoulias	Vlasios	State of the Art Symposium 03: Complex Clinical Presentations in Mood and Related Disorders	24.09.2026
Assessment and Management of Inflammation Will Benefit Diagnosis and Treatment of Psychiatric Disorders	Haroon	Ebrahim	State of the Art Symposium 04: Biological Pathways and Prevention in Psychiatric Disorders	24.09.2026
Prevention Across the Spectrum: Strategic Approaches to Reducing Dementia Risk	Gustaw Rothenberg	Kasia	State of the Art Symposium 04: Biological Pathways and Prevention in Psychiatric Disorders	24.09.2026
Empathy and alterity in intercultural psychiatric consultation and psychotherapy	Kirmayer	Laurence	State of the Art Session 05: Cultural Responsiveness in Psychiatric Practice	25.09.2026
A blueprint for 'cultural responsiveness' in psychiatry	Eisenbruch	Maurice	State of the Art Session 05: Cultural Responsiveness in Psychiatric Practice	25.09.2026
Coercion in Psychiatry treatment - impact on the therapeutic relationship and patient outcomes	Galderisi	Silvana	State of the Art Symposium 06: Ethics, Vulnerability, and Mental Health Law	25.09.2026
Vulnerability, Gullibility, And Mental Health Law: Autism, Mild Intellectual, And Borderline Intellectual Functioning	Munir	Kerim	State of the Art Symposium 06: Ethics, Vulnerability, and Mental Health Law	25.09.2026
Primary Care Referral Pathway And What It Says About Mental Healthcare	Koh	Eugene	State of the Art Symposium 07: Mental Health Systems, Access, and Rehabilitation	25.09.2026
Psychiatric Rehabilitation: Principles, Ethics and Challenges	Elsabbahy	Medhat	State of the Art Symposium 07: Mental Health Systems, Access, and Rehabilitation	25.09.2026
State Of Art Symposium: Psychiatrists Role In International Conflicts And Disasters	Karaliuniene	Ruta	State of the Art Symposium 08: Global Challenges and the Role of Psychiatry	25.09.2026
Climate Change In A Changing World	Janiri	Luigi	State of the Art Symposium 08: Global Challenges and the Role of Psychiatry	25.09.2026

WORLD PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

STATE-OF-THE-ART LECTURES FROM SCIENTIFIC SECTIONS FOR 2025

Pres. Title	Speaker Lastname	Speaker Firstname	Session Date
Unique Mental Health Risks Associated with Military Roles in Rapidly Changing and Escalating Warfare Worldwide	Letica Crepulja	Marina	06.10.2025
Creative Arts Therapies CAT for Intimacy and Sex Therapy	Elfeqi	Radwa Said Abdelazim	06.10.2025
State of the Art in Behavioral Addictions	Bowden-Jones	Henrietta	06.10.2025
Positive Psychiatry: Its History, Scope, and Future Directions	Jeste	Dilip	06.10.2025
Religion and Spirituality in Psychiatry: Promising Developments	Verhagen	Peter	06.10.2025
Advancements in Digital Mental Health	Mucic	Davor	06.10.2025
State of the Art in Disaster Psychiatry	Ramalho	Rodrigo	06.10.2025
Pharmacogenetic Testing in Psychiatry: The Hype, the Hope, and the Reality	Goes	Fernando	07.10.2025
Literature, Culture and Mental Illness	Villaseñor-Bayardo	Sergio	07.10.2025
Personalisation of the Treatment and Care of Eating Disorders	Schmidt	Ulrike	07.10.2025
Managing Multimorbidity Among Diverse Global Populations	Siskind Siddiqi	Dan Najma	07.10.2025
Moving Forward: From the Identification of High-Risk Individuals to the Implementation of Scalable and Accessible Interventions	Carli	Vladimir	07.10.2025
How to Be Brief and Effective? What the VIGILANS Program Has Taught Us	Jardon	Vincent	07.10.2025
World Mental Health Before, During and After the Pandemic: Prevalence of Disorders, Treatments and Outcomes	Fountoulakis	Konstantinos	08.10.2025
Interrogating Violence Risk Assessment: What Works and What Doesn't	Chaimowitz	Gary	08.10.2025
State of the Art Symposium on Psychedelics	Becker	Anna	08.10.2025
The Impact of War and Persecution	Wenzel	Thomas	08.10.2025
The Use of the ICD-11 Classification Across All Cultures	Kim	Youl-Ri	08.10.2025
The Greater Clinical Utility of the ICD-11 Dimensional System	Tyrer	Peter	08.10.2025
The Measurement of ICD-11 Personality: Severity and Domain	Bach	Bo	08.10.2025

WORLD PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

STATE-OF-THE-ART LECTURES FROM SCIENTIFIC SECTIONS FOR 2024

Pres. Title	Speaker Lastname	Speaker Firstname	Session Name	Session Date
Common Data Models, Dark Data and Psychopathology in Bipolar Disorders	McInnis	Melvin	State of the Art Session: Modernizing the Diagnostic Process in Mood Disorders	14.11.2024
Past and Future of Psychedelics and Ketamine	Zarate	Carlos	State of the Art Session: Psychedelics and Ketamine	14.11.2024
Physical Comorbidity: A Global Perspective	Holt	Richard	State of the Art Session: Comorbidity	15.11.2024
Advancements in Telepsychiatry	Mucic	Davor	State of the Art Session: Digital Mental Health	15.11.2024
The Challenges for Disaster Psychiatry in an Era of Climate Change, Artificial Intelligence and Armed Conflict	Christodoulou	Nikos	State of the Art Session: Disaster Psychiatry / Climate Change	15.11.2024
Psychoneuroendocrinology: State of the Art and State of the Science	Tafet	Gustavo	State of the Art Session: Psychoneuroendocrinology	16.11.2024
Literature and Psychiatry: Topics, Links and Global Perspectives	Alarcón	Renato D.	State of the Art Session: Literature and Mental Health	16.11.2024
WPA Human Rights Preamble and Framework on the Rights of Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Co-Occurring Mental Disorders	Munir	Kerim	State of the Art Session: Psychiatry of Intellectual Disability	16.11.2024
Toward an Ethical, Sustainable and Well-Being Policy for Vulnerable Groups in Mexico: Including People with Intellectual and Developmental Disorders	Katz	Gregorio	State of the Art Session: Psychiatry of Intellectual Disability	16.11.2024
Positive Psychiatry: Conquering the Pandemic of Loneliness and Social Anomie with Wisdom, Resilience and Positive Social Connections	Jeste	Dilip	State of the Art Session: Positive Psychiatry	16.11.2024
Anxiety Disorders: A Contemporary Perspective	Stein	Dan	State of the Art Session: Anxiety and Obsessive-Compulsive Disorders	16.11.2024
Serious Mental Illness and Cancer	Riba	Michelle	State of the Art Session: Psycho-Oncology and Palliative Care Section	16.11.2024
Cultural Adaptations of Psychotherapy: A Review of the Evidence and Expert Opinions	Della	Constantine	State of the Art Session: Cultural Adaptations of Psychotherapy: A Review of the Evidence and Expert Opinions	17.11.2024
Watch Me Grow: Addressing Inequity Through an Innovative Digital Platform for Early Identification of Developmental Risk in Diverse Communities	Eapen	Valsamma	State of the Art Session: Psychiatry in Developing Countries	17.11.2024

According to the WPA Statutes and By-Laws, the Accreditation Committee was originally chaired by the Secretary General. Following the resignation of the Secretary General, it was decided during the World Congress of Psychiatry in Prague in October 2025 that the Secretary for Scientific Sections would chair the Committee.

During the subsequent nomination process for WPA leadership positions, communications were received indicating that several members of the Accreditation Committee were also candidates for high-level roles within the Association. To uphold the principles of transparency, impartiality and good governance, and in full accordance with established practice, these colleagues were respectfully requested to resign from their Committee membership. All such resignations were submitted in a timely and cooperative manner.

In the period leading up to the General Assembly, the Committee has been actively collaborating with the Executive Committee, the WPA Secretariat and individual Member Societies. These joint efforts have focused on the collection of membership fees and on addressing the administrative and financial challenges arising in the current global context, which continues to be affected by sanctions and geopolitical complexities. Despite these difficulties, the Committee remains committed to maintaining the highest standards of due process and fiscal accountability.

The Accreditation Committee is scheduled to convene formally on the day immediately preceding the WPA General Assembly. At that meeting, the Committee will carry out its two primary statutory functions:

1. **Review of accreditation** - The Committee will carefully examine the accreditation credentials of Representatives of Member Societies, as well as those of other attendees entitled to participate in the General Assembly. This process is essential to ensure that all participants are duly authorized and that the Assembly operates in full compliance with WPA rules.
2. **Review of dues payments** - The Committee will conduct a thorough review of the dues payment records submitted by Member Societies. Based on this review, the voting strength of each Society will be determined in accordance with the formula set out in the WPA By-Laws. This step is fundamental to ensuring that voting rights are exercised fairly and proportionally.

Upon completion of its deliberations, the Accreditation Committee will prepare a formal report detailing its findings and recommendations.

Armen Soghoyan, MD, PhD
Honorary Fellow, WPA
President, Armenian Psychiatric Association
Secretary for Scientific Sections, WPA
Chair of the Council, Armenian Medical Association
Head, Psychosocial Recovery Center
Associate Professor, YSMU Department of Psychiatry



Reports from other Standing Committees

Document Title : Report by the WPA Standing Committee on Nomination to the General Assembly 2026
Author : Professor Danuta Wasserman, WPA President
Date : 14 July 2026

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the World Psychiatric Association (WPA) Statutes, By-Laws, Manual of Procedures, and the EDIT principles, the WPA Standing Committee on Nomination was established to oversee the nominations process for the 2026 General Assembly elections. The Committee was responsible for ensuring that all nominations were managed transparently, fairly, and in compliance with the governing regulations.

COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON NOMINATION

The Committee consisted of the following members:

- **Professor Danuta Wasserman (President)** – Chair of the Nomination Committee; Representative for Europe.
- **Professor Thomas Schulze (President-Elect)** – Member of the Executive Committee; Representative for Europe and the United States of America.
- **Professor Afzal Javed** – Member of the Scientific Sections Committee; Representative for Asia, contributing extensive knowledge of the WPA organization and membership.
- **Professor Aida Sylla** – Member of the WPA Board; Representative for Africa.
- **Professor John Allan** – Member of the Ethics Committee; Representative for Australasia and the South Pacific.
- **Professor Sophia Sánchez** – Representative of Early Career Psychiatrists; Representative for Latin America.

At the outset of its work, Committee members were reminded of their responsibilities as defined by the WPA Statutes, By-Laws, Manual of Procedures with help of interpretations by Professor Afzal Javed.

NOMINATION PROCESS

The WPA Secretariat coordinated the nomination process according to the established electoral timetable.

- **15 December 2025:** Opening of nominations. Member Societies were formally invited to submit nominations for Executive Committee and Zonal Representative positions.
- **30 March 2026:** Closure of nominations. The Secretariat published the announcement "WPA Elections 2026: Nominations Closed", confirming the end of the nomination period and outlining the subsequent stages of the election process.

Throughout 2026, the Standing Committee on Nomination convened on four occasions through Zoom meetings and email consultations to review nominations and oversee the process.

REVIEW OF NOMINATIONS

The Committee reviewed all nominations in accordance with the WPA Statutes and By-Laws.

Zonal Consultations

Where more than two eligible candidates were nominated within a zone, the WPA Statutes require Member Societies within that zone to determine which candidates proceed to the final election.
Accordingly, consultations were conducted with the relevant zones, with the support of the Chairs of the WPA Board, Dr. Thelma Sánchez-Villanueva and Dr. Ramunė Mazaliauskienė.

For Zone 9 (Central Europe) and or Zone 12 (Middle East), three valid nominations were received. A vote was therefore conducted among the Presidents of the Zone 9 and Zone 12 Member Societies. The two candidates receiving the highest number of votes were selected to proceed to the final election and are included in the approved list below.

APPROVED NOMINATIONS

The Nomination Committee approved the following nominations.

PRESIDENT-ELECT

- Atwoli, Lukoye
- Kallivayalil, Roy
- Ng, Roger Man Kin
- Renuka Prasad, Mysore S.
- Smith, Lade

SECRETARY GENERAL

- Elfeqi, Radwa Said Abdelazim
- Fountoulakis, Kostas N.
- Mazaliauskiene, Ramune

SECRETARY FOR FINANCES & FUNDRAISING

- Córdoba Rojas, Rodrigo Nel
- Fiorillo, Andrea (withdrew his nomination)
- Kumar, Vinay
- Larnaout, Amine
- Sánchez-Villanueva, Thelma

ZONAL REPRESENTATIVES

- **Zone 1 | Canada** — Chaimowitz, Gary
- **Zone 2 | United States** — Wolthusen, Rick Peter Fritz
- **Zone 3 | Mexico, Central America & the Caribbean** — Ruiz Cabarrus, Roxanna
- **Zone 4 | South America – Northern Zone** — Lopez Jaramillo, Carlos Alberto
- **Zone 5 | South America – Southern Zone** — Vilapriño, Manuel
- **Zone 6 | Western Europe** — Wancata, Johannes
- **Zone 7 | Northern Europe** — Larsson, Maria
- **Zone 8 | Southern Europe** — Tsapaki, Evangelia
- **Zone 9 | Central Europe**
  - Miljević, Cedo
  - Pinchuk, Irina
- **Zone 10 | Eastern Europe** — Negay, Nikolay
- **Zone 11 | Northern Africa** — Elnahas, Gihan
- **Zone 12 | Middle East & Central and Western Asia**
  - Al-Awad, Feras
  - Al-Frokh, Alaa Damen
- **Zone 13 | Central & Western Africa**
  - Fiagbe, Delali
  - Sheikh, Taiwo Lateef
- **Zone 14 | Eastern & Southern Africa**
  - Moussa, Djibril
  - Nyamute, Linda
- **Zone 15 | South Asia** — Vaishnav, Mrugesh
- **Zone 16 | South East Asia** — Charnsil, Chawanun
- **Zone 17 | Eastern Asia** — Lin, Shih-Ku
- **Zone 18 | Australia, New Zealand & the South Pacific** — Eapen, Valsamma

CONCLUSION

The Standing Committee on Nominations conducted the 2026 nominations process in accordance with the WPA Statutes, By-Laws, Manual of Procedures, and the EDIT principles. The Committee ensured that all nominations were reviewed fairly and transparently, consulted Member Societies where required, and addressed procedural questions through careful interpretation of the governing documents. The approved list of candidates was communicated to the relevant WPA bodies and published in preparation for the 2026 General Assembly elections.

The Committee also recommends consideration of future amendments to the Manual of Procedures to provide greater clarity regarding the eligibility of candidates from the same country as their immediate predecessor and supports the continued development of measures, such as the Candidates' Corner, to strengthen transparency and informed participation in the electoral process.

THE FINAL REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ETHICS AND REVIEW

The current Standing Committee on Ethics and Review (CoER) includes a Chair, a co-Chair, and 4 members.

Silvana Galderisi	**Chair**	**Italy**
Sam Tyano	Co-Chair	Israel
John Allan	Member	Australia
Paul Appelbaum	Member	United States
Pratima Murthy	Member	India
Roxanna Ruiz	Member	Guatemala

A group of Coopted Members, listed hereafter, coordinated by John Allan, was assigned the task to support the CoER, by prioritizing activities relevant to the implementation of alternatives to coercion.

Coopted Members Group – Coordinated by John Allan

- Rebecca Brendel (USA)
- Maria Filip (Poland, Early Career Psychiatrist)
- Yoshiharu Kim (Japan)
- Guadalupe Morales (Spain, Representatives of Users)
- Martha Savage (New Zealand, Representative of Relatives/Informal supporters)
- Aida Sylla (Senegal; WPA zonal representative for Central and Western Africa)
- Xiaoping Wang (China)
- Sheehan Williams (Sri Lanka)

THE COMMITTEE'S TASKS

"The WPA Standing Committee on Ethics and Review identifies and explores areas of ethical concern to psychiatry and produces recommendations and consensus statements on ethical issues. Where there is an individual complaint or an issue arises related to violations of the ethical guidelines for the practice of psychiatry as stated in the current WPA ethical standards, the Committee will initiate investigations and make recommendations as necessary." (https://www.wpanet.org/ethics-review-committee)

THE ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE TRIENNIUM

During the last triennium, under the Presidency of Prof. Wasserman, the WPA Standing Committee on Ethics and Review identified and explored areas of ethical concern for Psychiatry. In particular, the CoER identified the following areas raising ethical concerns:

- Human rights and coercive practices;
- Assisted death for people with mental disorders;
- Lack of training in ethics for psychiatry trainees and early career psychiatrists;
- Ethical issues raised by digital psychiatry.

1. The first area was the focus of a WPA Task Force and then of a WPA working group on the Implementation of Alternatives to Coercion under the Presidency of Prof. Herrman and Javed, respectively. During the current term of the CoER the area was further developed by John Allan and some members of the coopted group, in particular representatives of users and carers, who finalized an important survey addressed to WPA Member Societies, as well as Users and Carers both as organizations and as individuals. The findings were summarized in a paper that is now being reviewed by the authors. The issue of coercion and its relevance to the WPA Code of Ethics principles was also discussed in the first and second edition of the WPA Presidential Panel on Ethical issues (2024 WCP - Mexico City and 2025 WCP- Prague). The CoER has discussed and approved the proposal of summarizing contributions to the Presidential Panel in a journal article or a book chapter.

2. The second area "Physician-assisted death in psychiatry" has also been regarded as an area of concern by the CoER. It has been and will be addressed in all three editions of the WCP Presidential panel (2024, 2025 and 2026) and will be the focus of a publication including a systematic review of the literature and all contributions across the three editions.

3. The third area of concern identified by the CoER is the "Lack of training on Ethics for psychiatry trainees and early career psychiatrists". A guidance paper is being developed by the CoER and will be submitted to the WPA governance for eventual endorsement.

4. The fourth area of concern is Digital Psychiatry. The CoER has highlighted repeatedly that the current WPA Telepsychiatry guidelines should be revised. The future CoER might consider the opportunity to collaborate with the relevant WPA Section and Expert Group.

The "WPA HARASSMENT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE PROTOCOL FOR CONGRESSES AND EVENTS"

Episodes of harassment that occurred during the 2024 and 2025 WCP were brought to the attention of the WPA President and CoER. In agreement with the WPA leadership, the Committee prepared the "Harassment Prevention and Response Protocol for Congresses and Events". If approved by the 2026 WPA General Assembly, the Protocol will become an integral part of the WPA Manual of Procedures.

Cases

Received complaints regarded:

- Two cases of harassment, the first one reported after the 2024 WCP in Mexico City. The report raised the following concerns: lack of procedures in case of harassment during WPA congresses, meetings and events and no explicit statement concerning the unacceptability of sexual harassment and (micro)aggressions.

- A second case of harassment brought to the CoER attention by the victim of an episode of harassment during a Congress session in Prague in 2025.

- A complaint, brought to the CoER's attention by Prof. Armen Soghoyan, in his role as Secretary for Scientific Sections, regarded a series of communications and leadership actions by the Chair of a WPA Section. The CoER examined all provided documents and gave suggestion to the WPA Executive Committee.

These cases stimulated the implementation of the above-mentioned Harassment Prevention and Response Protocol.

- The most recently received complaint concerns a breach of mental health rights in Greece. According to the information provided, a new law (5265/2026) introduced a series of discriminatory measures against young individuals claiming exemptions from military service on psychiatric grounds, who face procedures that differ from those seeking exemptions on physical grounds.

The complaint was accompanied by several documents that the CoER translated and analyzed and came to the conclusion that the law adopts a stigmatising position to put those with psychiatric illness through a different and more arduous process to those with physical illness.
In agreement with the WPA President, the chairperson of the CoER contacted Prof. Kostas Fontoulakis to check whether the Hellenic Psychiatric Association (HPA) agreed with the opportunity of an action taken by the WPA. The HPA asked for a letter to be addressed to the Ministry of Justice, along the same lines as their own letter to the Ministry. The letter was drafted by the CoER and sent to the Greek Ministry of Justice.

DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES

24th WPA World Congress of Psychiatry, 14-17 November 2024 in Mexico City

- First Presidential Panel on Ethical Challenges and Codes of Ethics;
- Symposium on Emerging Ethical Challenges in Contemporary Psychiatry with a focus on women's and children's mental health;
- Symposium on WPA Consultation with persons with lived experience of mental health conditions and family and informal carers.
- Symposium on implementing alternatives to coercion with a focus on lived experience

25th World Congress of Psychiatry, 5-8 October 2025 in Prague

- Second Presidential Panel on Ethical Challenges and Codes of Ethics;
- Course on the Implementation of Alternatives to Coercion in collaboration with coopted members of the WPA Standing Committee on Ethics and Review (CoER).

26th WPA World Congress of Psychiatry, 23-26 September 2026 in Stockholm

- Third Presidential Panel on Ethical Challenges and Codes of Ethics.



Reports from other Committees

Document Title : Report by the WPA Report on the work of the WPA Advisory Committee on Response to (Humanitarian) Emergencies (ACRE) 2023-2026
Author : Prof. Helen Herrman, Chair
Date : 27 May 2026

WPA established the Advisory Committee on Response to Emergencies (ACRE) in May 2020, in response to increasing crises and the COVID-19 pandemic. ACRE's mission is to empower psychiatric societies to support mental health professionals and the communities they serve in addressing the mental health and psychosocial consequences of humanitarian emergencies worldwide. The committee worked initially to support member societies to collaborate in tackling urgent mental health needs. It also set up an "Online Resource Centre" to support mental health responses to situations such as the COVID-19 pandemic and armed conflicts.

Website Link: *https://www.wpanet.org/acre-resource-center/.*

ACRE was re-configured in 2023 by WPA President Professor Danuta Wasserman to provide expert advice to the WPA President: on WPA's role in assisting effective responses in countries or regions to mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) needs in emergencies. The needs include readiness for and reaction to emergencies, as enacted in psychiatric practice and in communities. The committee was appointed to include selected experts from diverse backgrounds, and its work has followed the EDIT principles that underpin the WPA Action Plan. It has collaborated with relevant scientific sections in WPA including the Section on Disasters and Mental Health (Prof Nikos Christodoulou), the Section on Conflict Management (Dr Ruta Karaliuniene), the Early Career Psychiatrists' Section (Dr Lamia Jouini) and the Public Mental Health Working Group (Prof Jonathan Campion).

During the triennium ACRE has aimed to assess what enables psychiatrists and member societies to respond effectively to MHPSS needs in emergencies, whether as individuals or together with government or non-government organisations. It has:
·Updated the Online Resource Centre, including a comprehensive WHO MHPSS resource set.
·Set up the ambition to collect published and unpublished accounts of the work of psychiatrists in this arena. The work began with a paper in publication that reviews the role of psychiatrists in disasters.
·Worked to understand and increase communication about available mechanisms that support the recruitment and training of culturally attuned psychiatrists to participate in this work around the world.

We have been fortunate to have the help of Dr Fahmy Hanna from the WHO Department of Mental Health, who participates in ACRE as observer. Dr Hanna, Dr Lamia Jouini, WHO consultant as well as leader of the WPA Early Career Psychiatrists Section, and colleagues from WHO have collaborated with ACRE in several ways.

- At the invitation of Dr Hanna, Prof Georgi Onchev, President Elect of the Bulgarian Psychiatric Association represented WPA as an observer at the annual meeting of the IASC Reference Group on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) in Emergency Settings in 2024. For the first time psychiatrists joined other professional groups including psychologists and social workers as observers to the Reference Group, the members being the intergovernmental and non-government organisations such as the Red Cross, MSF and MCI that are the actors in emergencies. WPA thanked Prof Onchev and Dr Hanna for the opportunity to engage psychiatry in this United Nations sanctioned forum for responding to emergencies.
- Dr Hanna invited WPA to nominate one or more delegates to a Build Better Before Full Scale MHPSS Simulation Exercise in Addis Ababa in May 2025. The Exercise was one of a series conducted under the auspices of the IASC Reference Group. Colleagues from Australia and Ethiopia were endorsed by their member societies to attend, using their own resources. They subsequently prepared a paper and discussed with ACRE and their respective member societies national and international responses. The invitation was extended again to WPA to nominate participants in an equivalent exercise in late 2025 and in early 2026 in Thailand. ACRE recommends support for continuing this valuable collaboration to encourage the integration of psychiatry into MHPSS and broader emergency responses around the world.
- Members of the committee together with Dr Campion from WPA's Public Mental Health Working Group have held a series of discussions with colleagues from Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) about their work in mental health, currently in 75 countries, to increase the awareness and interaction between MSF and WPA.

- Colleagues from WHO and MSF participating in prominent sessions at recent WPA Congresses has reinforced efforts to strengthen the integration of psychiatry into MHPSS responses.

I thank Prof Wasserman and the WPA Executive Committee for their support and the WPA Secretariat under the leadership of Ms Atina Ivanovski for patience and help. To members of ACRE and observers I am very grateful on behalf of Prof Wasserman and WPA for their generous commitment of time, energy and creativity to the work.

Helen Herrman, ACRE Chair

ACRE members:
Prof. Andrea Danese
Dr. Ruta Karaliuniene
Prof. Norman Sartorius
Prof. Armen Soghoyan
Prof. Christopher Szabo
Prof. Miguel Uribe
Dr. Simon Stafrace
Prof. Nikos Christodoulou
Prof. Norbert Skokauskas
Prof. Elisa Pfeiffer

Observers:
Dr. Fahmy Hanna
Dr. Lamia Jouini

LIST OF MEMBERS

- **Chair:** Danuta Wasserman
- **Co-chair:** Mariana Pinto da Costa
- **Members:**
  - Rebecca Weintraub Brendel
  - Thelma Sanchez
  - Helen Herrman
  - Afzal Javed
  - Aida Sylla
  - Rodrigo Cordoba
  - Meryam Schouler-Ocak
  - Jerzy Samochowiec
  - Koray Basar
  - Driss Moussaoui
  - Prasad Rao
  - Amine Larnaout

EDIT Principles

Underpinning all current initiatives under the WPA's 2023–2026 Action Plan, including its alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals is the EDIT principle. EDIT stands for:

- Equality across genders, ages, and ethnicities on the basis of equality in possibilities for education, work opportunity, housing, access to mental health services, etc.,
- Observing that mental health needs vary across the lifespan and Developmental stages from childhood to adulthood and beyond;
- Inclusion of under-represented groups; and
- Transcultural awareness and perspectives.

Introducing the EDIT principles in the WPA action plan ensures increased awareness that research and clinical practice are interlinked with social, cultural, economic, and gender-based determinants of mental health, helping to identify and address critical gaps in knowledge and practice.

Scientific excellence is always the cornerstone of all WPA research and clinical efforts. In the choice of the content of the scientific programme of World Congresses, the scientific merit of the submitted proposals also has an overriding priority, coupled with the consideration of geographical spread and over and underrepresented topics. This approach aims to enhance the visibility of diverse voices and gaps in psychiatric research. By embracing both scientific excellence and the EDIT framework, the WPA positions itself at the forefront of global mental health leadership by increasing visibility and raising awareness of current gaps in knowledge and how they influence clinical practices.

To exemplify: diversity among presenters and participants in the 25th World Congress of Psychiatry in prague, you will find below a short summary.

The 25th World Congress of Psychiatry, held in Prague, brought together 3,427 participants from across the world, reflecting the WPA's commitment to scientific excellence, diversity, and global collaboration. Among all attendees, 54% were women, 45% were men, and 0.3% identified as non-binary. The Congress also attracted a substantial number of younger professionals, with 36% of participants under the age of 35 and 31% identifying as early career psychiatrists, demonstrating the increasing engagement of the next generation of mental health professionals.

An analysis of the scientific programme revealed gender-related differences in the thematic distribution of presentations.

Women presenters were more frequently represented in sessions focusing on personality and behavioural disorders (64%), perinatal and gender-related topics (63%), and neurodevelopmental and childhood disorders (54%). Men presenters predominated in sessions on neurocognitive disorders and ageing (100%), clinical practice and treatment (71%), severe mental illness (63%), and research, neuroscience and genetics (60%). These findings reflect differences in representation across areas of psychiatric research and clinical practice rather than the overall balance of participation.

Supporting early career psychiatrists remained a key priority throughout the Congress. The scientific programme included dedicated sessions specifically designed for early career psychiatrists, featuring innovative and interactive formats such as clinical case discussions, the WPA 3-Minute Competition, and the WPA Quiz. Notably, 42% of speakers in these sessions came from non-high-income countries, demonstrating the Congress's commitment to geographical diversity, inclusivity, and the exchange of knowledge across different cultural and healthcare settings.

Further analyses of speakers' countries of origin across thematic areas highlighted the broad international representation of the scientific programme, reinforcing the World Congress of Psychiatry as a truly global platform for collaboration, education, and scientific exchange.

For further information, see :

- *Pinto da Costa, M., Dragasek, J., Iosue, M., Kasparek, T., Mohr, P., Nyametie, M., Wiffen, H. & Wasserman, D.* Towards a more inclusive psychiatry: diversity among presenters and participants in the 25th World Congress of Psychiatry. World Psychiatry 25, 338–339 (2026).
- *Pinto da Costa, M., Ng, B., Sanchez, T., Molina, A., Cortés Morelos, J., Saucedo-Martinez, D., Pica Ruiz, Y., Mahdanian, A., Medved, S. & Wasserman, D.* Breaking the glass ceiling: women's scientific participation in the 24th World Congress of Psychiatry. World Psychiatry 24, 291–292 (2025).



Council report

THE COUNCIL OF THE WORLD PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

The Council of the World Psychiatric Association **represents the institution's living history.** It embodies WPA's deep respect for its earlier leaders and appreciation for their experience and insights to enlighten the analysis of and responses to present and future challenges and opportunities. Its long institutional standing is reflected in its presence in our top normative instruments, Statutes and By-Laws. The Council gained in solidity and clarity since the statutory revisions of 1996, when also a Manual of Procedures was first established. It encompassed initially both Presidents and Secretaries General upon ending their elected service in the Executive Committee and now encompasses only the former Presidents since the Statutes amendments of 2011.

The basic **constitutional purposes** of the Council include the following:

- To advise on matters related to the mission and fundamental strategies of WPA.
- To advise on the preparation of amendments to the WPA Statutes and By-Laws.
- To advise on the preparation of the WPA Triennial Action Plan.
- To advise on the agenda of the WPA General Assembly.
- To respond to consultations from the WPA President, Executive Committee and Board of Zonal Representatives.

The **principal means** for the Council to fulfill its responsibilities **has been through meetings** in person or online during World Congresses of Psychiatry (especially when involving WPA General Assemblies) and in between them. All Council meetings were organized through specific agendas and their proceedings and results were documented through regular minutes distributed to pertinent institutional bodies. In the triennium ending in 2026 the number of Council meetings (six, including an average of one online meeting in between World Congresses) doubled the number (three) of previous triennia.

This substantial increase in number of Council meetings reflects more broadly an **increased attentiveness and disposition of the Council to fulfill its statutory responsibilities** and to do this in a more fluid and **collaborative interaction with the executive leadership of WPA.**

In a more granular manner, the Council **undertook in this triennium the following specific activities**, selected and listed because of their significant impact on fundamental WPA communications, statutory provisions, educational and scientific programs, and Council structure and functioning, and which are documented in detail in the regular minutes of Council meetings.

- Promoted successfully **greater interaction with the leader and members** of the WPA Executive Committee, Board of Zonal Representatives, Scientific Sections and interested Member Societies at World Congresses of Psychiatry and other opportunities.
- Undertook **to advance knowledge of the history of WPA** through various explorations and reviews, and the **projection of such historical knowledge** to better understand and respond to WPA's present and future challenges.
- Conducted careful **reviews** and formulated specific **recommendations concerning proposed amendments of Statutes and By-Laws.**
- Formulated proposals on the **methodology for preparing WPA Triennial Action Plans**, including attention to historical consistency and openness to innovations and their evaluation.
- Promoted the strategic consideration and evaluation of engaged **professional congress organizers.**
- Promoted greater WPA **relations with the United Nations and the World Health Organization** in order to advance mental health and general wellbeing across the world.
- Offered recommendations for a more effective organization and classification of the extensive **WPA archives** accumulated through seven decades of institutional functioning.
- Critically reviewed some earlier problematic developments at General Assemblies affecting the **integrity of the membership of former WPA presidents in the Council,** and delineated prospective statutory amendments to address and correct them.

- Advanced pertinent procedures for the **effective and orderly renewal of Council leadership.**
- Promoted suitable **participation of Council members in major WPA workgroups and projects** and in proceedings of WPA congresses and conferences.
- **Organized Council Panels and Symposia** as contributions to the scientific program of World Congresses of Psychiatry (WCP) in the 2023-2026 triennium, as follows:

    - For the 2023 WCP in Vienna: Council Panel on the Future of Psychiatry.
    - For the 2024 WCP in Mexico: Presidential Symposium on the Past, Present and Future of Psychiatry and Mental Health in Latin America.
    - For the 2025 WCP in Prague: Presidential Symposium with Council Members on the WPA Triennial Action Plan.
    - For the 2026 WCP in Stockholm: Presidential Symposium with the Council on the Promotion of Mental Health and General Well-Being in Underserved Populations.

In summary, one may conclude that during the past triennium, the Council has fulfilled its statutory purposes and related goals through a substantial set of specific historical, ethical, organizational, educational, academic and WCP-related activities. It has contributed this way to fit the vision of WPA as an institution with a deep sense of its history and the value of this to enlighten its present and its future and to promote the mental health and wellbeing of the general population across the world.



WPA Journal - World Psychiatry report

World Psychiatry – Triennium report 2023-2026

During the past triennium, the official journal of the World Psychiatric Association, World Psychiatry, has increased its impact factor from 73.3 to 79.5 (projected; to be announced in June 2026). It ranks no. 1 among psychiatric journals (for the eleventh consecutive year) and no. 1 among all the journals in the Social Science Citation Index (for the eighth consecutive year). It is projected to enter in 2026 – an achievement never attained before by any psychiatric journal, and any journal in the fields of neurosciences and psychological/social sciences – the top 10 of all scientific journals indexed by Clarivate. The number of psychiatrists receiving regularly the electronic or the paper version of the journal has increased to more than 70,000. All the back issues of the journal can be freely downloaded from the WPA website.

Issues or articles of the journal are available on the WPA website in ten languages: English, Spanish, Chinese, Russian, French, Arabic, Turkish, Japanese, Romanian and Polish.

During the past triennium, the journal has been publishing the first ever papers on the lived experience of mental disorders co-written by experts by experience and academics. It has published the most comprehensive available account of social determinants of mental health and disorder (Kirkbride et al, 2024; citations received as to April 22, 2026: 1,360), and many cutting-edge research reports and systematic reviews of high clinical relevance for psychiatrists worldwide. The most prominent psychiatrists, and many experts from other disciplines (e.g., M. Seligman, renowned for his theory of learned helplessness; and E. Turkheimer, one of the most eminent worldwide experts of behavior genetics) have been publishing in the journal.

All WPA Member Societies and Scientific Sections are welcome to provide a list of their members who wish to receive regularly free of charge the electronic version of the journal.



Prizes and Awards

PRIZES AND AWARDS

WPA PRESIDENTIAL LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The Lifetime Achievement Award honors individuals whose exceptional leadership, sustained excellence, and enduring contributions have profoundly advanced their field. It recognizes a lifetime of achievement marked by innovation, integrity, service, and a lasting impact on future generations.



Prof. Norman Sartorius

Norman Sartorius is one of the most influential leaders in psychiatry and global mental health. He directed the Division of Mental Health at the World Health Organization, helping place mental health on the global health agenda. He served as President of both the European Psychiatric Association and the World Psychiatric Association, advancing psychiatric education, ethics, leadership, international collaboration, and professional standards. His lifelong contributions have transformed mental health care, reduced stigma, and left an enduring global legacy.



Prof. Mario Maj

Mario Maj is one of the world's most distinguished leaders in psychiatry. He served as President of both the European Psychiatric Association and the World Psychiatric Association, advancing psychiatric science, education, ethics, and international collaboration. As Editor-in-Chief of World Psychiatry, he transformed the journal into the highest-impact journal in psychiatry and one of the world's most influential medical scientific journals. His contributions have advanced psychiatric research, improved clinical practice, and strengthened global mental health, leaving an enduring international legacy.

JEAN DELAY PRIZE 2026

Recognising excellence and innovation in psychiatry is a core component of the WPA's mission to advance mental health worldwide. During the 2023–2026 triennium, the WPA continued to confer its prestigious awards—including the Jean Delay Prize, the Association's highest scientific distinction—and to support early career psychiatrists and medical students through fellowships, travel grants, and international competitions, thereby promoting excellence, collaboration, and professional development across the global psychiatric community.



Prof. Peter Falkai

Jean Delay Prize Winner 2026

PREVIOUS JEAN DELAY PRIZE WINNERS

Prof. Sir Robin Murray
Jean Delay Winner in 2023

Prof. Hannelore Ehrenreich
Jean Delay Winner in 2020

Prof. Jules Angst
Jean Delay Winner in 2017

Prof. Mitsumoto Sato
Jean Delay Winner in 2014

Prof. Kenneth S. Kendler
Jean Delay Winner in 2011

Prof. Hans-Jürgen Möller
Jean Delay Winner in 2008

Prof. Otto Steenfeldt-Foss
Jean Delay Winner in 2005

Prof. Hagop Akiskal
Jean Delay Winner in 2002

Prof. David Goldberg
Jean Delay Winner in 1999

GENEVA PRIZE 2024

During the 2023–2026 triennium, the 2024 Geneva Prize was presented at the 2025 World Congress of Psychiatry in Prague. The jury, Marianne Kastrup (Chair), Samia Hurst, WPA President Danuta Wasserman, Robert Roth, Jean Zermatten and Fulvia Rota, unanimously selected **Mrs. Valentina Hristakeva**, a Bulgarian social worker and Executive Director of the Global Initiative on Psychiatry in Sofia, for her development of integrated, user-centred and rights-based mental health services. Diplomas of Recognition were also awarded to Dr Moussa Ba (Senegal) and Dr Sohail Ali (Pakistan) for their pioneering work at the United Nations and their role in establishing its Critical Incident Stress Management Section (UN-CISMS).

History and Purpose of the Geneva Prize

The Geneva Prize's origins back to its founding in 1998, on the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. He explains how the Prize was conceived to honour those in psychiatry(practitioners, advocates, and organisations), who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to:

- Equity and humanity in mental health care
- Reducing stigma and discrimination against people with mental illness
- Promoting ethical standards and human rights in psychiatric services

These founding goals, are very relevant. While much progress has been made, mental health care around the world continues to face deep inequities, and psychiatric systems still must respond to the call for dignity, justice, and patient-centred care.

The Prize's role is not just as recognition, but as a call to action: to inspire psychiatrists, policymakers, and civil society to build services grounded in respect for human rights, in line with evolving global norms such as those embodied in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The previous Geneva Prize winners are presented on *http://www.geneva-prize.ch/language/fr/accueil/laureats/laureats/*

The World Psychiatric Association (WPA) is proud to share the recorded lecture prepared by Professor François Ferrero, President of the Geneva Prize Foundation, to present the Geneva Prize.
Prof. Ferrero's lecture offers a deeply personal and educational reflection on why the Geneva Prize matters and why its human rights grounding are central to global psychiatric practice.



A Brief Portrait: Prof. François Ferrero

Prof. Ferrero is a distinguished psychiatrist and long-time advocate for rights-based mental health care. As President of the Geneva Prize Foundation, he has overseen the Prize's development and helped shape its vision. His career spans both academia and clinical leadership: he has served in senior and leadership psychiatric roles in Lausanne and Geneva as the Director of the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Geneva and at the Geneva University Hospitals and President of The Geneva Prize for Human Rights. He contributed extensively to psychiatric research, and worked closely with international bodies, including WPA and the WHO. His dedication to ethics and human rights in psychiatry is widely recognised across the global mental health community.

Document Title : WPA SIG on Fellowships Report for Triennium 2023-2026
Author : Prof. Muhammad Waqar Azeem, Chair and Prof. Howard Liu Co-Chair
Date : 14th March 2026

WCP Fellowships
DURING THE TRIENNIUM
2023-2026



MEXICO 2024
PRAGUE 2025
STOCKHOLM 2026
*Could not attend, moved to following year

Document Title : WPA SIG on Fellowships Report for Triennium 2023-2026
Author : Prof. Muhammad Waqar Azeem, Chair and Prof. Howard Liu Co-Chair
Date : 14th March 2026

FELLOWSHIPS WINNERS FOR 2026

Region	Gender	Name	Country
Asia	Female	Rika Rijal	Nepal
Africa	Female	Selamawit Aler Tessema	Ethiopia
North America	Female	Bushra Kahn	Canada
South America	Female	Rosa Elena Manzano	El Salvador
Europe	Male	Stefan Jerotić	Serbia
Europe	Female	Meliha Feyza	Turkey
Australia / New Zealand	Male	Jason Koutsodontis	Australia
Asia	Male	Keo Tampa	Cambodia
Asia	Male	Orgil Zorigtbaatar	Mongolia
Asia	Female	Hang Nguyen Thuy	Vietnam
Middle East	Female	Maryam Ayub	Pakistan
Africa	Female	Charlene Gumbo	Kenya

FELLOWSHIPS WINNERS FOR 2025

Region	Gender	Name	Country
Asia	Female	Rika Rijal	Nepal
Africa	Male	Isack Rugemalila	Tanzania
Asia	Male	Kresna Septiandy Runtuk	Indonesia
Africa	Female	Selamawit Aler Tessema	Ethiopia
North America	Male	David Wierigroch	Canada
South America	Female	Sophia Sanchez	Mexico
South America	Male	Jose Trejo	Salvador
Europe	Male	Renato de Filippis	Italy
Europe	Female	Aiste Lengvenyte	France
Australia / New Zealand	Female	Calina Ouliaris	Australia

WORLD PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

FELLOWSHIPS WINNERS FOR 2024

Region	Gender	Name	Country
Europe	Male	Tomasz Gondek	Poland
Europe	Female	Bianca Augusta Oroian	Romania
Asia	Male	Vipul Janardan	India
Asia	Female	Rika Rijal	Nepal
Africa	Male	Isack Rugemalila	Tanzania
Africa	Female	Margaret Ojeahere	Nigeria
South America	Male	Andres Roman-Jarrin	Ecuador
South America	Female	Maria Gracia Martinez	El Salvador
North America	Male	Rick Wolthusen	USA
Australia / New Zealand	Female	Helena Niu	Australia
Mexico	Female	Claudia Hernandez	Mexico

Document Title : WPA SIG on Medical Students Report for Triennium 2023-2026
Author : Prof. Muhammad Waqar Azeem, Chair and Prof. Howard Liu Co-Chair
Date : 14th March 2026

MEMBERS

Professor Muhammad Waqar Azeem (Chair, Qatar), Professor Howard Liu (Co-Chair, USA), Professor Nazish Imran (Secretary, Pakistan), Professor Afzal Javed (Member, UK), Dr. Bernardo Ng (Member, USA/Mexico), Dr. Khalid Bazaid (Canada/Saudia Arabia), Professor Pratima Murthy (Member, India), Professor David Ndetei (Member, Kenya), Professor Mohan Isaac (Member, Australia/India), Professor Subodh Dave (Member, UK), Dr. Anusha Lachman (Member, South Africa), Professor Lorin Scher (Member, USA), Dr. Salma Malik (Member, USA), Dr. Sridevi Sira Mahalingappa (Member, UK), Dr. Sadiq Naveed (Member, USA), Dr. Kiran Khalid (Member, USA).

MEMBERS AND LIAISONS TO WPA ECP SECTION

Dr. Lamia Jouini (Member, ECP Section Chair, Switzerland/Tunisia), Dr. Alex Vicente Spadini (Member, ECP Section Co-Chair, Brazil), Dr. Hend Jemli (Member, ECP Section Germany/Tunisia), Dr. Rick Wolthusen (Member, ECP Section Secretary, USA/Germany), Dr. Andrés Román-Jarrín (Member, ECP Member, Ecuador/Spain)

MEMBERS AND LIAISONS TO WPA LOCAL HOST AND ORGANIZING COMMITTEES

WCP22 Bangkok, Thailand: Dr. Kamonporn Wannarit, Dr. Wachiraya Lertgrai WCP23 Vienna, Austria: Professor Johannes Wanchata WCP 24 Mexico City, Mexico: Dr. Ingrid Vargas Huicochea WCP25 Prague, Czech Republic: Dr. Michal Patarák, Dr. Tomáš Kašpárek

MEDICAL STUDENT MEMBERS

Ivana Neema Masinde (MS, South Africa), Shitanshu Dhakal (MS, Nepal), Silvi Purba (MS, Indonesia)

Following are the salient accomplishments and activities of the Working Group:

- **Web Page**

Web page for WPA Special Interest Group on Medical Students was created on the WPA Web site. The web page includes Members of the SIG, objectives and salient activities: *https://www.wpanet.org/medical-students-special-interest-group/*

- **Higher Participation of Medical Students in WPA World Congress of Psychiatry (WCP25)**

In the 25th WPA World Congress of Psychiatry in Prague, a record number of medical students (above 200) registered from 52 countries around the globe.

- **Medical Student Essay Competition for WPA World Congresses of Psychiatry**

Promoting psychiatry among medical students is an integral part of the World Psychiatric Association's (WPA's) Triennium Action Plan 2023-2026. In this regard, the Medical Student Essay Competition is a flagship activity of the WPA and key to fostering mental health interest among global medical students. The Medical Student Essay Competition is an element of the WPA Presidential initiative along with the WPA SIG on Medical Students and with the support of the United Nations Secretariat – Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Division for Sustainable Development Goals. The WPA used a rigorous selection process for the winning essays following an adapted version of the Harvard Crimson Global Essay Competition (HCGEC) criteria which judged focus, clarity, academic rigor, structure, clarity, originality, and the ability to synthesize complex information. The judging panel included WPA zonal representatives, members of the WPA SIG on Medical Students and the WPA President.

WPA World Congress of Psychiatry (WCP24) Mexico City, Mexico

The WCP24 medical student essay competition revolved around the critical theme of **"Improving Mental Health in the World Using the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)."** The contest yielded entries from 41 different countries, 93 medical schools and 6 continents. The 12 finalists were from Brazil, Cameroon, Colombia, Ghana, Iran, New Zealand, Pakistan, Qatar, Sri Lanka and Uzbekistan. The 2 winners were **Victor Santana (Brazil) and Bahar Fazel (Iran).** The winners received scholarship to attend the WCP 24. Winners and finalists were acknowledged at the 24th WPA World Congress of Psychiatry in Mexico City.

https://2024.wcp-congress.com/wpa-medical-student-essay-competition/

WPA World Congress of Psychiatry (WCP25) Prague, Czech Republic

The WCP25 Medical Student Essay Competition theme centered on **"Reducing inequalities and promoting inclusion to improve mental health."** The response to the 2025 essay competition was robust, with entries from 38 countries, 93 institutions, and 6 continents. The 10 finalists were from Brazil, Canada, India, Italy, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, United Kingdom, Uganda and Zambia. The two winners of the competition were **Lucy Stiles** from King's College London, **United Kingdom** and **Elijah Kawinga** from the Mulungushi University School Medicine and Health Sciences, Livingstone, **Zambia.** The winners were acknowledged at the opening ceremony of the 25th WPA World Congress of Psychiatry in Prague.

https://www.wpanet.org/post/wpa-medical-student-essay-competition-2025-winners-announced/

WPA World Congress of Psychiatry (WCP26) Stockholm, Sweden

- For WCP26, the Medical Student Essay Competition is in full swing. The competition theme is **"Partnerships for SDGs in implementation of scientific based preventive methods to improve global mental health."** The winners are **Christine Kim** from Harvard Medical School, Boston, **USA** and **Ali Houry** from the University of Balamand, Kalhat, **Lebanon.** Both winners received a travel award and free registration for the **2026 World Congress of Psychiatry (WCP 2026)** in Stockholm, this September. The winners will be acknowledged at WCP 2026, and their winning essays will be translated into all six WHO official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, or Spanish). The full text of their essays will be showcased on the WPA website, spotlighting both the authors and their ideas.

https://www.wpanet.org/post/partnerships-for-sdgs--in-implementation-of-scientific-based-preventive-methods-to-improve-global-mental-health/

- **Medical Student Sessions at WPA World Congresses of Psychiatry**

Medical Student Session at WPA World Congress of Psychiatry (WCP24) Mexico City

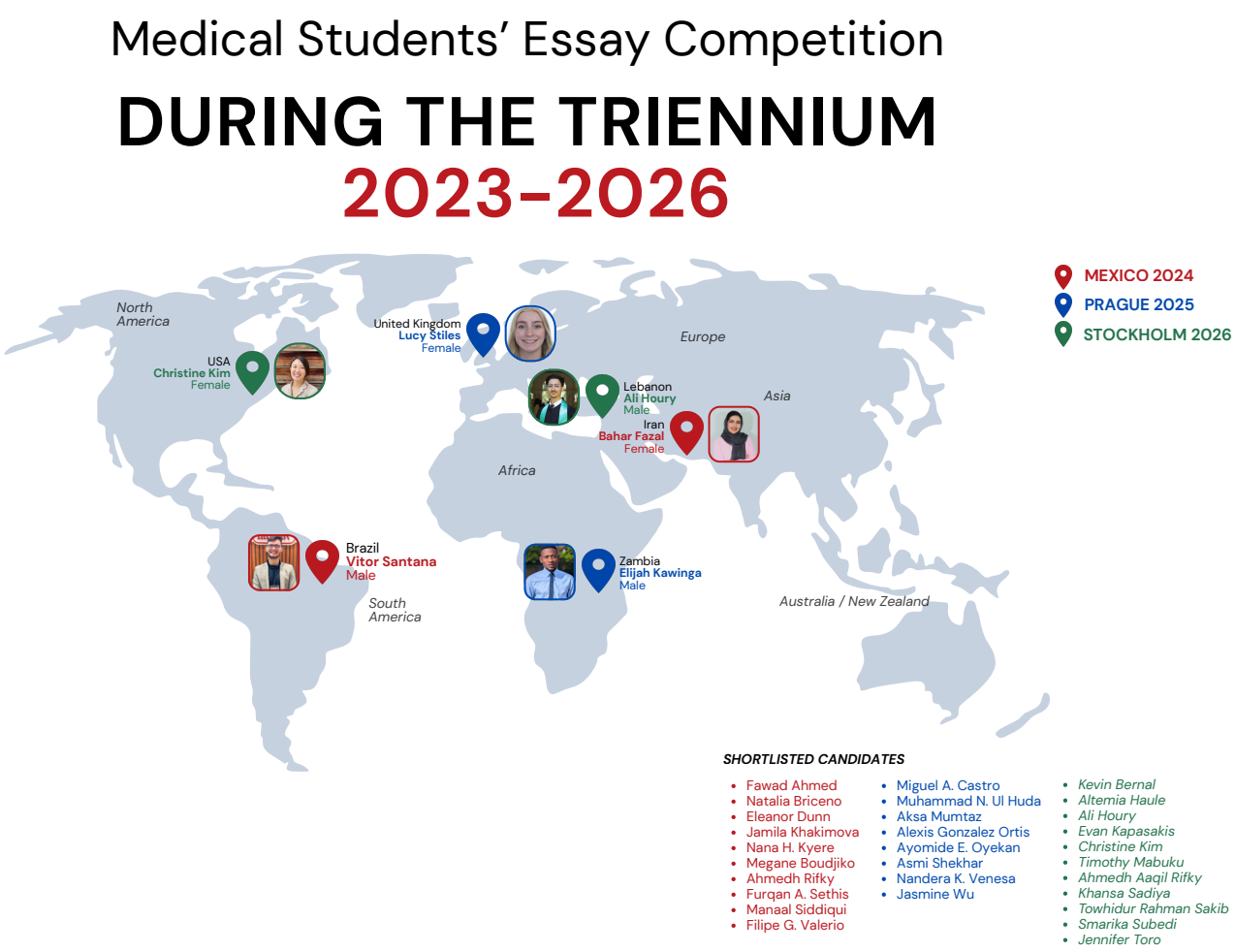
At WCP24, the WPA Special Interest Group on Medical Students organized a special session for medical students at the WPA World Congress of Psychiatry. It was chaired by Professor Howard Liu, co-chaired by Professor Muhummad Waqar Azeem, supported by WPA Zone 2 Representative Dr. Bernardo Ng, and organized in partnership with local psychiatrist, Dr. Ingrid Vargas Huicochea. A major highlight of the session was interactive discussion among medical students and facilitators on the role of art and artificial intelligence in fostering clinical skills and the importance of mentorship. Approximately 50 medical students participated in the session, primarily from Mexico but also including students from Brazil, Germany, the Caribbean, and the USA. The session was facilitated by members of the WPA SIG on Medical Students and distinguished local and international colleagues. Adriana Zacnicté Gutiérrez, a 2nd year Mexican medical student who attended the workshop, stated, "It brought me back to my begining in this career and why I continue to strive every day to achieve my goals and dreams." The session was well received by the medical students who appreciated the opportunity to discuss psychiatric careers with global leaders in psychiatric education.

Medical Student Session at WPA World Congress of Psychiatry (WCP25) Prague

This was the 4th consecutive year that the WPA Special Interest Group on Medical Students organized a special session for medical students at the WPA World Congress of Psychiatry. It was chaired by Professor Howard Liu and co-chaired by Professor Muhummad Waqar Azeem in collaboration with the WPA ECP Section and international psychiatry and medical education leaders. Professor Danuta Wasserman (President WPA) and Professor Afzal Javed (Immediate Past President WPA) gave the opening remarks. Local hosts, Dr. Michal Patarák (President of the Slovak Psychiatric Association) and Dr. Tomáš Kašpárek (President of the Czech Psychiatric Association) shared principles about mentorship. As in past years, the program was designed as an interactive discussion among medical students and faculty facilitators on career goals, strategies to identify mentors, and how to thrive in training. More than 120 medical students participated in the session, primarily from medical schools from the Czech Republic and Slovakia, and numerous other countries. That year there was a strong showing of medical students at the 2025 WPA World Congress as evidenced by medicals tudents registration from 52 countries. Dr. Kašpárek, Dr. Patarák, and Ilana Eliav, WPA Scientific Program Manager, were integral in coordinating the outstanding medical student attendance at the session. Faculty mentors included WPA Medical Student SIG members, WPA ECP Section members and distinguished local and international faculty. Overall, the program was very well received and led to ongoing conversations and resources about fostering careers for the next generation of physicians and psychiatrists.

Medical Student Session at WPA World Congress of Psychiatry (WCP26) Stockholm

A medical student session is planned for WCP26 in Stockholm. The session will be arranged with local faculty, organizers and medical schools, WPA Medical Student SIG and WPA ECP Section members and international faculty.



Year	Theme	Winners
2024	Improving Mental Health in the Global World Using the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals	• **Bahar Fazel** from Ahvaz Jundishapur University of Medical Sciences, Iran • **Vitor Santana** from the University of Pernambuco, Brazil
2025	Reducing Inequalities and Promoting Inclusion to Improve Mental Health	• **Lucy Stiles** from Kings College London, UK • **Elijah Kawinga** from Mulungushi University School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Zambia
2026	Partnerships for SDGs in the Implementation of Scientific-Based Preventive Methods to Improve Global Mental Health.	• **Christine Kim** from Harvard Medical School, Boston, USA • **Ali Houry** from the University of Balamand, Kalhat, Lebanon

- **47th International Meeting for Medical Students**

The WPA Medical Student SIG presented at the 47th Intergenerational Meeting for medical students in March 2026, organized by Students Education, Empowerment & Development in Mental Health, Association for Community Mental Health Promotion in collaboration with WPA ECP Section, WPA Psychiatry, Medicine & Primary Care Section and WPA SIG on Medical Student.

- **Survey on Psychiatry Curriculum among Undergraduate Medical Education**

The WPA SIG Medical Students prepared and collected surveys from different countries around the globe on psychiatry curricula among undergraduate medical education institutions.

Collaborations between WPA SIG on Medical Students and WPA ECP Section

Starting in 2025, there is a growing collaboration between the WPA SIG on Medical Students and the WPA ECP Section to promote mentorship and enhance activities related to medical students.

WPA Position Statement on Promotion of Psychiatry Among Medical Students

The WPA SIG on Medical Student and International Faculty developed a strong WPA Position Statement on the Promotion of Psychiatry among Medical Students.

Future Goals:

1. To continue the flagship activity of Annual WPA Medical Student Essay Competition
2. To continue the medical student sessions at WPA World Congresses of Psychiatry
3. To continue collaborations with WPA ECP Section to promote psychiatry among medical students
4. To continue ongoing collaborations with various psychiatry and undergraduate medical education organizations around the world.
5. Social media campaigns to promote psychiatry among medical students and foster collaboration among medical student educators.
6. Curate free, peer-reviewed open access undergraduate medical education curricula in psychiatry to disseminate via the WPA.
7. Explore and advise on the role of technology in undergraduate medical education such as artificial intelligence, social media, virtual teaching, simulated patients, etc.

8. Develop a list of master educators willing to facilitate wellness, burnout, leadership and teaching workshops for medical students, resident physicians and teaching faculty in WPA zones and countries.
9. Serve as a trusted resource for the WPA in policy issues relevant to medical students and medical student education.
10. Disseminate WPA resources to medical students and medical educators through social media, partnership with psychiatry and educational organizations, etc.
11. Presentations on issues related to medical students at WPA World Congresses and WPA Thematic Conferences.
12. Publications regarding various aspects of undergraduate psychiatry education, medical students' well-being and promotion of psychiatry among medical students.



Specialist Corner : Expert groups reports Advances of Science and Their Application in Clinical Practice

THE SPECIALIST CORNER

The Specialist Corner was created by Professor Wasserman, the WPA President early in 2024. Its goal was to assemble experts in key areas of mental health programs and demonstrate the importance of a comprehensive approach to the development of mental health programs.

As a first step the President invited experts, known for their expertise and organizational excellence tolead expert group composed of experts from different parts of the world. The areas that were to be covered by the expert groups were:

- Ethical and legal issues relevant to psychiatry and mental health care
- The impact of lifestyle and physical exercise on mental health
- Digitalization and related developments and psychiatry
- The impact of cultural differences on mental illness and service development
- Public health aspects of psychiatry
- Comorbidity of mental and physical illness
- The partnership for persons with lived experience of mental health conditions and family and informal carers

The leaders of the expert groups were invited to develop commentaries stemming from the areas they covered and reviews of current knowledge about major groups of mental disorders. These included the group of schizophrenias, other psychotic disorders, affective disorders, disorders of intellectual development and addictive disorders. Seven sessions of the World Congress of Psychiatry in Prague in 2025 have been used for the presentations of these disorders followed each time by a commentaries of the Expert groups. All of the presentations have been recorded and will be placed on the educational portal of the World Psychiatric Association.

The Expert groups are also invited to produce a chapter for a book presenting their work.

The next step in the program will be presentation of reviews of the current state of knowledge in the territory covered by the Expert group. This is planned to take place during the World Congress of Psychiatry which will be held in Stockholm in September 2026, after which the reviews will be finalized and published.

It is expected that in the course of forthcoming world congresses of psychiatry the Expert groups will be invited to comment - from the point of view of their subject - other major groups of mental disorders such as dementia, eating disorders and personality disorders and that they will be preparing reviews of knowledge in their field for publications.

EXPERT GROUPS FOR SPECIALIST CORNER:

Expert Group on Multi-Morbidity (previously Comorbidity)
Chaired by Professor Dan Siskind

- Dan Siskind, Prof. Dr., Australia
- Norman Sartorius, Prof. Dr., Switzerland
- Susanna Every-Palmer, Prof. Dr., New Zealand
- Ivona Šimunović Filipčić, Dr, Croatia
- Sean Halstead, Dr, Australia
- Toby Pillinger, Dr, UK
- Marco Solmi, Dr, Canada

Expert Group on Culture
Chaired by Professor Mohan Isaac

- Mohan Isaac, Australia / India
- Renato Alarcon, USA
- Laurence J. Kirmayer, Canada
- Erminia Colucci, Italy / UK
- Marianne Kastrup, Denmark
- Meryam Schouler-Ocak, Germany
- Lamia Jouini, Switzerland
- Sneha Karmani, USA / India
- Neeraj Gill, Australia / India

Expert Group on Ethics and Legal Issues
Co-chaired by Professor Silvana Galderisi & Professor Neeraj Gill

- Silvana Galderisi, Italy
- Neeraj Gill, Australia
- Helen Herrman, Australia
- Antonio Melillo, Italy
- Kerim Munir, USA
- Calina Ouliaris, Australia
- Soumitra Pathare, India
- Jill Stavert, Scotland
- Charlene Sunkel, South Africa

Expert Group on Impact of Digitalization
Chaired by Professor Wolfgang Gaebel

- Wolfgang Gaebel, Germany
- Umberto Volpe, Italy
- Rodrigo Ramalho, New Zealand
- Helen Christensen, Australia
- Bridianne O'Dea, Australia
- Hussien Elkholy, Egypt
- Laura Orsolini, Italy
- Taishiro Kishimoto, Japan
- Heleen Riper, Netherlands
- Sandra Bucci, UK
- Maddalena Cipriani, USA
- Donald Hilty, USA
- John Torous, USA
- Roshan Bhad, India (ad interim)

Expert Group on Lived & Family Experience
Chaired by Professor Michaela Amering

- Michaela Amering, Austria
- Helen Herrman, Australia
- Afzal Javed, UK / Pakistan
- Miia Männikkö, Finland
- Guadalupe Morales, Spain
- Charlene Sunkel, South Africa
- Soumitra Pathare, India
- Martha Savage, New Zealand
- Roxanna Ruiz C., Guatemala
- Maria Flores R, Guatemala
- Swetha Ranganathan, India
- Ramya Pillutla, India

Expert Group on Physical Exercise & Lifestyle
Chaired by Professor Andrea Fiorillo

- Andrea Fiorillo, Italy
- Dan Siskind, Australia
- Lukoye Atwoli, Kenya
- Francesca Cirulli, Italy
- Matteo Di Vincenzo, Italy

Expert Group on Public Mental Health
Chaired by Professor Jonathan Campion

- Jonathan Campion, UK
- Debasish Basu, India
- Geert Dom, Belgium
- Oye Gureje, Nigeria
- Vinay Lakra, Australia
- Crick Lund, UK / South Africa
- Michael Marmot, UK
- Shekhar Saxena, USA

MAJOR DISEASE AREAS REVIEWED BY THE EXPERT GROUPS:

- Schizophrenias, presented by *Prof. Silvana Galderisi*
- Other Psychotic Disorders, presented by *Prof. Peter Falkai*
- Addiction disorders (Substance Use Disorders), presented by *Prof. Pratima Murthy*
- Disorders of Intellectual Development, presented by *Prof. Marco Bertelli*
- Affective Disorders, presented by *Prof. Allan Young*

Document Title : Multi-morbidity (previously co-morbidity) Triennial Report 2023–2026 - Specialist corner Expert group and Section on Multi-morbidity
Author : Dan Siskind
Date : May 2026

World Psychiatric Association : Section on Comorbidity
Section Co-Chairs : Dan Siskind & Norman Sartorius
Deputy Chair : Najma Siddiqi
Secretary : Susanna Every-Palmer
Report Submitted By : Dan Siskind and Susanna Every-Palmer

OVERVIEW

The WPA Section on Comorbidity continues to advance global knowledge, research, and clinical understanding of comorbid psychiatric and medical conditions. In 2023–2026, we expanded our membership, deepened international collaborations, and actively contributed to academic and policy discussions around the growing impact of comorbidity in psychiatric care.

The WPA Section on Comorbidity has partnered with the WPA Working Group on Comorbidity of Mental and Physical Health. It is important that the World Psychiatric Association takes action concerning the physical illnesses of people with mental illness because comorbidity leads to premature death of people with mental illness and significantly decreased quality of life of the sufferers. The program of our Section includes the organisation of scientific symposia at all WPA Congresses in this triennium and contributions to other meetings during the World Congresses of Psychiatry, including the Specialist Corner multimorbidity presentation. We have been active in other scientific meetings including EPA and SIRS. We have developed educational materials and webinars concerning comorbidity and its management and produced WPA position statements based on evidence about comorbidity and outlining the WPA position on the matter.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The Section on Comorbidity will continue to:

1. Identify topics related to comorbidity of mental and physical disorders and develop recommendations for WPA's involvement in research, education and service development relevant to dealing with problems related to comorbidities of this type.
2. Identify individuals and centres interested and willing to participate in WPA's program of research and education related to the comorbidity of mental and physical disorders.
3. Liaise with other WPA Sections with a view to ensuring that problems of comorbidity are considered in the work of these groups.
4. Propose the organisation of symposia, workshops and other types of meetings.
5. Prepare reviews of evidence and drafts of position papers.
6. Create training programs.

KEY ACTIVITIES

The Section Officers met quarterly throughout the triennium to progress the work plan.

1. International Collaborations & Publications

Section members collaborated on cross-national research exploring the complex, bidirectional relationships between mental and physical health, including:

- Major depression and metabolic syndrome
- Anxiety disorders and cardiovascular risk

- Psychosis and substance use
- Metabolic disorders and schizophrenia

These contributions appeared in high-impact journals, reinforcing the relevance of comorbidity in psychiatric practice and public health. We thank all members who shared their publications related to multimorbidity. A compilation of key publications is available on the WPA Section of Multimorbidity home page.

Membership also grew significantly, from 23 members in 2023 to 84 members in 2026, reflecting the increasing global interest in this field, and efforts by section officers to recruit experts in the area from around the world.

Elections for the secretariat of the WPA Section on Comorbidity were held at the Section on Comorbidity meeting at WPA Congress in Prague in October 2025.

2. WPA Congress Participation

We hosted well-attended sessions at the 2023 World Congress in Vienna, the 2024 WPA World Congress in Mexico City and the 2025 World Congress in Prague. These symposia generated rich discussions and helped shape future research priorities, particularly around implementation science and integrated care. Highlights included a "State of the Art Session" on Comorbidity, delivered by Richard Holt and chaired by Ivona Šimunović Filipčić and Gerhard Heinze, and the WPA Section on Multimorbidity Symposium on 17 November 2024 featuring presentations by Ivona Šimunović Filipčić, Richard Holt, David Cawthorpe, and Asiful Haidar Chowdhury. The session was chaired by Norman Sartorius and Ivona Šimunović Filipčić.

Looking ahead, we are planning a strong presence at the 2026 WPA Congress in Stockholm, including a Presidential Symposium.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We extend our sincere thanks to all Section members for their ongoing contributions, particularly those who led key research and collaborative initiatives this year. Special thanks to the WPA Secretariat for continued support; our colleagues across other Sections for their collaborative spirit; and to Nicky Traynor for administrative assistance and coordination.
We look forward to building on this momentum in the next triennium and continuing to advance the understanding and management of multimorbidity in psychiatric practice.

Trialogic groups - composed of psychiatrists, persons with lived experience of mental health conditions and family and informal carers - have worked within WPA for many years. They started as a Task Force on Best Practice in working with service users and family carers (World Psychiatry, 2011), conducted research and educational activities, created the WPA Position Paper on Developing Partnerships with Persons with Lived Experience of Mental Health Conditions and Family and Informal Carers (World Psychiatry, 2023) and cooperated with different essential parts of WPA such as the WPA Working Group on Implementing Alternatives to Coercion (BJPsychopen, 2023).

In the years 2023-2026 the group was active as one of seven Expert Groups within the WPA Project 'Specialist Corner. Advances of sciences and their application in care for people with mental disorders'. In this highly appreciated format, the group has presented comments on different diagnostic groups of mental disorders from the perspective of lived and family experience.

For the specialist corner presentations at the WPA Congress in Prague 2025 videos on lived and family experience were produced by members of the Global Mental Health Peer Network on *Substance use and abuse, Schizophrenia, and Anxiety Disorders* and by Martha Savage on *Other Psychoses. Contributions on Affective Disorders and Neurodevelopmental Disorders* were presented and recorded live.

In early 2026 the group was extended and now comprises 12 members with backgrounds in lived experience and family experience and advocacy resp. as well as psychiatrists and mental health researchers:

- **Prof. Michaela Amering,** Medical University of Vienna, Austria.
- **Dr. Maria Flores R,** Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala.
- **Prof. Helen Herrman,** past President WPA, University of Melbourne, Australia.
- **Prof. Afzal Javed,** past President WPA, University of Birmingham, UK, and Fountain House, Pakistan.
- **Ms. Miia Männikkö,** past President of EUFAMI, Mental Health & Family View, FinFami, Finland.
- **Ms. Guadalupe Morales,** Director of Fundación Mundo Bipolar, Spain.
- **Dr. Soumitra Pathare,** Centre for Mental Health Law & Policy, Pune, India.
- **Ms. Ramya Pillutla,** MSc Global Mental Health, Centre for Mental Health Law & Policy, Pune, India.
- **Ms. Swetha Ranganathan,** MSc Psychology of Mental Health, Centre for Mental Health Law & Policy, Pune, India.
- **Prof. Roxanna Ruiz C,** Universidad Francisco Marroquín (UFM) and Universidad Mariano Gálvez (UMG), Guatemala.
- **Prof. Martha Savage**, Professor of Geophysics, SGEES, New Zealand.
- **Ms. Charlene Sunkel,** Founder & CEO of Global Mental Health Peer Network/AVES, South Africa.

For the 26th World Congress of Psychiatry in Stockholm 2026 the group is contributing a symposium on *Lived and Family Experience: Invaluable components for the advancement of mental health* with Guadalupe Morales/Spain and Roxanna Ruiz C/Guatemala chairing and Michaela Amering/Austria, Ramya Pillutla/India, and Miia Männikkö/Finland presenting on Trialogue, meaningful lived experience involvement, and diagnosis-specific family issues as well as WPA President elect Thomas Schulze/USA & Germany contributing as discussant. Also, Guadalupe Morales is part of an all expert group panel.

Members of the Expert Group are currently working on a research project on expectations of lived and family advocacy entities with regard to WPA.

Document Title : WPA Working Group on Digital Psychiatry. Report of Activities 2023-2026
Author : Rodrigo Ramalho, Umberto Volpe, Wolfgang Gaebel
Date : 6 May 2026

WPA WORKING GROUP ON DIGITAL PSYCHIATRY - TRIENNIAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2023-2026

Over the past three years, the WPA Working Group on Digital Psychiatry has continued to strengthen its role as a global platform in digital psychiatry. The Working Group developed and proposed the **WPA Position Statement on Global Digitalization in Mental Health and Care**[1], approved by the WPA General Assembly in Vienna in 2023. The statement set out a high-priority roadmap focused on governance, regulation, literacy, capacity building, and the safe integration of digital tools into routine care.

We also built an important empirical foundation for future action through an **international survey** across WPA National Psychiatric Associations. Findings[2] showed substantial regional variation in the availability and use of digital mental health tools. Mobile applications and telemental health were among the most available interventions in Europe and Asia/Australasia, while wearables, serious games, virtual or augmented reality, and chatbots remained much less common. Across all regions, a significant number of associations identified workforce development as a major global need.

This picture was further sharpened by a subsequent publication in 2025[3]. Most responding associations reported the absence of a formal digital mental health section, national or regional policies, clinical guidelines for many digital tools, and structured training in digital health. Overall, the strongest priorities for future development were education and training, together with evidence-based guidance for practice.

The Working Group further contributed to the field through another publication in 2025[4]. This publication highlighted key psychological, ethical, cultural, and clinical challenges. Importantly, it also provided best-practice guidance, reinforcing that digital innovation must be accompanied by safeguards that protect patient autonomy, clinician accountability, and the humanistic foundations of psychiatric care.

Alongside these initiatives, the Working Group has repeatedly contributed to workforce development through various pre-congress courses accompanying the WPA World Congresses. The first of these courses took place in Vienna in 2023. Each year, these courses have characterized for a significant attendance and positive feedback. Additionally, the Working Group has contributed to these congresses through various symposia, including:

- Mental Health in the Digital City (Vienna, 2023)
- State of the Art Session Panel: Digital Mental Health: Potential and Challenges (Vienna, 2023)
- Mental Health Challenges in the Digital Urbanized Society: Internet Gaming Disorder, Modern-type Depression and Hikikomori (Mexico City, 2024)
- AI-Driven Digital Psychiatry: Promises and Pitfalls in Predictive and Preventive Care – Organized with the Section of Preventive Psychiatry (Prague, 2025)

The Working Group also contributed to the WPA Specialist Corner in Prague in 2025 by convening an international Expert Group on the Impact of Digitalization and developing six disorder-specific presentations on digital interventions; these presentations are available on the WPA website5. The group will continue contributing to future Specialist Corner activities, including educational outputs and further capacity building initiatives.

Currently, the Working Group is preparing the in-person course "How to Integrate Telemedicine and Artificial Intelligence in Digital Psychiatric Practice" for the WPA World Congress in Stockholm in September 2026. We will also be presenting a State of the Art Session on the Impact of Digitalization in Psychiatry, as well as a symposium discussing mental health in digital cities.

Overall, the past three years have positioned the WPA Working Group on Digital Psychiatry as an important contributor to international dialogue, evidence generation, and capacity building in this rapidly evolving field. Looking ahead, the Working Group is well placed to continue supporting the responsible, evidence-based, and globally relevant development of digital mental health. Indeed, the next phase of its work will build on these foundations by further strengthening workforce capability and promoting globally informed and equitable integration of digital tools into psychiatric practice.

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INTRODUCTION

As part of the WPA's platform called "The Specialist Corner: Advances of science and their application in care of people with mental disorders", an Expert Group on Culture was constituted by the President of WPA in February 2025 with Mohan Isaac (Australia/India) as Chair. A consultative group of colleagues from various countries and various experiential background was formed as members of the expert group as follows: Renato Alarcon (USA), Laurence J. Kirmayer (Canada), Erminia Colucci (UK), Marianne C. Kastrup (Denmark), Meryam Schouler-Ocak (Germany), Lamia Jouini (Switzerland) Neeraj Gill (Australia/India) and Sneha Karmani (USA/India).

For deliberations of "The Specialists Corner", the group noted that cultural factors play a major role in the causation and manifestation of mental disorders, and in the identification and appropriate management of persons with mental disorders. Culture impacts the way in which people experience, express and explain physical and emotional distress and the strategies they use to cope with emotional distress. Cultural factors are also vital in deciding how, when and where people seek help to deal with their distress and problems. Many countries and cultures have pluralistic treatment models where spiritual, psychosocial and medical practices co-exist and various traditional and alternate system healers play a significant role.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO WORLD CONGRESS OF PSYCHIATRY, 2025, PRAGUE

During "The Specialist Corner" symposia on various aspects of 6 major disease groups (schizophrenia, other psychosis, affective disorders, anxiety disorders, intellectual impairment and substance use disorders) held at the World Congress of Psychiatry, 2025 in Prague, the crucial role of cultural factors in all these disorders was presented and discussed by members of the expert group. Diagnostic challenges across cultures, the need for culturally sensitive assessments and importance of cultural formulation were also explored and highlighted. The natural history of the disorders especially their course and outcome varied according to their relationship with the sociocultural context, also from the perspective of low-and middle-income countries. The abundant and robust information and evidence about differential outcomes of certain disorders such as schizophrenia across cultures was reviewed. It was noted that the complex issue of differential outcomes in different cultures and populations of certain diseases - more favorable outcome of schizophrenia in developing countries (larger proportion of persons with schizophrenia with a better outcome and milder course in developing countries as compared to those from developed countries) should be researched further.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE WORLD CONGRESS OF PSYCHIATRY, 2026, STOCKHOLM AND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

With the kind of rapid changes taking place across the world, most countries are expected to deal with steadily increasing numbers of immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers who often have higher mental health care needs which are often neglected or inadequately addressed. Care givers of persons with various types of mental disorders, especially those with serious and chronic conditions and complex needs such as their family members, friends and other formal and informal caregivers need to be recognized, and their physical and mental health needs cared for. Research on all aspects of mental health must integrate cultural variables into design, interpretation, and dissemination. There is a need for Increased emphasis on teaching and training mental health professionals all over the world on culturally sensitive and competent care. The expert group has put together a state-of-the-art symposium focusing on the above issues during the forthcoming world congress in Stockholm.

The expert group plans to appropriately assemble the presentations made in Prague for the 6 disease groups on cultural aspects and the state-of-the-art symposium in Stockholm and explore possibilities of suitably publishing them in the scientific press. The group also will explore possibilities for collaborative work on cultural issues of common interests amongst members of the expert group. The group plans to make proposals for future involvement of the "culture" group in various WPA activities as well as plan for participation in the next world congress of psychiatry, 2027.

Document Title : Report for the Expert Group on Physical Exercise & Lifestyle
Author : Andrea Fiorillo
Date : 23 June 2026

EXPERT GROUP ON PHYSICAL EXERCISE & LIFESTYLE- CHAIRED BY PROFESSOR ANDREA FIORILLO

- Andrea Fiorillo, Italy
- Dan Siskind, Australia
- Lukoye Atwoli, Kenya
- Francesca Cirulli, Italy
- Matteo Di Vincenzo, Italy

In line with the WPA Presidential plan 2023-2026, the WPA Expert Group promotes the benefits of physical activity, good nutrition, and sleep hygiene in preventing and managing mental health conditions. Moreover, it aims to disseminate scientific advances in the field as well as to support practical implementation of approaches and interventions with a focus on lifestyle behaviour and physical exercise. The Expert Group supports the objectives of the WPA Action Plan, particularly integrating scientific advancements with lifestyle-based interventions, and facilitating knowledge exchange among clinicians, researchers, and policymakers.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Participation to the 25th World Congress of Psychiatry held in Prague, with the participation at the Specialist Corner, held on October 8, 2025, speaker F. Cirulli

- Participation to the 25th World Congress of Psychiatry held in Prague, with the organization of a State of the Art Symposium on managing multi-morbidity among diverse global populations, speaker D. Siskind, Chair: N. Sartorius

- Preparation, development and recording of 4-short videos on the importance of adopting healthy lifestyle behaviours for people with severe mental disorders, with a focus on diet, smoking, substance use, physical activity.

- Publication of three researcher papers on World Psychiatry:
  - *Wasserman D, Arango C, Fiorillo A, Levin S, Peters A, Rao P, Sanchez-Villanueva T, Sylla A.* **Improving mental health through fostering healthy lifestyles in young people: one of the targets in the WPA Action Plan 2023-2026.** World Psychiatry. 2023 Oct;22(3):488-489. doi: 10.1002/wps.21146. PMID: 37713574; PMCID: PMC10503912.
  - *Wasserman D, Arango C, Fiorillo A, Levin S, Peters AC, Rao GP, Sylla A, Sanchez-Villanueva T.* **Pushing forward public mental health agenda and promotion of mental health.** World Psychiatry. 2023 Feb;22(1):170-171. doi: 10.1002/wps.21052. PMID: 36640400; PMCID: PMC9840491.
  - *Fiorillo A, de Girolamo G, Simunovic IF, Gureje O, Isaac M, Lloyd C, Mari J, Patel V, Reif A, Starostina E, Summergrad P, Sartorius N.* **The relationship between physical and mental health: an update from the WPA Working Group on Managing Comorbidity of Mental and Physical Health.** World Psychiatry. 2023 Feb;22(1):169-170. doi: 10.1002/wps.21055. PMID: 36640405; PMCID: PMC9840511.

PLANNED ACTIONS 2026

- **Research article on the state of the art on physical exercise and lifestyle.** The Group is discussing on carriyng out a narrative review focused on the topic of physical exercise in people with severe mental disorders and promotion of healthy lifestyle. The Group would like to include a focus on the most effective ingredients included in psychosocial interventions focused on lifestyle and physical exercise.

- **Development of practical recommendations on how to implement physical exercise in routine clinical settings.** Practical suggestions on how to improve the adoption of healthy lifestyle behaviours in people with severe mental disorders will be developed, with specific focus to healthcare professionals as well as to patients and their caregivers.

- **Development of a list of recommended readings to be published on the WPA website.** A list of updated documents, including scientific peer-reviewed articles, book chapters and congress report will be provided.

- **Organize a webinar on lifestyle and physical exercise in mental health care.** The Expert Group is developing the webinar programme, that should be focused on the practical recommendations developed by the group. Moreover, it will include a session for Q&A from participants, in order to guarantee interactivity and to be a very practical meeting.

- **Collaboration with other scientific associations**

The Expert Group is actively collaborating with other scientific associations, including the European Psychiatric Association (EPA) and the International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (ISPRM), to address the multidimensional aspects of the management of lifestyle behaviour in patients with severe mental disorders. The commitment of the WPA Expert group of physical exercise and lifestyle is to support the WPA's leadership in disseminating good clinical practice recommendations for improving quality of life of people suffering from severe mental disorders.

MEMBERS OF WPA SPECIALIST CORNER PUBLIC MENTAL HEALTH EXPERT GROUP

The work of the following members of the WPA Specialist Corner Public Mental Health Expert Group is gratefully acknowledged:

- **Dr Jonathan Campion** (Chair): Director for Public Mental Health, South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust, UK; Cochair of Public Mental Health Section, European Psychiatric Association; Chair of Public Mental Health Section, World Psychiatric Association; Cochair of Public Mental Health Working Group, World Federation of Public Health Associations; Honorary Professor of Public Mental Health, University of Cape Town, South Africa.
- **Professor Debasish Basu:** Professor and Head, Department of Psychiatry, Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, India; Director, WPA Collaborating Centre Chandigarh; Member, World Federation of Mental Health Asia Pacific Advisory Committee; Founding Editor, World Social Psychiatry (official journal of the World Association of Social Psychiatry); President-Elect, Indian Association for Social Psychiatry; International Distinguished Fellow, American Psychiatric Association.
- **Professor Dr Geert Dom:** Professor of Psychiatry, University of Antwerp, Belgium; Medical Director PC Multiversum, Boechout, Belgium; Immediate Past President, European Psychiatric Association; Past President of European Federation of Addiction Societies (EUFAS).
- **Professor Oye Gureje:** Director, WHO Collaborating Centre for Research and Training in Mental Health, Neurosciences, Drug and Alcohol Abuse, University of Ibadan, Nigeria.
- **Professor Helen Herrman:** Former WPA President (2017-2020); Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry, The University of Melbourne; Board Director, Orygen Youth Mental Health Australia; Director, WHO Collaborating Centre Melbourne, Australia.
- **Professor Vinay Lakra:** Past President, Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists; Clinical Associate Professor, University of Melbourne; Divisional Director, Mental Health, Northern Health, Australia.
- **Professor Crick Lund:** Professor of Global Mental Health and Development in the King's Global Health Institute, Health Services and Population Research Department, Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, King's College London; Professor in the Alan J. Flisher Centre for Public Mental Health, Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health, University of Cape Town, South Africa.
- **Professor Sir Michael Marmot:** Professor of Epidemiology at University College London; Director of the Institute of Health Equity, UCL Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, UK.
- Professor Shekhar Saxena: Professor of the Practice of Global Mental Health at the Department of Global Health and Population at Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health, USA.

DEVELOPMENT OF WPA SPECIALIST CORNER PUBLIC MENTAL HEALTH EXPERT GROUP

On 19/6/24, Professor Danuta Wasserman (WPA President) informed Dr Jonathan Campion that the WPA was forming the 'Specialist Corner' Advances of sciences and their application in mental health care as part of the WPA's 2023-26 Action Plan. The aim of this programme was to create a series of seven webinars, each of which would present the best of current knowledge about a particular group of mental disorders.

Public mental health was chosen as one of six cross cutting themes for each of six mental disorders (affective disorders, anxiety disorders, schizophrenia, other psychoses, substance use and abuse, intellectual impairment). Other cross cutting themes include comorbidity, partnership with people with lived experience, ethics and legal issues, digitalisation, physical exercise and lifestyle. Professor Wasserman invited Dr Jonathan Campion to form the WPA Specialist Corner Public Mental Health Expert Group to join the WPA Specialist Corner programme. Dr Campion invited several members of the WPA Public Mental Health Special Interest Group to become members of the WPA Specialist Corner Public Mental Health Expert Group.

ACTIVITIES OF WPA SPECIALIST CORNER PUBLIC MENTAL HEALTH EXPERT GROUP (2024-2026)

Jonathan Campion led the contribution of the WPA Specialist Corner Public Mental Health Expert Group to support the integration of a public mental health cross cutting theme to the Specialist Corner.

- Attendance at regular meetings: Jonathan Campion on behalf of the WPA Specialist Corner Public Mental Health Expert Group.
- Generic slide set about the importance of public mental health: Jonathan Campion drafted this outlining how public mental health is a key cross cutting theme. Members of the WPA Specialist Corner Public Mental Health Expert Group sent comments.
- Specialist Corner symposia at WPA WCP 2025 in Prague
    - Six symposia for six mental disorders (affective disorders, anxiety disorders, schizophrenia, other psychoses, substance use and abuse, intellectual impairment) prepared for the WPA WCP 2025 in Prague.
    - For each symposium on a particular mental disorder, there were six cross cutting themes including public mental health, comorbidity, partnership with people with lived experience, ethics and legal issues, digitalisation, physical exercise and lifestyle.
    - Public mental health generic slide set sent to lead presenter for each of the six mental disorders as well as leads for other cross cutting themes.
    - Public mental health comments sent on the slides of lead presenter for each of the six mental disorders after sending to WPA Specialist Corner Public Mental Health Expert Group.
    - Development of a 10 minute slide presentation on the public mental health cross cutting theme for each mental disorder symposium in collaboration with WPA Specialist Corner Public Mental Health Expert Group. Sent to leads for each mental disorder for comment.
    - Presentations at Specialist Corner symposia of WPA WCP in Prague (October 2025): On behalf of the Public Mental Health Expert Group, Jonathan Campion presented the public mental health cross cutting theme for four symposia (anxiety, other psychosis, intellectual disability and substance use disorder) and Vinay Lakra presented the public mental health cross cutting theme for two symposia (depression and schizophrenia).
- Support ongoing collaboration: Continue to engage with Expert Groups for different cross-cutting themes.
- Publications: Jonathan Campion invited Neeraj Gill (WPA Specialist Corner Expert Group on Ethics and Legal Issues) to co-author a Lancet Psychiatry paper about use of rights and legal frameworks to scale up public mental health implementation which was published in April 2026: Ni MY, Leung CMC, Wan TTW, Campion J, Gill N, Galea S, Ip EC. Harnessing the power of constitutional rights and legal frameworks to scale up public mental health implementation. Lancet Psychiatry. 2026 Apr;13(4):346-356.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF WPA SPECIALIST CORNER PUBLIC MENTAL HEALTH EXPERT GROUP

- Specialist Corner symposia at WPA WCP 2026 in Stockholm
    - Jonathan Campion, Geert Dom and Vinay Lakra to present a state-of-the-art public mental health symposium on behalf of the WPA Specialist Corner Public Mental Health Expert Group.
    - Jonathan Campion to represent the WPA Specialist Corner Public Mental Health Expert Group at a Specialist Corner symposium.
    - Jonathan Campion to represent the WPA Specialist Corner Public Mental Health Expert Group at a symposium about how to address implementation failure for people with intellectual disability.

- Planned publications
    - Contribute a public mental health book chapter.
    - Contribute a public mental health perspective to publications for each mental disorder.
    - Lead a public mental health publication on cross cutting relevance of a PMH approach to all mental disorders.

- Coordinate with the members and work of the WPA Public Mental Health Section at https://www.wpanet.org/public-mental-health

Document Title : Report for the Specialist Corner Expert Group on Ethics and Legal Issues
Author : Silvana Galderisi and Neeraj Gill
Date : 18 July 2026

INTRODUCTION

As part of the WPA's "Specialist Corner: Advances of science and their application in the care of people with mental disorders" platform, the Expert Group on Ethics and Legal Issues was constituted by the President of the WPA in early 2024, co-chaired by Professor Silvana Galderisi (Italy) and Professor Neeraj Gill (Australia). The group is composed of colleagues from various countries and backgrounds: Helen Herrman (Australia), Antonio Melillo (Italy), Charlene Sunkel (South Africa), Kerim Munir (USA), Calina Ouliaris (Australia), Soumitra Pathare (India) and Jill Stavert (Scotland).

Several members of the group had already been closely engaged with ethical and human rights issues in psychiatry through earlier WPA initiatives. Co-Chairs Silvana Galderisi and Neeraj Gill, together with Helen Herrman and Soumitra Pathare, were members of the WPA Taskforce on Implementing Alternatives to Coercion in Mental Health Care, whose work culminated in the position statement "Implementing Alternatives to Coercion: A Key Component of Improving Mental Health Care," approved by the WPA General Assembly in Vienna on 30 September 2023. The work of several members of the group is also reflected in a themed series of papers published in a special issue of the BJPsych Open (BJPsych Open 2024; 10), and in an article published in World Psychiatry (Vol 23. No. 3., 2024; 364-386).

The members of the Expert Group also contributed to related symposia on human rights and alternatives to coercion at the 24th World Congress of Psychiatry in Mexico City (November 2024). This sustained engagement laid the foundation for the Expert Group's subsequent work within the Specialist Corner initiative.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WORLD CONGRESS OF PSYCHIATRY, 2025, PRAGUE

During the Specialist Corner symposia on the six major disorder groups (schizophrenia, other psychoses, affective disorders, anxiety disorders, disorders of intellectual development, and substance use disorders) held at the 25th World Congress of Psychiatry in Prague, members of the Expert Group on Ethics and Legal Issues contributed commentary across all six sessions, addressing themes including recovery-oriented care, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) framework, the ethical challenges of prevention and early intervention, physician-assisted death, supported decision-making, and stigma and other barriers to social inclusion and access to care.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE WORLD CONGRESS OF PSYCHIATRY, 2026, STOCKHOLM

The Expert Group will participate in the 26th World Congress of Psychiatry in Stockholm with a Specialist Corner session, "The Challenge of Ethics and Law to the Practice of Psychiatry," co-chaired by Neeraj Gill and Silvana Galderisi. The session will present an overview of ethical and legal issues across schizophrenia and other psychoses, substance use disorders, affective and anxiety disorders, and intellectual and developmental disabilities, addressing themes including alternatives to coercion, the CRPD framework, stigma and discrimination, access to care, recovery-oriented and trauma-informed approaches, prevention and early intervention, voluntary assisted dying, and supported decision-making.
Additionally, group members Silvana Galderisi and Kerim Munir will contribute to a State of the Art Symposium, "Ethics, Vulnerability, and Mental Health Law," with two presentations: one addressing coercion and its impact on the therapeutic relationship and patient outcomes, and the other addressing mental health law in relation to autism, mild intellectual disability, and borderline intellectual functioning.

PLANS FOR FUTURE CONTRIBUTIONS

Beyond Stockholm, the Expert Group remains committed to extending the ethical and legal perspective across the full range of disorders addressed by the Specialist Corner initiative. The group is exploring opportunities to contribute to further disorder-specific papers together with the other Specialist Corner Expert Groups and intends to produce its own dedicated paper addressing ethical and legal aspects across all disorders covered by the programme, drawing on the analyses presented in Prague and Stockholm.

The group is also pursuing the production of educational video materials and plans to prepare handouts summarising key points and recommended readings related to its Specialist Corner presentations, for dissemination through the WPA educational portal.

The group also intends to contribute a chapter to the forthcoming book presenting the work of the Specialist Corner Expert Groups. The chapter will examine the core ethical and legal challenges shaping contemporary mental health care within the ongoing shift towards recovery-oriented, person-centred and human rights–based approaches, addressing autonomy and decision-making capacity, coercive practices, inequality in access to care, uncertainty in diagnosis and prognosis, and stigma and discrimination.



Specialist Corner Lectures reports

SPECIALIST CORNER - INTELLECTUAL IMPAIRMENT PRESENTED BY MARCO O. BERTELLI

The paper focuses primarily on Intellectual Developmental Disorder (IDD) as a central diagnostic category within the broader framework of neurodevelopmental disorders (NDD), as defined by the DSM-5 (and DSM-5-TR) and the ICD-11. The introductory section on NDD serves mainly as a conceptual framework to explain the characteristics shared by these conditions, including early onset, chronic developmental course, multifactorial etiology, co-occurrence, and impairments in cognitive, communicative, social, and adaptive functioning. NDD are currently considered to be in close continuity with traditional psychiatric disorders.

Within this meta-structure, IDD is presented as a particularly complex meta-syndromic group of conditions sharing an impairment in cognitive functioning that precedes the acquisition of skills through learning (i.e., with early onset in life). The severity of this impairment significantly interferes with adaptive skills and overall functioning, as expressed by limitations in activities, restrictions in participation, and the need for integrated medical, psychological, and social support.

IDD should be understood across the lifespan, taking into account developmental transitions, opportunities for learning, and environmental influences.
It should be emphasized that adaptive functioning, and not only IQ scores, is crucial for diagnosing IDD and determining support needs and severity levels. Adaptive functioning includes conceptual skills such as communication and problem solving, social skills involving interpersonal relationships and social responsibility, and practical skills related to autonomy in everyday life.

A central concept throughout the presentation is the proposal of a "polynomic-polysemic approach" to IDD/intellectual disability. Rather than promoting one term over another, this approach suggests that different terms should be used according to the context in which the condition is discussed. IDD, or "Disorders of Intellectual Development," is considered more appropriate in medical and diagnostic contexts, whereas "Intellectual Disability" better emphasizes functional aspects, social participation, human rights, and inclusion. The aim is therefore not to identify a single universally correct label, but rather to recognize the multidimensional nature of the condition through context-dependent language.

IDD affects approximately 2% of the world population, with estimates ranging from 1% to 8% depending on geographical areas, while Borderline Intellectual Functioning may involve up to 18% of the population, according to more recent findings. Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is frequently reported to co-occur with IDD, especially in individuals with more severe cognitive and adaptive impairments. However, the two conditions also present a strong symptomatological overlap, particularly in the domains of communication difficulties, minimal verbal ability, and reduced adaptive functioning, which often makes it difficult to establish a precise differential diagnosis or determine co-occurrence.

A major focus concerns mental and physical health in people with IDD. Psychiatric disorders and physical health problems occur at substantially higher rates than in the general population. Depression, anxiety, psychosis, bipolar disorders, or eating disorders are described as common but frequently underdiagnosed because psychiatric symptoms may present atypically. Communication impairments, developmental factors, psychosocial masking, and diagnostic overshadowing often complicate clinical assessment. Clinical examples presented in the paper demonstrate how emotional distress may manifest through aggression, withdrawal, agitation, self-injury, or other behavioural changes rather than through verbal complaints.

A multidimensional and multidisciplinary assessment integrating biological, psychological, social, and developmental perspectives is strongly advocated. Adapted diagnostic systems such as the Diagnostic Manual–Intellectual Disability (DM-ID; 2016) and the Diagnostic Criteria–Learning Disability (DC-LD; 2001) are presented as important tools for improving diagnostic accuracy in people with IDD. Considerable attention is also devoted to psychopharmacology, emphasizing ethical prescribing practices, continuous monitoring, and the reduction of inappropriate medication use through initiatives such as STOMP (Stopping Overmedication of People with a Learning Disability, Autism or Both).

IDD requires human-rights-oriented approaches aimed at improving quality of life, inclusion, dignity, and access to appropriate care. Unfortunately, to date, in many countries across the world, people with IDD or profound autism still experience very limited access to mental health services, alongside a substantial lack of research dedicated to their needs.

Schizophrenia is a severe primary psychotic disorder that often begins to develop in late adolescence/early adulthood, or even earlier, and therefore may have a devastating impact on person's developmental milestones and family wellbeing. When considering that according to the WHO estimates it affects more than 24 million people worldwide, the size of the burden related to this disorder for society becomes immediately evident.

The possibility to abandon the term "Schizophrenia" is being considered, as it does not recognize the heterogeneity of the disorder, might nourish the belief that it represents a unitary disease, is associated to the notion of a poor outcome and a high level of stigma, and has acquired a derogatory connotation (1).

Current diagnostic criteria have several advantages but fail to recognize negative symptoms and cognitive impairment as core aspects of the disorder, despite their relevance to the outcome.
There is a widespread consensus that etiopathogenesis is multifactorial and involves a complex interaction between genetic, environmental and non-genetic biological factors.

Recovery is possible but at least 40% of the affected people have a poor outcome. An increased mortality is reported; it is associated with modifiable risk factors, which should inform clinical practice (2).

The duration of untreated psychosis (DUP) is strongly and negatively associated with the functional outcome of the disorder. The mean DUP is still 298,2 days versus the WHO recommended limit of a maximum of 90 days (3). Findings on the effectiveness of interventions designed to improve this picture are inconclusive. More research is needed to better understand where delays occur and factors which may influence them.

Where and when implemented, Early Intervention Services (EIS) programs may lead to a significant improvement; however, they should provide team-based, multicomponent interventions including psychopharmacological treatment, family psychoeducation and other components (e.g., CBT, SST) (4). Unfortunately, the development and the adherence to established guidelines of ED/EI services is unequal across countries (5, 6).

Currently, care provided to people with schizophrenia worldwide is often remarkably stereotyped. Pharmacological treatment with antipsychotics remains a cornerstone; however, too often the ratio risks/benefits is not accurately evaluated for each person. Although there is no clear evidence for superiority of specific antipsychotics in terms of relapse prevention or other efficacy outcomes, there are clear differences in side-effects between antipsychotics that should be considered when personalizing the treatment (7). In addition, despite the advantages they might provide in many patients, long-acting formulations and clozapine remain underprescribed, due to multiple contributing factors, including negative mental health practitioner attitudes towards their use (8).

Evidence is available that pharmacological treatment alone cannot address all variables contributing to outcome (9, 10). Integrating pharmacological treatment with psychosocial interventions, based on evidence and individual needs and preferences, can make the difference and increase recovery rates.

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OTHER PSYCHOSES

Other psychotic disorders (often referred to in DSM-5/DSM-5-TR as "other schizophrenia spectrum and psychotic disorders") encompass conditions with core psychotic symptoms—delusions, hallucinations, disorganized thinking, and abnormal behavior—but which do not meet full criteria for schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder. These include brief psychotic disorder, delusional disorder, schizophreniform disorder, substance/medication-induced psychotic disorder, and psychotic disorder due to another medical condition, among others.

Clinical features and classification

Psychotic disorders exist on a continuum or "psychosis spectrum", rather than as discrete categories. Recent literature emphasizes a dimensional model in which symptom severity, duration, and functional impairment vary across diagnoses [6]. "Other psychoses" typically present with positive symptoms (hallucinations, delusions), while negative and cognitive symptoms may be less prominent compared with schizophrenia.

Brief and acute psychotic conditions are defined by short duration and abrupt onset, often associated with stressors. For example, DSM-5 brief psychotic disorder lasts less than one month, whereas ICD classifications include acute and transient psychotic disorders with similar features [1]. However, diagnostic stability is limited; only about 45% retain the same diagnosis over time, with many transitioning to schizophrenia or mood disorders [1].

Delusional disorder is characterized by persistent, non-bizarre delusions with relatively preserved functioning. In contrast, substance-induced and medically induced psychoses are secondary conditions, where symptoms arise from drugs, toxins, or neurological/medical illness. A 2023 systematic review highlights the importance of identifying underlying causes, as psychosis may be the first sign of systemic disease, particularly in younger populations [4].

Etiology and pathophysiology

The etiology of other psychotic disorders is multifactorial, involving genetic vulnerability, neurobiological abnormalities, and environmental stressors. Contemporary models conceptualize psychosis using a "syndemic" framework, where biological, psychological, and social factors interact (e.g., trauma, substance use, socioeconomic adversity) [3].

Neurocognitive research indicates impairments in attention, memory, and executive functioning across the psychosis spectrum, though typically less severe than in schizophrenia [2]. Secondary psychoses may involve distinct mechanisms such as neurodegeneration, metabolic disturbances, or medication effects [5].

Course and prognosis

Prognosis varies widely depending on subtype. Brief psychotic disorder often has good short-term recovery, but long-term outcomes are heterogeneous due to diagnostic instability. Delusional disorder tends to be chronic but less disabling. Substance-induced psychosis may resolve with removal of the causative agent, although persistent symptoms can occur.

Late-onset psychoses (after age 60) are increasingly recognized and often linked to neurodegenerative or vascular pathology, requiring careful differential diagnosis [7].

Management

Treatment generally involves antipsychotic medications, psychosocial interventions, and management of underlying causes. Early identification is crucial, especially in first-episode psychosis, as it improves outcomes. For secondary psychoses, treating the primary medical condition is essential.

Recent research highlights the need for personalized and transdiagnostic approaches, moving beyond rigid diagnostic categories toward symptom-based care [6].

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This summary reflects current understanding that “other psychoses” are heterogeneous, often transitional diagnoses within a broader psychosis spectrum, requiring careful longitudinal assessment and individualized management.

There is an estimated increase of more than 20% of persons using drugs in the 2020s as compared to the previous decade, particularly among young people. Opioid drugs cause two-thirds of the drug related deaths worldwide and the use of synthetic drugs is rapidly increasing. There is a wide treatment gap, with about 90% of populations in low- and middle-income countries not receiving adequate treatment exposure.

While psychoactive substance use causes significant health issues, use also impacts the family and leads to substantial economic and societal costs. Women face unique drug related harms and greater barriers to accessing support. There are unique cultural aspects, distinct socio-economic and cultural drivers, economics and eco-systems influencing substance use. Stigma and discrimination, lack of community support systems and treatment barriers are more or less universal.

Many factors, particularly socio-cultural, influence the initiation and progression of substance use. Persons with mental and developmental disorders, as well as specific personality characteristics are at greater risk to SUD. Genetic predisposition and epigenetic mechanisms also underlie the progression. Substance use disorders (SUD), including a dependent pattern of use, are a result of interacting social, biological and drug characteristic determinants. The core symptoms of substance use disorder as defined by current diagnostic systems (ICD 11 and DSM 5) included impaired control over substance use, its increased priority over other aspects of the person's life, persistence of use despite harm or negative consequences and the development of tolerance and withdrawal.

The relationship between substance use disorders and mental health co-morbidity is bi-directional, with shared genetic and environmental factors. Lifetime prevalence for SUDs doubles among those with a psychiatric disorder than those without. Similarly, substance use disorders (further influenced by type of substance, route of administration, safety of administration and other factors) are associated with increased risk of infections, cardiovascular, hepatic, respiratory and other systemic disorders, as well as neurological disorders (seizures, delirium, head injury, movement disorders, cognitive impairment).

Interventions for SUD include screening and brief intervention (SBIRT), pharmacological interventions for withdrawal, craving reduction, relapse prevention and overdose management. Psychosocial interventions include motivational interviewing and motivation enhancement, cognitive behavioral therapy, contingency management, community reinforcement, family-oriented treatment approaches, mutual self-help groups. Specific evidence-based pharmacological treatments are recommended for specific substances. Recent evidence highlights a positive role of physical activity and yoga as an adjuvant has shown promise. Public health strategies include SBIRT and ASSIST. Digital technologies have demonstrated efficacy for screening, assessment, treatment and recovery. Technology can also be leveraged for training in the management of substance use disorders.

An integrated model for prevention and intervention addressing mental, neurological and substance use disorders is gaining attention. Shared strategies to address MNS conditions include a biopsychosocial approach, focus on promotion and prevention, treatment and recovery with common policies and programs. Prevention includes addressing factors like impulsivity, social skills, stress, family supervision, as well as addressing availability, social networks, norms around use and macro socio-economic issues. Sound drug control policies based in a rights framework and de-criminalization are imperative.

Document Title : Specialist Corner Lecture- Affective disorders
Author : Allan Young
Date : August 2026

Professor Allan Young's WPA Specialist Corner lecture explored the clinical challenges of difficult-to-treat depression and bipolar disorder, emphasizing their complexity, high burden, and impact on quality of life. He highlighted the importance of accurate diagnosis, recognition of symptom heterogeneity, coexisting psychiatric and physical conditions, and persistent residual symptoms that can complicate care. The lecture reviewed evidence-based pharmacological and psychological treatments, the role of specialist services, and emerging therapeutic approaches. Professor Young stressed that treatment goals should extend beyond symptom reduction to restoring functioning, cognition, and long-term wellbeing through personalized, multidisciplinary, and measurement-based care.



Reports and position statements from Working groups and Special Interest Groups 2023-2026

Document Title : G7 Summit in Canada 16-17 June 2025 - Paper on collaboration between psychiatry and neurology was prepared
Author : WPA President, Prof. Danuta Wasserman and Prof. Vladimir Hachinski
Date : June 2025

In preparation for the 2025 G7 Summit in Canada, the WPA, in collaboration with the World Federation of Neurology (WFN), contributed to high-level discussions on the growing burden of brain and mental disorders in a world increasingly shaped by automation, demographic shifts, and artificial intelligence. These disorders—particularly depression, anxiety, and dementia—carry enormous human and economic costs, accounting globally for $1.2 trillion in lost income and $1.1 trillion in healthcare spending.

The WPA advocated for the G7 nations to adopt "Integral Brain Health" as a unifying policy goal spanning prevention, treatment, and social support. This included endorsing a working definition—"When thinking, feeling, and connecting with others is at its best in a safe, healthy, and supportive environment"—and promoting an Integral Brain Health Index to track progress.
With G7 nations facing an acute birth–ageing imbalance, the WPA emphasised both the urgency and the capacity of these countries to lead community-level and scalable interventions aimed at building brain capital and mental resilience.

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THE ECONOMIC CASE FOR INVESTING IN MENTAL HEALTH (EIMH)

Globally, the economic cost of mental ill-health is estimated to be US $5 trillioni (1). Recent analysis estimates the overall cost in England to be US $382.2 billion (2), up from US $150.4 billion two years ago (5% of UK GDP in 2019) (3), in the Philippines US $1.37 billion (0.4% of GDP) (4) and US $1.26 billion in Singapore (5). Research across 7 countries in sub-Saharan Africa and Central, South and South-East Asia similarly estimates the economic burden to be between 0.5-1.0% of GDP (6). Whether higher or lower income, mental ill-health is impacting the prosperity of countries around the world.

Unlike physical disorders, which primarily affect middle-aged and older adults, mental health disorders arise in youth, with 34.6% starting before the age of 14 and 62.5% before the age of 24 (7). Without a public health approach to improving health and wellbeing, and accessible mental healthcare, these mental disorders can develop into chronic mental illness in adulthood.

The most productive members of society are young and middle-aged adults. Failing to prevent mental ill-health in its early stages reduces the productivity of the nation by reducing the number of young people able to reach their full potential. Research in Asia published in 2019 estimated that disability-adjusted life of years (DALYs) rates peaked at 30-34 years, following a consistent upward trend through childhood and adolescence (8).

Often, when someone is diagnosed with a physical non-communicable disease, they have already been working for many years; their disease hasn't impacted on their school attendance, their acceptance to higher education, career progression and ultimately their ability to pay tax dollars to the state. The inverse is true of mental illness. Once a person has survived the infectious diseases of childhood, the most likely illness they will suffer from as a young person is a mental illness.

As a result of the prominence of mental ill-health from a young age, low- and middle-income countries which tend to have younger populations are likely to be disproportionately affected by the economic burden of mental ill-health. The data shows your mental illness will likely occur while in education, impacting your ability to engage, to achieve your educational potential – impacting your choices for higher education and training, the job you secure and ultimately your economic value.

A large proportion of the costs associated with mental ill-health are due to loss of workforce and reduced productivity; in Malaysia the cost of absenteeism, presenteeism and staff turnover due to mental ill-health were estimated to be US $3.48 billion in 2018 (9). It's predicted that the cumulative global impact of mental ill-health will result in lost economic output of roughly $16.3 trillion between 2011 and 2030 (10). It is well documented that 'without adequate funding for targeted, cost-effective mental health interventions, avoidable deaths and disabilities occur, and this also hinders economic growth' (11). We also know that there are 'intangible costs' which can include the impacts of lost quality of life, such as the detrimental impacts of stigmatisation, discrimination and social exclusion (12).

However, mental health disorders are preventable and treatable, especially if identified and treated early. Investing in community- and primary care-based prevention and treatment is crucial to ensure that these children and young people do not become adults with chronic, relapsing, remitting mental illnesses that interfere with their ability to fulfil their potential and contribute meaningfully to society. Thornicroft and Tansella (13) recommend a 'balanced' approach to mental healthcare – focusing on majority care in the community, supplemented by inpatient resources should people need them. This model can be applied to low, middle and high-income countries but requires leadership to make the shift from hospital to community and prevention.

Yet national governments are not investing sufficient funds in mental healthcare. In 2018, the LancetCommission proposed that high-income countries should increase their expenditure on mental health to at least 10% of their total health budget while low and middle-income countries should raise spending to at least 5% (14). Data collected from 85 countries in 2020 showed that only 13 met the proposed rate of expenditure: 5 of those being high-income countries, 6 upper-middle-income and two lower-middle-income countries (15). This is likely a figure which should be revised to reflect the increase seen in mental illness in recent years.

Across the world, there is underinvestment in mental health. This isn't necessarily because countries don't have the funding, rather mental health has not been prioritised. United for Global Mental Health estimates that only 2.1% of government health budgets globally are allocated to mental health (16), creating an annual mental health finance gap of at least $200 billion (17).

Lack of availability of mental health services is one of the most cited barriers to treatment (18). The average welfare benefit (not including economic or societal benefits) of providing full availability of treatment to support mild to severe conditions is US $118 billion annually (19) yet globally there is an average of only 0.3 psychiatrists per 100,000 people (20).

While clinical treatment is a key tenet of recovery, improving mental health often isn't achieved through health services alone, although they are a key element. Well-established models suggest that clinical care accounts for 20% of health outcomes while socioeconomic factors, and physical environments make up 50% (21).

Data from a group of lower-income African countries shows that over half of mental health spend is on treatment, mainly hospital care (22) – often the costliest intervention. Meanwhile, primary and community healthcare services are relatively underfunded, resulting in low access to and coverage of preventative interventions. Even when funding is being allocated to mental healthcare, this data suggests that it isn't necessarily being used most effectively.

Psychiatric organisations and mental health charities around the world are championing a multi-sector approach to improving mental healthcare, recognising the bidirectional relationship between mental health and socio-economic factors such as poverty, loneliness and structural inequalities (23). While healthcare can support people to recover, only through living within a community, environment or country which supports good mental health will recovery be sustained.

Evidence shows that investing in population mental health brings a good return on investment (ROI); UNDP research in the Philippines estimates that an investment of US $2.8 billion would return US $4.27 billion over Dr Shubulade Smith, President; Jess Rackham, Deputy Director Policy, RCPsych, 25.9.25 ten years (24). Australia has tracked its public health investment since 2012 and noted significant gains; parenting interventions for the prevention of anxiety disorders in children saved US $5.5 million while school-based interventions to prevent depression in young people saved US $24.5 million, both over a 10-year period (25).

The impact, or return, of investing in good mental health and wellbeing is often felt wider than simply a reduction in demand for mental health services. Improving wellbeing, supporting recovery, and preventing the onset of mental ill-health reduces demand for physical health services and improves productivity. Just as there is a global emphasis on staying physically well, we should not be waiting for people to become mentally unwell to intervene.

Every nation wants to prosper; our collective challenge is articulating that ensuring good mental health at a national level is the key to a nation's success and incentivising governments to act. The moral, ethical and clinical case has been made for investment in mental health for many years, there have been pledges, but we are yet to see a considerable change in approach in too many countries.

We, the undersigned, call for the following

For any country to maximise its potential and prosper, it must actively focus resources to reduce population-level prevalence of mental illness, while improving care for those living with poor mental health. Population mental health planning does not exist in a silo, the bi-directional relationship with employment, education, and housing is well established, yet rarely is good mental health acknowledged as the key to prosperity.

The World Bank, International Monetary Fund and other financiers are in a unique position to incentivise this change. For a country to be successful and prosperous, and therefore a good investment, it should be expected that they have a robust cross-government mental health strategy – recognising the links between good mental health and economic growth.

Thus, banks and other financiers should make their investments (health or otherwise) contingent on the development of a national cross-government mental health strategy with an accompanying implementation plan for improving population mental health and wellbeing. Each strategy would differ depending on the country, their national resources and capabilities, but would include at least one tangible commitment which could be evaluated on an annual basis to ensure accountability. For countries who are unsure what a mental health strategy should include, global support is already available to ensure that countries can commit to tangible national action.

The UN has recently started partnering with governments to generate country specific investment cases for mental health which outline recommendations for improvement. UNDP has committed to working with partners to strengthen their health system, including creating equitable access to mental healthcare services (26). The WHO also provides information on cost-effective and feasible mental health interventions that can be expanded to a larger scale to strengthen mental healthcare systems in countries (27). UNICEF global multisectoral operational framework places a focus on children and young people, and their caregivers in their support to nations (28). Advocating for better services for children and young people should be a top priority for every country.

Psychiatric organisations and associations around the world, individually and collectively, have the expertise to support nations to build their healthcare workforce; from the recruitment and retention of psychiatrists to supporting nurses, primary care workers and the voluntary sector to develop skills and capabilities to create and enhance community mental health systems and support citizens living with poor mental health. Many of these organisations have a proven track record of rolling out high-quality, evidence-based training programmes, for example, the Royal College of Psychiatrists has supported co-produced projects in Iraq, Palestine, Uganda, Kenya, Ghana, Pakistan, Ukraine, Egypt and India. The Mental Health Action Trust in India has developed community mental health services which now cover 70 sites in South India.

The EU Health Policy Platform has previously called on nations to implement a 'Mental Health in All Policies' (29) approach, acknowledging the cross-societal duty to improve mental health at a population level and providing the blueprint for policymakers to promote good health.

There are nations of best practice; we've seen a significant shift in Ukraine's mental health agenda due in large to the establishment of an interministerial panel under the patronage of the First Lady. Moving mental health to the top of the political agenda highlights why visible gestures are necessary to raise the profile of mental health. The means for improving mental healthcare already exists, we need global organisations to recognise their leverage for change.

The precedent for such an approach to investment has already been set. The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund launched successful initiatives to make funding contingent on strategies to support and elevate the role of women in a country. Prioritising mental health sends a clear signal to all nations that ignoring mental illness hampers national economic growth and prosperity. Mental ill health must be regarded with the same concern as poor physical health.

Calls for sustainable funding for mental healthcare to match the disease burden have long been called for, yet progress has been slow and as individual nations, and a global community, we can no longer wait. A catalyst must be provided for action, and that lies in the power of international financiers.

People shouldn't be reduced to their economic value, the case for investing in good mental health should be achieved on human rights alone – however this argument hasn't achieved the traction we all need it to. Promoting good mental health is no longer simply a human rights imperative, it makes economic sense.

Acknowledgments

Thanks to the following for their input and support:

- Dr Dan Chisholm, Chief Economist, World Health Organisation;
- Dr Antonis Kousoulis, Director of Partnerships, Global Mental Health Action Network;

- Professor Geert Dom, Past President, European Psychiatric Association;
- Professor Martin Knapp, Economist and Public Policy Analyst, London School of Economics, and
- Professor Norman Sartorius, Former Director, World Health Organisation.
- Professor Danuta Wasserman, President of the WPA.

Additional resources:

- Economic case studies:
  - The economic case for investing in the prevention of mental health conditions in the UK
- APA Collaborative/Integrated Care Model
  - "Economic Impact of Integrated Medical-Behavioral Healthcare: Implications for Psychiatry"
  - "Potential Economic Impact of Integrated Medical-Behavioral Healthcare"
  - "Behavioral Health Parity – Pervasive Disparities in Access to In-Network Care Continue"
- "The Role of Collaborative Care in Reducing Mental Health Inequities"

Dr. Shubulade Smith, President; Jess Rackham, Deputy Director Policy, RCPsych, 25.9.25

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Document Title : World Economic Forum and global financial leaders meeting in Davos
Author : WPA President, Prof. Danuta Wasserman & RCPSYCH Former President, Dr. Lade Smith
Date : January 2026

MENTAL HEALTH INVESTMENT AS ECONOMIC STRATEGY

To the leaders of global finance, development institutions and capital markets:

As you gather in Davos for the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting, we write on behalf of the Royal College of Psychiatrists and the World Psychiatric Association, comprising of 123 national psychiatric associations, representing the global international coalition behind The Prague Agreement to **urge decisive action on one of the most material**, yet persistently under-invested, **determinants of global prosperity: mental health.**

An estimated **1.1 billion people – nearly one in seven globally – are living with a mental illness.** Mental ill health accounts for approximately **15% of the global burden of disease**, yet on average **only around 2% of government health budgets** are allocated to mental healthcare. This imbalance represents not only a failure of health systems, but a profound economic blind spot.

Launched at the World Psychiatric Congress in Prague, The Prague Agreement has also been co-signed by **mental health charities and organisations** from across regions and resource settings. Together, we are calling on global financiers – including the capital markets, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund – to **incentivise and expect national investment in mental health** as a marker of sustainable economic development and responsible lending.

Mental illness is not a marginal issue. It is the leading cause of disability worldwide and disproportionately affects young people, undermining workforce participation, productivity, and long-term economic growth, while placing sustained pressure on health systems, social care, and public finances. Around **50% of mental health conditions begin before the age of 14, and 75% before the age of 24**. These are the years in which education, skills and future productivity are shaped. Without early intervention and access to evidence-based care, too many young people go on to experience chronic, relapsing illness that limits their ability to complete education, participate in the workforce and contribute fully to society.

For any country to realise its growth potential, it must actively reduce the population-level prevalence of mental illness while improving care for those living with poor mental health. **Good mental healthcare is not a cost to be contained; it is an investment that underpins everything from educational attainment, labour market participation, to productivity and social stability.**

The Prague Agreement therefore calls on global financial institutions and investors to make mental health visible within their decision-making. Specifically, when lending to or investing in countries, financiers should expect to see – or support the development of – a **cross-government national mental health strategy,** with an accompanying implementation plan and at least one tangible, measurable commitment that can be evaluated over time. While there is no single model of mental healthcare, successful systems share common principles: they are population-focused, co-produced with service users, evidence-based, and clinically led in their implementation.

The tools to deliver this already exist. The World Health Organization has identified cost-effective and feasible mental health interventions. UNICEF continues to advocate for improved services for children and young people. United Nations partners support governments to develop investment cases. Psychiatric associations and mental health organisations worldwide stand ready to help build and sustain the mental health workforce and strengthen community-based systems of care.

The case for investing in mental health stands firmly on human rights grounds alone. Yet experience shows that this argument, while morally compelling, has not delivered the scale of change required. It is now equally clear that promoting good mental health is a matter of sound economic judgement. Countries cannot prosper while neglecting the mental health of their populations, and global finance cannot credibly claim to support long-term growth without addressing this reality.

As leaders shaping the future of the global economy, we urge you to recognise mental health as a core pillar of sustainable development and economic resilience. We invite you to engage with The Prague Agreement and to work with clinicians, civil society and governments to ensure that mental health investment becomes an expected and incentivised component of economic support.

The cost of inaction is already visible. The opportunity for change is firmly within reach.

Yours sincerely,





Dr Lade Smith CBE
President
Royal College of Psychiatrists

Professor Danuta Wasserman
President
World Psychiatric Association

On behalf of the signatories to The Prague Agreement.

Document Title : World Psychiatric Association In person Statement to the First Session of the UN Intergovernmental Working Group on the Rights of Older Persons, OHCHR, Palais des Nations, Geneva, 13–17 July 2026

From 13 to 17 July 2026, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) will convene a major meeting at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

The President of the WPA participated in the First Historic Session of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Older Persons, which focused on negotiations aimed at strengthening the international legal framework for the promotion and protection of the human rights of older persons. A Convention on the Rights of Older Persons offers a historic opportunity to close longstanding protection gaps and affirm that dignity, equality, autonomy, participation, health, mental health, care, and support to every person throughout the life course. Its success will ultimately be measured not only by its legal provisions, but by whether these rights are realised in everyday practice — in health care, social care, communities, families, and society as a whole.

The President's message below sets out the WPA's contribution to these negotiations.

Dear Chair, distinguished delegates, and colleagues,

I speak on behalf of the World Psychiatric Association, with deep appreciation for the dedicated work of the WPA Section of Old Age Psychiatry and colleagues engaged in this important process.

Human rights do not diminish with age. They become especially urgent when older persons experience brain health challenges, mental health conditions, cognitive impairment, dementia, psychosocial disability, increasing support needs, or situations of dependency. Too often, these older persons remain invisible in law, policy, health systems, and care systems, while also facing intersecting forms of discrimination, including ageism, ableism, mental health-related stigma, sexism, poverty, social exclusion, and neglect. They may be excluded from decisions about their own lives, placed in institutions without meaningful choice, subjected to unnecessary restraint or coercion, denied appropriate care and support, or deprived of opportunities for social participation. Human rights must therefore be realised in everyday life — in homes, communities, hospitals, long-term care settings, and support systems — not only expressed in legal language.

Population ageing is a global reality. In 2023, approximately 1.1 billion people worldwide were aged 60 years and over, a number projected to reach 2.1 billion by 2050. In 2021, 57 million people were living with dementia worldwide, with nearly 10 million new cases each year. Approximately 14% of adults aged 70 and over live with a mental disorder. These are not marginal issues. They are central to the dignity, autonomy, equality, participation, and wellbeing of millions of older persons and their families.

For these reasons, mental health, brain health, dementia, psychosocial disability, long-term care, community-based care and support, legal capacity, supported decision-making, and protection from abuse and neglect must be clearly reflected in the development of a United Nations Convention on the Rights of Older Persons. These are not only health or social policy issues. They are fundamental human rights concerns.

Supported decision-making should be recognised as an essential safeguard of autonomy, legal capacity, dignity, and agency. Older persons must receive the support they need to express their will and preferences, rather than having decisions made for them solely on the basis of age, diagnosis, disability, or perceived dependency. Institutionalisation must never become the default response to ageing, disability, mental illness, dementia, or care needs.

A future Convention should also support Member States with practical implementation grounded in five core principles: human rights-based care and support; person-centred and relationship-centred approaches; evidence-informed policy and practice; freedom from ageism, ableism, mental healthrelated stigma, and other intersecting forms of discrimination; and accountability through safeguards, monitoring, remedies, education, and training. These principles are essential to ensure that rights are not only recognized in law, but realised in everyday care and support.

Above all, the voices of older persons themselves must be central. Older persons are rights holders and experts through lived experience. Their meaningful participation in the development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the Convention is essential.

Professor Danuta Wasserman
President
World Psychiatric Association
Professor of Psychiatry, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden

The Lancet Psychiatry Commission, led by Irina Pinchuk as first and lead author, examines the profound mental health impact of the war in Ukraine and outlines a roadmap for rebuilding the country's mental health system. Developed by an international panel of 40 experts from 12 countries, provides evidence-based recommendations to modernize mental health care, strengthen human rights, and align Ukraine's services, training, research, and legislation with international and EU standards.

The original publication is:

Pinchuk I, Leventhal BL, Ladyk-Bryzghalova A, et al. The Lancet Psychiatry Commission on Mental Health in Ukraine. The Lancet Psychiatry. 2024;11(11):910–933. **https://doi.org/10.1016/S2215-0366(24)00241-4.**

Document Title : Joint statement by the World Psychiatric Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the European Psychiatric Association, and the Global Expert Task Force on ECT on the portrayal of electroconvulsive therapy in the WHO Guidance on Mental Health Policy and Strategic Action Plans

The World Psychiatric Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the European Psychiatric Association, and the Global Expert Task Force on ECT support the WHO's focus on rights-based, person-centered, and recovery-oriented mental health care but raise concerns about inaccurate claims regarding electroconvulsive therapy (ECT). They argue that portraying ECT as inherently harmful and calling for its restriction or prohibition may increase stigma and reduce access to an evidence-based treatment that research shows is effective, safe, and well-tolerated. The organizations urge the WHO to incorporate strong scientific evidence and patient experiences into future guidance, emphasizing that withholding ECT in life-threatening situations could be unethical.

Authors : David Zilles-Wegner, Danuta Wasserman, Thomas G Schulze, Oliver Pogarell, Theresa Miskimen, Mark H Rapaport, Paul Summergrad, Andrea Fiorillo, Celso Arango; Global Expert Task Force on ECT; Alexander Sartorius.

PubMed — Joint statement by the World Psychiatric Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the European Psychiatric Association, and the Global Expert Task Force on ECT
DOI: 10.1016/S2215-0366(26)00059-3
It was published in The Lancet Psychiatry (2026; 13(5):441–444).

Position Statement on War and Mental Health Issued jointly by the organizing committee following the webinar "Wars in the 21st Century: Mental Health Impacts, Intervention Strategies, and the Cost to Our Humanity" — June 5, 2026

The Global Mental Health Impact of Armed Conflict

No war is local anymore: every conflict inflicts measurable psychological harm far beyond its borders. War brings destruction, violence, and suffering on a scale that defies comprehension, but its violence does not end at the border.

In an age of relentless media, the imagery of atrocity reaches billions and continuous exposure to graphic reports and imagery of barbarity keeps populations worldwide in a state of chronic stress, and as mental health professionals, we understand precisely what that means: existing conditions deteriorate, new ones emerge, and entire societies grow more fragile.

This exposure is not passive. It is a chronic wound, accumulating silently across populations who never held a weapon and never fled a warzone.

This harm is real, it is cumulative, and it cannot be dismissed.

We therefore call on governments, international bodies, and policymakers to formally recognize global mental health impact as an inescapable consequence of armed conflict — and to incorporate it, without exception, into every assessment of the true cost of war.

Document Title : Triennium report for WPA Public Mental Health Special Interest Group
Author : Dr Jonathan Campion (Chair of WPA Public Mental Health Special Interest Group)
Date : 13 July 2026

LEADERSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP

The Group brought together senior international leadership from psychiatry and public health including the following (institutional roles abbreviated) outlined at https://www.wpanet.org/public-mental-health-special-interest-group/:

- **Chair:** Dr Jonathan Campion (Director for Public Mental Health, South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust, UK).
- **Cochair:** Prof Debasish Basu (Head of Psychiatry, PGIMER Chandigarh, India).
- **Committee:** Prof Oye Gureje (Nigeria), Prof Helen Herrman (former WPA President/Australia), Dr Afzal Javed (Immediate Past WPA President/UK), Prof Santiago Levin (Argentina), Dr Kenneth S. Thompson (USA).
- **Advisors:** Prof Vinay Lakra (Australia), Prof Crick Lund (South Africa/UK), Prof Sir Michael Marmot (UK), Prof Norman Sartorius (Switzerland), Prof Shekhar Saxena (USA).
- **Members:** Prof John Allan (Australia), Prof Geert Dom (Belgium), Prof Chris Dowrick (UK), Prof Neeraj Gill (Australia, Prof Yueqin Huang (China), Prof Thomas Schulze (WPA President-Elect), Dr Hanna Tu (Belgium).

PUBLIC MENTAL HEALTH CONTEXT

Mental disorders drive a large share of global disease burden due to high prevalence, onset before adulthood and broad impacts. Effective public mental health (PMH) interventions exist to treat mental disorder, prevent associated impacts, prevent mental disorder from arising and promote mental wellbeing.

Globally, only a minority of people with mental disorder receive treatment while coverage of prevention and promotion interventions remain negligible. Far less coverage occurs in LMICs compared to HICs.

The PMH implementation gap breaches the right to health and results in population scale preventable suffering, broad impacts and associated economic costs. Various reasons account for the gap including insufficient funding with only 2% of global health expenditure allocated to mental health (WHO, 2025) which is unchanged over the past decade.

WPA definition: Public Mental Health (PMH) is a population approach to improve coverage, outcomes and coordination of PMH interventions, supporting efficient, equitable and sustainable reduction of mental health conditions and progress toward the UN SDG target of universal coverage (Campion et al., 2022).

PUBLIC MENTAL HEALTH AND WPA ACTION PLANS

PMH was central to the WPA 2020–2023 Action Plan (supported by the PMH Working Group) and remained closely aligned with the 2023–2026 Action Plan, reflecting the WPA's broadened mission toward prevention and promotion.
As part of the 2023–2026 Action Plan, WPA President Danuta Wasserman launched the WPA Specialist Corner, with PMH as a key cross-cutting theme.

OBJECTIVES OF THE SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

- Improve implementation of evidence-based PMH interventions across countries
- Support WPA-associated work, including the Specialist Corner and related presentations.
- Collaborate with WHO, WONCA, WFPHA and the United Nations.
- Disseminate PMH work through publications, webinars, presentations and training resources.

ACTIVITIES 2023-2026

Meetings of WPA PMH SIG

- Regular Group meetings addressed PMH implementation barriers and opportunities.
- The Group's webpage was regularly updated which following the 2025 transition to of the SIG to the WPA Public Mental Health Section, is now hosted at wpanet.org/section-page/public-mental-health.

WPA Specialist Corner

- PMH was one of six cross-cutting themes (alongside comorbidity, lived experience partnership, ethics/legal issues, digitalisation, and lifestyle) applied across six mental disorders for the WPA Specialist Corner.
- A PMH Expert Group chaired by Jonathan Campion led integration of PMH perspectives
- Jonathan Campion and Vinay Lakra presented at six related symposia at the WPA Congress in Prague (October 2025).

Public Mental Health Training

- Training components were previously defined by the WPA PMH Working Group (Campion et al., 2022)
- A WPA report recommended undergraduate PMH training (Puri & Campion, 2023).
- Global availability of PMH training remains inadequate, particularly in LMICs (Pinto da Costa et al., 2025).
- A WPA initiated international survey on PMH understanding, practice and training barriers, run jointly with EPA, WONCA, WFPHA and GAMIAN-Europe, is being analysed.
- Campion held coordination meetings with the Global Network for Academic Public Health (GNAPH).

Examples of PMH Practice (for planned publication)

Members of the SIG forwarded examples of PMH practice which are planned for publication. Examples included:

- Alan J Flisher Centre for Public Mental Health and Mental Health INTegratioN (MhINT) programme South Africa
- Humanitarian settings: MSF's work, WPA's Advisory Committee on Response to Emergencies (ACRE), WHO mhGAP.
- Others: Prevention of adolescent depression/anxiety via self-regulation and poverty reduction in Colombia, Nepal and South Africa (Lund); PMH interventions in Thailand (Udomratn); integration of physical health care in Australia (Allan); PMH needs assessments for under-5s, eating disorders and intellectual disability (Campion).

Further Work on Definition of Public Mental Health

The 2022 Lancet Psychiatry PMH definition (see section B above) was reaffirmed as 'good enough' and translation into other languages was encouraged.

Collaboration with Other Organisations

- WHO: Campion contributed to a WHO Europe briefing on scaling up mental health in primary care (WHO, 2025); WPA offered support given WHO activity constraints from US funding cuts.
- WONCA/WFPHA: Campion drafted a 2023 tripartite Public Mental Health Joint Statement; joint symposia proposals were submitted but not accepted; Campion cochairs the WFPHA PMH Working Group.
- United Nations: the September 2025 UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs and Mental Health in New York marked the first time mental health was discussed at Heads-of-State level at the General Assembly. Campion represented WPA/EPA on an associated Taskforce for Mental Health; Thomas Schulze (WPA President-Elect) attended on WPA's behalf. The resulting UN Political Declaration was signed in December 2025. WPA also pursued ECOSOC membership to strengthen access to UN processes.
- MSF: MSF delivers mental healthcare across 75 countries (493,000 consultations in 2023); Campion/Herrman chaired a joint symposium at the WPA Congress in Prague (2025), followed by coordination discussions with ACRE.
- UNICEF: ongoing discussion on the PMH implementation gap for children under 5, linked to a related RCPsych report.
- Global Network for Academic Public Health (see 3 above)

Dissemination

Publications – see https://www.wpanet.org/section-page/public-mental-health/: Over a dozen peer-reviewed papers and reports since 2020, including recent outputs such as Ni et al. (Lancet Psychiatry, 2026) on constitutional/legal frameworks for PMH scale-up, Campion & Javed (Neuropsychiatrie, 2026) on PMH being a key WPA priority, Pinto da Costa et al. (BJPsych Advances, 2025) on lack of global PMH training, WFPHA/WONCA/WPA Joint Statement (2023), and WPA report on undergraduate PMH training (Puri & Campion, 2023). These built on earlier WPA PMH Working Group publications (2020–2023) including two Lancet Psychiatry papers on COVID-19 and required actions to address implementation failure.

Presentations: WPA World Congress of Psychiatry in Prague (Oct 2025) — Specialist Corner (6 symposia - Campion/Lakra) and MSF symposium (Campion/Hermann); EPA Congresses in Madrid (Apr 2025) (two symposia/Campion) and Prague (Apr 2026) (opening forum/Campion); APA Congress in New York (May 2024, PMH symposium/Campion); UK RCPsych International Congress (Jun 2025 — eating disorders/Campion; Jun 2026 — under-5s and intellectual disability/Campion); French Public Health Society Congress (Nov 2025, Thompson); and the Indian Association for Social Psychiatry conference in Chandigarh (Sep 2023), where Basu, Campion and Javed launched the Chandigarh Charter on Public Mental Health.

TRANSITION TO WPA PUBLIC MENTAL HEALTH SECTION

In April 2026, the WPA Public Mental Health Special Interest Group merged with the WPA Section on Public Policy and Psychiatry to form the new WPA Public Mental Health Section. Elections for the new Section are currently being organised. The support of Armen Soghoyan (WPA Secretary for Scientific Sections) is gratefully acknowledged.

Document Title : Triennium Report for the World Psychiatric Association Geopsychiatry Special Interest Group 2023-2026
Author : Dr Albert Persaud (Chair), with kind assistance from Geraint Day (Esq), Shagufta Nasir (Ms), Alexander Smith (Esq), Prof Myrna Lashley, Prof Dinesh Bhugra and Prof Rachel Tribe
Date : May 2026

BACKGROUND AND ESTABLISHMENT

The World Psychiatric Association Geopsychiatry Special Interest Group (WPAGSIG) was formally established at the WPA Congress in Vienna, Austria, in September–2023, evolving from the prior WPA Geopsychiatry Action Plan Working Group. Its creation was confirmed by WPA President Professor Afzal Javed. Leadership was elected in October 2023: Dr Albert Persaud (Chair), Dr João Mauricio Castaldelli-Maia then Dr Helena Moura (Co-Chair), and Dr Padmavati Ramachandran (Secretary). A standing committee was constituted in compliance with WPA rules.

Geopsychiatry, the discipline created and architected by Dr Albert Persaud over 15 years, is defined as the intersectoral field examining the interface between geopolitical events and psychiatric practice across all ages and subspecialties. Its two central pillars are:

- the Geopolitical Determinants of Mental Health,
- the CAPE Vulnerability Index as a foreign policy tool to integrate mental health into foreign aid. The field is inherently interdisciplinary, grounded in social justice, cultural relevance, and respect for human rights.

MANDATE AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

The WPAGSIG was established with a clear strategic mandate to synthesise current evidence and propose strategies to address geopolitical challenges on mental health. Its formal terms of reference include:

- Identifying Geopsychiatry topics of substantial interest and producing recommendations for WPA involvement in research, policy, practice, teaching, and service development.
- Integrating Geopsychiatry principles into psychiatric education and disseminating educational materials through seminars, symposia, and webinars.
- Supporting WPA member societies, institutions, and individuals in Geopsychiatry-related research, service development, and education.
- Engaging with international organisations to ensure Geopsychiatry considerations are embedded in their work.

Membership is deliberately diverse, spanning psychiatrists, psychologists, nurses, epidemiologists, social scientists, lawyers, NGO practitioners, statisticians, and academics from across every region of the globe.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS (2023–2026)

Global Research and Surveys

The WPAGSIG completed two landmark multinational surveys during the triennium:

- Geopsychiatry and Psychiatry Residency Curricula (first global survey of its kind): 62.6% of respondents considered inclusion of Geopsychiatry in training "very important," particularly in Latin America and the MENA region. Main barriers identified were lack of faculty expertise (48.1%) and educational resources (52.9%).
- Climate Change and Mental Health — Multinational Survey (44 countries): 83.5% of participants reported exposure to at least one extreme climate event in the past five years (heatwaves, floods, storms). Climate anxiety was significantly higher among women, gender-diverse individuals, and younger adults. Functional disruption due to climate change explained approximately 25% of climate-anxiety score variability.

In addition, WPAGSIG members contributed to a multinational study on "Climate Change and the Erosion of Future-Oriented Functioning" in partnership with the International Institute for Geopsychiatry and the National University of Asunción, Paraguay.

Publications

WPAGSIG members collectively produced over 37 peer-reviewed papers, book chapters, and reports, spanning journals including The Lancet, PLOS Mental Health, International Journal of Social Psychiatry, Asian Journal of Psychiatry, Neuropsychiatrie, and others. Key publications include:

- Second edition of the CAPE Vulnerability Index and an Asia-specific adaptation (CAPE VI-Asia).
- A new framework for funding foreign aid, in direct response to the termination of USA foreign aid programmes.
- A Lancet correspondence on politicised threats to science as a global health risk.
- Papers on Gaza and the decolonisation of mental health responses in humanitarian emergencies.
- Book chapters in the Oxford Textbook of Social Psychiatry and Oxford Textbook of Migrant Psychiatry.
- Contributions to the acclaimed volume: Social Justice, Social Discrimination and Mental Health: Theory, Practice, and Professional Issues (Routledge, 2024).
- Careif pioneering report: The Health Needs of the Indo-Caribbean Community in the United Kingdom.
- Three papers in Portuguese with a specific focus on climate crisis and Geopsychiatry.

Three of the published papers are in Portuguese, with a specific focus on the climate crisis within a Geopsychiatry framework. Both the book and the Careif report were launched simultaneously on World Mental Health Day at an international film festival in London.

Education and Dissemination

The WPAGSIG delivered 7 state-of-the-art Geopsychiatry webinars in partnership with WPA regional partners, the Royal Society for Public Health, and other international collaborators spanning all continents, with specific attention to Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). These covered topics including displacement and gender-based violence, geopolitical determinants of mental health, climate change and mental health, the CAPE Vulnerability Index, and Geopsychiatry in policy-making.

WPAGSIG members delivered over 50 academic presentations at international conferences and seminars across Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, Africa, North America, and Southeast Asia. The group participated in the Annual Conference of the Chinese Psychiatrist Association (CPA, April 2025) and the Austrian Association of Psychiatrists Annual Congress (Vienna, 2025).

International Symposium — Bern, Switzerland (September 2024)

A landmark five-day academic symposium entitled "Global Mindscape: Integrating Geopsychiatry Perspectives Across Continents" was convened at the University of Bern, Department of Forensic Psychiatry, hosted by Prof Michael Liebrenz, Prof Ana Buadze, and Dr Alexander Smith, with support from the Swiss National Science Foundation. Scholars from Brazil, Lebanon, the Caribbean, India, Guyana, Russia, Pakistan, the UK, Europe, UAE, and NGOs participated. The symposium included a field visit to the Psychiatric University Hospital Zürich and concluded with a delegation visit to the British Ambassador to Switzerland to discuss the global significance of Geopsychiatry, resulting in the crafting of the Bern Geopsychiatry Declaration.

Policy Engagement

The WPAGSIG Chair engaged directly with UK Members of Parliament (MPs) to advocate for the integration of the CAPE Vulnerability Index as a Foreign Policy tool to embed mental health into foreign aid frameworks. The Wellcome Trust and the Medical Research Foundation, two major global research funders, were secured as attendees at WPAGSIG meetings to explore policy opportunities and research funding.

The WPAGSIG also supported the establishment of the Geopsychiatry Emerging Academic and Clinical Practice Group under the International Institute for Geopsychiatry — a consortium of diverse disciplines dedicated to addressing urgent global mental health challenges and shaping future research and policy priorities.

Planned Activities to End of September 2026

- Participation in the multinational study on "Climate Change and the Erosion of Future-Oriented Functioning" (with the International Institute for Geopsychiatry and the National University of Asunción, Paraguay).
- Forthcoming webinar: Climate Heat and Mental Health in Asia.
- Joint webinar with the Geopsychiatry Emerging Academic and Clinical Practice Group: Mental Health of Children in Conflict and War Zones.
- Continued follow-up with UK Lawmakers on the use of the CAPE Vulnerability Index as a Foreign Aid tool.
- Multiple Geopsychiatry presentations at academic and clinical events globally by WPAGSIG members.
- Continued production and submission of Geopsychiatry academic papers across international journals and textbooks.

Leadership and Global Membership

The WPAGSIG is led by Prof Albert Persaud (Chair, King's College London/UK; Distinguished Founding Patron, International Institute for Geopsychiatry), Prof Helena Moura (Co-Chair, University of Brasilia, Brazil), and Prof Padmavati Ramachandran (Secretary, SCARF, India). Prof Dinesh Bhugra and Prof Afzal Javed serve as officer-level members.

Full membership encompasses 35+ scholars and practitioners from over 25 countries, including Switzerland, Italy, Russia, Thailand, Philippines, Lebanon, UAE, Egypt, Nigeria, Cameron, Pakistan, Canada, USA, Brazil, Paraguay, Serbia, India, Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, UK, and more, reflecting the group's genuinely global and multiprofessional character.

Strategic Significance and Core Values

The WPAGSIG operates at the intersection of some of the most pressing challenges facing global mental health today: armed conflict, climate change, migration, health inequalities, fragile security, and the erosion of human rights. Its work is unique in providing a conceptual framework — Geopsychiatry — that connects global geopolitical determinants directly to local psychiatric outcomes and practice.

The group's values of integrity, respect, and fairness underpin a commitment to leadership that shapes a global geopolitical mental health mindset, grounded in principles of social justice, cultural relevance, and the right to mental health as a universal human right.

CONTACT

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The WPA Neuropsychiatry Special Interest Group (NSIG) was established by the WPA General Assembly at the Vienna Congress in 2023, reflecting the growing importance of neuroscience in contemporary psychiatric practice. Its membership is growing steadily.

The Group aims to promote neuropsychiatry as a bridge between psychiatry, neurology, neuropsychology and related disciplines. Its focus includes complex conditions that require both psychiatric and neurological expertise, including neurocognitive disorders, autoimmune encephalitis, functional neurological symptom disorders, movement disorders, epilepsyrelated psychiatric conditions, brain injury, neurodevelopmental disorders and psychotropic medication-related neurological syndromes.

A central objective is to strengthen the neuropsychiatric approach across mainstream psychiatry. This approach integrates biological, psychological and social-environmental factors in the assessment and management of patients, while recognising the increasing relevance of cognitive, neurological and developmental complexity in everyday psychiatric practice.

The Group is developing educational and training initiatives to support both specialist neuropsychiatrists and general psychiatrists. A major project is the creation of an interactive, regularly updated International e-Handbook of Neuropsychiatry, being developed in collaboration with the International Neuropsychiatric Association. The Group also plans teaching programmes and greater representation of neuropsychiatric themes at WPA conferences.

The NSIG will further contribute to discussion and education concerning advances in neuropsychiatric treatment, including brain stimulation therapies, novel treatments for neurocognitive disorders and tardive dyskinesia, and emerging therapeutics informed by genetics, stem cell biology and immunology. Proposals are being sought for topics on which international position statements and guidelines are necessary, along with volunteers to lead such statements. An initial proposal is to develop guidelines for the management of covert cerebral small vessel disease.

Through education, collaboration and clinical curiosity, the WPA NSIG seeks to make neuropsychiatry more visible and practically relevant, enriching psychiatric care and contributing to a shared international vision for the future of brain health. We invite members of the WPA with an interest in neuropsychiatry or neuroscience to become active members of the NSIG.

Document Title : WPA Position Statement on Responsible, Equitable and Evidence-Based Digital Mental Health in the Era of Artificial Intelligence (2024–2026)
Author: Prof. Davor Mucić, MD, PhD, Chair, WPA Digital Mental Health Section
Date : August 2026

Digital technologies are increasingly embedded in psychiatric practice, service organization, education, research and public mental health. Telepsychiatry is now an established modality of care, while mobile applications, digital therapeutics, remote monitoring, wearable technologies, digital phenotyping and artificial intelligence (AI) are rapidly influencing how mental healthcare is accessed, delivered and evaluated. These innovations can improve access, continuity of care and the use of limited professional resources, but they also introduce risks related to clinical validity, accountability, privacy, cybersecurity, algorithmic bias, inequity and the therapeutic relationship.

This Position Statement updates and complements the **2023 WPA Position Statement on Global Digitalization in Mental Health and Care** and responds to major developments in generative AI, digital implementation and governance. It provides a common professional framework that can be adapted to different legal, cultural, economic and healthcare contexts while maintaining minimum standards for safety, evidence, accountability and equity.

The central position of the WPA Digital Mental Health Section is that **digital technologies should augment, not replace, psychiatrists and other mental health professionals.** Responsibility for diagnosis, treatment planning, prescribing, involuntary interventions, suicide and violence risk management, safeguarding and crisis decisions must remain with appropriately qualified professionals. AI-enabled systems, predictive analytics, remote monitoring and other automated technologies may support such decisions but must not determine them without competent human review.

CORE POSITIONS

1. **Clinical purpose must precede technological adoption.** Digital tools should address a clearly defined clinical, educational, organizational or public-health need and demonstrate benefit over realistic alternatives.
2. **Digital technologies should augment professional care.** They should not replace adequate staffing, comprehensive clinical assessment, therapeutic relationships or meaningful access to professionals.
3. Human accountability is essential for high-stakes decisions. Clinical responsibility must remain identifiable and human whenever digital systems influence diagnosis, treatment, prescribing, risk assessment, involuntary care or crisis management.
4. **Evidence requirements should be proportionate to risk.** Technologies affecting diagnosis, treatment, access or safety require appropriate validation in relevant populations and settings.
5. **Safety must be monitored throughout the technology lifecycle.** Organizations should monitor effectiveness, adverse events, model or performance drift, unequal outcomes and unintended consequences, with clear procedures for correction, suspension or withdrawal.
6. **Privacy, confidentiality, data governance and cybersecurity are clinical obligations.** Mental health data require strong protection. Identifiable patient information should not be entered into systems that have not been approved for this purpose.
7. **Transparency must support informed use.** Patients and professionals should understand when AI is being used, its role, limitations and data use, and how human review can be obtained.
8. **Equity and cultural safety must be designed and measured.** Accessibility, affordability, language, literacy, disability access, cultural context and representativeness should be considered throughout development, procurement and implementation. Non-digital alternatives should remain available when clinically necessary.
9. **Autonomy and informed consent must be meaningful.** Patients should receive clear information on digital processes, risks, alternatives and data flows and, where clinically feasible, be able to discontinue digital care without losing access to necessary treatment.
10. **Organizations must be ready before deployment.** Implementation requires accountable leadership, trained staff, adequate workflows, emergency procedures, interoperability, technical support and sustainable financing.

11. **Digital competence should become a core psychiatric competency.** Training should include telepsychiatry, AI literacy, evidence appraisal, data governance, cybersecurity, bias, ethics, cultural safety and communication.
12. **Research should be rigorous, inclusive and globally relevant.** Studies should report intended use, data provenance, errors, subgroup performance and unintended consequences, and should include diverse populations and low-resource settings.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

The WPA and National Psychiatric Associations should develop clinically usable guidance adapted to national law and resources, integrate digital competencies into education and continuing professional development, support independent evaluation and promote exchange across WPA regions.

Governments and regulators should apply risk-proportionate regulation, clarify responsibility and liability, require transparency, cybersecurity, auditability and incident reporting, and invest in digital infrastructure without eliminating non-digital access to essential mental healthcare.

Healthcare organizations should establish multidisciplinary governance, assess clinical, ethical, privacy, accessibility and equity risks before deployment, define responsibility for reviewing digital outputs and monitor safety, effectiveness, workload and unequal outcomes.

Psychiatrists and clinical teams should use professional judgement when selecting digital modalities, explain their role and limitations to patients, verify AI-generated clinical content before use, protect confidential information and report unsafe outputs, bias or system failures.

Educators, researchers and developers should strengthen digital and AI competencies, involve clinicians and service users in design and evaluation, test systems in representative populations and report negative findings and implementation failures as well as successful outcomes.

IMPLEMENTATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Digital implementation should be staged and proportionate to risk. Every deployment should have a defined purpose, accountable owner, evidence base, human-review arrangements, data-governance framework, incident procedures and clear criteria for continuation or withdrawal. Monitoring should continue throughout the technology lifecycle and include clinical outcomes, safety, patient experience, workload, equity and unintended consequences.

CONCLUSION

Digital mental health has entered a phase in which responsible implementation is as important as technological capability. Psychiatry should neither reject beneficial innovation nor accept it uncritically. Digital technologies should strengthen rather than replace human expertise; high-stakes clinical responsibility must remain human; evidence and monitoring should reflect risk; and privacy, cybersecurity, transparency, cultural safety and equity must be treated as essential components of clinical quality.

The WPA Digital Mental Health Section therefore calls for a patient-centred, evidence-based, rights-respecting and globally inclusive approach to digital mental health, with sustained collaboration among patients, carers, clinicians, professional associations, health systems, educators, researchers, regulators and technology developers.

Document Title : Greece Violation statement – Ethics Committee
Author: Prof. Danuta Wasserman and Prof. Silvana Galderisi
Date : 9 September 2026

The WPA Committee on Ethics and Review (CoER) received a complaint from Mr. Sakis Papadopulos, concerning a breach of mental health rights in Greece. According to a new law (5265/2026), a series of discriminatory measures are introduced against young individuals with diagnosed mental health conditions.

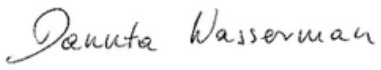
The complaint was accompanied by several documents that the CoER translated and analyzed and came to the conclusion that the law adopts a stigmatising position to put those with psychiatric illness through a different and more arduous process to those with physical illness. In particular:

- Article 208 provides that medical certification concerning mental health issues will be accepted only if issued by a public hospital. This provision is contrary both to the legislation establishing the equal validity of medical opinions issued by all physicians and to the principle of equal treatment of citizens and persons with mental health conditions in comparison with persons suffering from physical illnesses. It introduces substantially different criteria for the former, by requiring certification exclusively from a public healthcare institution.
- Article 183 provides for a total period of deferment of up to five years for persons with mental illness, as compared with a maximum of only two years for persons suffering from other illnesses.

Both of the above provisions result in discriminatory treatment of citizens with mental health conditions, further contribute to the stigma associated with mental illness, and may potentially infringe upon their fundamental individual rights.

In agreement with the WPA President, the chair of the CoER contacted Kostas Fontoulakis to check whether the Hellenic Psychiatric Association (HPA) agreed with the opportunity of an action taken by the WPA. The HPA asked for a letter to be addressed to the Ministry of Justice, along the same **lines as their own letter to the Ministry.**

Your sincerely,





Danuta Wasserman
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Prof. Silvana Galderisi
Chair of the Ethics Committee
World Psychiatric Association (WPA)

Document Title : Working Group: Defining and Managing Autism Spectrum Disorder
Author : Marco O. Bertelli (chair), psychiatrist, Italy
Luis Salvador-Carulla (co-chair), psychiatrist, Australia
Date : May 2026

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Mashudat Bello-Mojeed, Child and adolescent psychiatrist, Nigeria

Established in August 2019

CURRENT COMPOSITION

Marco O. Bertelli (chair), psychiatrist, Italy;
Luis Salvador-Carulla (co-chair), psychiatrist, Australia;
Muhammad Waqar Azeem, child psychiatrist, Qatar;
Maria Luisa Scattoni, neurobiologist, Italy;
Eduardo Lazcano-Ponce, epidemiologist, Mexico;
Bill Sullivan, family physician and bio-ethicist, United States of America;
Ashok Roy, psychiatrist, United Kingdom;
Kerim Munir, psychiatrist and child-adolescent psychiatrist, United States of America;
Mashudat Bello-Mojeed, child and adolescent psychiatrist, Nigeria.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2024-2026

Collaborations

- Outcomes and follow-up activities of the participation to the International Working Group of the International Prader-Willi Syndrome Organization (IPWSO), including the ECHO (Mental Health Extension of Community Healthcare Outcomes) programme. https://download2.eurordis.org/membersresources/Mental-Health_Report_June-2025.pdf

- Outcomes and follow-up activities of the participation to the World Health Organization Working Group for the Development of the Package of Rehabilitation Interventions for persons with ASD.

- Collaboration with the WPA Working Group on Intellectual Disability and the WPA section 'Psychiatry of Intellectual Disability' in several activities and publications.

Dissemination

Ongoing awareness campaign for the integration of the Springer textbook 'Psychiatry of Intellectual Disability and Autism Spectrum Disorder' into the training curricula of national psychiatric societies in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Presentations and special events have also been held at several national and international congresses.

Education

Draft of training materials for the WPA Educational Portal (and WPA Specialist Corner) on epidemiology, phenomenology, and assessment of psychiatric disorders in persons with ASD, including level 2 and 3 ASD.

Publications

- **WPA Website**

Publication of eNews on the WPA web and eNewsletter, including reports and updates.

- **Journals**

Publication of 17 papers in peer-reviewed scientific journals, including the following:

- Bertelli MO et al. (2024). Autism and psychopathology - prevalence, identification, and symptoms equivalence … Frontiers in Psychiatry.
- Bertelli MO et al. (2024). Eating and feeding disorders in adults with intellectual developmental disorder with and without autism spectrum disorder. Journal of Intellectual Disability Research.
- Bertelli MO et al. (2024). Is it still autism? The increasing broadening of the autism spectrum. Autism Research
- Lemay KR … Roy A, et al. (2024). Implementation of the International Classification of Diseases 11th revision behavioural indicators for disorders of intellectual development with co-occurring autism spectrum disorder. Journal of Intellectual Disability Research.
- Bertelli MO et al. (2025). Definition, Diagnosis, and Prevalence of Autism Spectrum Disorder. In: Bennett, G., Goodall, E. (eds) The Palgrave Encyclopedia of Disability. Palgrave.
- Bertelli MO et al., (2025). Integrated Care for People with Intellectual Disability and Autism Spectrum Disorder. In: Amelung, V. et al. (eds) Handbook of Integrated Care. Springer, Cham.
- Akomolafe AF … Azeem MW, et al. (2025). Estimates of the prevalence of autism spectrum disorder in the Middle East and North Africa region: A systematic review and Meta-Analysis. BMC Public Health.
- Azeem MW, Nazeer A (guest editors) Special issue of Current Opinion in Psychiatry - Neurodevelopmental disorders – including the following papers:
    - Forte L, Bianco A, Bertelli MO. (2026). Instrumental assessment of psychotic disorders in intellectual developmental disorders and autism with cognitive or major communication issues.
    - Munir KM. (2026). Etiology of autism spectrum disorders: recent advances and emerging directions.
    - Greydanus DE, Azeem MW, et al., (2026) Challenging behaviors in adolescents with intellectual and developmental disabilities: current pharmacological perspectives.
    - AlMuraikhi M, Azeem MW, et al., (2026). Recognizing autism in vulnerable populations: an equity lens and guidance.
- Munir K, Roy A, Bertelli M, … Salvador-Carulla L. (2026). Reframing psychiatry of intellectual developmental disorders: from margins to mainstream, from classification to care. World Psychiatry.

BOOKS

- Autism Unfolded - An Easy-to-Read Guide to the Science That Matters. Springer – Hippocrates series. (Work in progress)
- The International Handbook of Psychopharmacology and Intellectual Disability and Autism. Palgrave. (Work in progress)

CONGRESSES

Participation in 12 international congresses, among which:

- 32nd EPA Congress of Psychiatry, Budapest, 2024.
- 15th Congress of the European Association for Mental Health in Intellectual Disability, Ghent, 2025
- 25th WPA World Congress of Psychiatry, Prague, 2025; Specialist Corner on Intellectual Impairment (Bertelli M), 2 symposia, 2 communications, and 1 poster
- 26th WPA World Congress of Psychiatry, Stockholm; 2 symposia, and 4 proposals of oral communications.

REFRAMING PSYCHIATRY OF INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS: FROM MARGINS TO MAINSTREAM, FROM CLASSIFICATION TO CARE

Over the past decade, recognition of the mental health needs of individuals with intellectual developmental disorders (IDD) has advanced significantly. These advances have transformed our understanding of etiology, enriched psychiatric practice, and increased focus on global equity. In this context, the WPA Section on Psychiatry of Intellectual and Developmental Disorders and its affiliated Working Group have maintained a strong global presence, focusing on building capacity, improving training, and promoting inclusive, person-centred psychiatric services[1]. We see a light at the end of a tunnel, one historically marked by neglect and inequality, now illuminated by scientific progress, ethical responsibility, and collective dedication.

For too long, individuals with IDD have been pushed to society's margins – excluded from education and health care, subjected to lifelong institutionalization, eugenic policies, and even state-sponsored extermination. Psychiatry, at times complicit, distanced itself by placing IDD in Axis II of the DSM frameworks. Individuals with IDD were often left out of epidemiological studies, clinical trials, public policies, and scientific research. Even the Global Burden of Disease Study limited its analysis to IDD without known aetiology, excluding established genetic conditions such as Down syndrome, perinatal injuries, and other identified causes[2]. Concurrent IDD continues to be often categorized under autism in estimates of disability adjusted life years and related costs. As a result, diagnostic overshadowing and therapeutic nihilism persist within the scientific community.

Nonetheless, today, IDD plays an increasingly central role in our understanding of developmental neurobiology, behavioral phenotypes, genomics, precision medicine, and comparative clinical effectiveness research, alongside its integrated model of health, social, and other sectors in care delivery. Early intervention, lifelong care, interdisciplinary collaboration, and a renewed focus on dignity and inclusion now define the field. This shift is not just scientific and technical – it is moral. Psychiatry is returning to its roots as a healing profession, grounded in shared humanity.

The inclusion of IDD in the neurodevelopmental disorder group in DSM-5 and ICD-11, led by members of this Section, has been catalytic, leading to significant changes in its diagnostic criteria[3]. Notably, severity levels now rely on adaptive behaviors instead of IQ-centric thresholds, with a tripartite model of these behaviors better reflecting key skill areas (conceptual, social and practical), which indicate individual support needs. The increased adoption of the biopsychosocial model, rooted in developmental and lifespan perspectives, has also further driven the shift from deficit-based to strength-based, person-centred care[4–5].

In response to global challenges – particularly in low-resource settings – our Section and its affiliated Working Group have adopted a strategic, multifaceted approach aligned with the goals outlined in the WPA Action Plan 2023-2026[6–8]. The initiatives described below show our effort to strengthen global capacity and promote equitable care.

Edited by Section officers, the Textbook of Psychiatry of Intellectual Disability and Autism Spectrum Disorder[9] is a volume with 43 chapters written by 116 leading specialists. It is the most comprehensive single resource on psychiatric comorbidity in IDD and low-functioning autism spectrum disorder to date, offering detailed guidance across etiology, assessment, treatment (including behavioral, pharmacological and psychosocial approaches), and prognosis. It has helped shift the field toward an integrated and evidence-informed framework for psychiatric care in these conditions, sig- nalling significant progress aligned with the objectives of the WPA and the World Health Organization (WHO).

The Section and the Working Group also developed the Global E-Handbook on Intellectual Developmental Disorder Psychiatry, an evolving, open-access publication now available on the WPA website, consolidating insights from individual countries across all WPA regions. Covering policy, training, service models and human rights, the handbook is a living document that fosters international collaboration and promotes knowledge equity. Active encouragement for further global contributions is especially emphasized from underrepresented regions.

To improve foundational knowledge globally, the Section and the Working Group created a free IDD Introductory Podcast available on the WPA website. Designed as a primer for clinicians and trainees, this resource provides a concise overview of IDD diagnosis, intervention principles, and ethical considerations.

A dedicated chapter in the Global E-Handbook comprises the WPA Human Rights Statement on Mental Health in Individuals with IDD, which affirms the WPA's stance, approved by the General Assembly, on the rights of individuals with IDD and co-occurring mental disorders, reinforcing obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The statement emphasizes person-centred care and equitable access to psychiatric services as professional responsibilities, rather than mere aspirations.

We have also established a continuing professional development resource on IDD psychiatry hosted on the WPA web platform, which includes a certification pathway suitable for both academic and clinical training. A significant revision of this resource is scheduled in the next two years to incorporate new evidence, case studies, and evolving standards of practice.

The Section and the Working Group have also actively contributed to the WHO Package of Interventions, as part of the Rehabilitation 2030 initiative. The inclusion of Module 5, which focuses on neurodevelopmental disorders, marks a milestone in integrating IDD and autism spectrum disorder into global health strategies and rehabilitation systems, particularly for resource-limited countries[10].

Under the WPA Specialist Corner on Advances in Science and Ethics of IDD Clinical Care, we have established educational content that links scientific advances to ethical practice in IDD psychiatry. Launched as part of the WPA Action Plan 2023-2026, this platform will highlight the importance of culturally informed care models, with a focus on vulnerability, rights, and regional diversity.

Despite these advances, significant challenges lie ahead. Diagnostic overshadowing, service fragmentation, and marginalization persist as everyday issues in psychiatry. The ongoing neglect of individuals with borderline intellectual functioning, characterized by disproportionately high mental health burden, further emphasizes the need for training and system reform in this domain. Looking ahead, we will continue to prioritize the global key areas[11]. Expanding contributions to the Global E-Handbook will serve as a dynamic platform for international collaboration.

By increasing contributions, especially from underserved regions, we aim to better represent diverse systems and contexts in IDD psychiatry. Advancing person-centred care remains a key priority. We seek to continue to define psychiatry's role in promoting autonomy, dignity, and social inclusion for people with IDD. High clinical standards must be balanced with flexibility, cultural sensitivity, and respect for personal choices, as well as culturally responsive practices. Embedding ethics and human rights-based perspectives must be integral rather than additive in mainstream psychiatric training. Specialized content needs to address evolving regional insights and highlight gaps in culturally adapted care.

The efforts of the Section and the Working Group have gained significant momentum but need to be sustained. The support of future WPA Action Plans[12] remains essential. As psychiatrists and mental health professionals, members of the WPA now possess the frameworks, tools and global insights to challenge the historic marginalization of people with IDD. Continued investment in infrastructure, education and visibility is crucial. Psychiatry's role in IDD care must transition from a fragmented, medicalized approach to a comprehensive, value-based commitment to inclusion within mainstream psychiatry. With a clear vision and shared purpose, we believe that we are not only approaching the light at the end of the tunnel, but are actively heading toward it, moving from the margins to the mainstream.

AUTHORS AND AFFILIATIONS

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Report of the WPA Action Plan on Evidence-Based Psychopharmacology

The final report of the working group

Since its establishment and through the year 2023, the initiative "WPA Action Plan on Evidence-Based Psychopharmacology" has been involved in a number of activities, as follows:

Chair

Konstantinos N. Fountoulakis

Members

- Michael Berk (Australia)
- Ramalingam Chithiramohan (UK / Sri Lanka)
- Peter Falkai (Germany)
- Kostas Fountoulakis (Greece)
- Min Chyi Huang (Taiwan)
- Siegfried Kasper (Austria)
- Hans-Jurgen Moeller (Germany)
- Tarek Okasha (Egypt)
- Daria Smirnova (Russia)
- Stephen Stahl (US)
- Mauricio Tohen (US)
- Eva Maria Tsapakis (Greece)
- Eduard Vieta (Spain)
- Mohandas Warrier (India)

WORKING GROUP TASKS

- To identify topics related to the improvement of pharmacotherapy practice worldwide
- To identify member societies, institutions, and individuals interested in and willing to participate in the initiative

COMMUNICATION / DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES

During the COVID pandemic, we initiated the "Meet the Expert" webinars and uploaded all of them for easy access on YouTube (e.g., https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M5dRxCrUijQ). The initiative is sponsored by the MSc in Clinical Mental Health of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece. The first volume of the book (Meet the Expert, Vol. 1) is in print by Springer.
We have also provided several educational videos on the WPA website.

MEETINGS

Two major congresses were organized every year and co-organized by the WPA: "The Days of Mental Health" every November and the "International Congress on Neurobiology and Psychopharmacology" in spring in Thessaloniki (www.psychiatry.gr).

WORK (STILL) IN PROGRESS

We launched the WPA/CINP Study on Tool develOpment for Psychosis (WPA/CINP TOP Study), whose primary aim is to develop a novel scale for the assessment of pharmaceutical adverse events.
This scale will be comprehensive and detailed. It will include all known adverse events caused by psychopharmacological agents and will also include both a self-report and a rater's version. To our knowledge,

there is currently no self-report adverse events scale, and it is unknown whether such a scale can be developed, what its reliability and validity would be, and whether some adverse events can be self-reported while others cannot.
We brought together the WPA, the CINP, and the WFSBP, and we are working to also involve the WHO in a joint initiative to establish a permanent mechanism for the development of position statements, guidance, and guidelines, as well as a think tank for planning the future of mental health.
The work of the group for the development of Treatment Guidelines for Bipolar Disorder is ongoing, and approximately 50% has been completed.
The working group on the development of Treatment Guidelines for Unipolar Depression has been assembled but is pending approval by the WFSBP.

Document Title : WPA Triennium report 2023–2026 : CoER Coopted Members Group on Supporting and Implementing Alternatives to Coercion in Mental Health Care
Author : Associate Professor John Allan
Date : June 2026

Over the past triennium, the CoER Coopted Members Group on Supporting and Implementing Alternatives to Coercion in Mental Health Care has continued to support mental health professionals and their organisations, as well as people with lived experience and their families and carers, through research, service development, and education programmes.

GROWING GLOBAL MOMENTUM

As highlighted in the WPA Position Statement, interest in alternatives to coercion is growing as mental health services adopt more human rights-based approaches, strengthen their recovery focus, and deepen their understanding of trauma-informed care.

- This shift is occurring not only in high-income countries, but also across low- and middle-income countries.
- New research, policy attention, and changes in clinical and organisational practice are being reported worldwide.
- The response to the WHO QualityRights Toolkit and Training, along with the introduction of programmes such as SafeWards in many countries, has been highly encouraging.

ACHIEVEMENTS

During the triennium, the Coopted Members Group made progress across publications, consultation, and professional education.

- The Group published a series of themed articles on human rights and the impact of coercion, drawing on policy, legal, ethical, clinical, and lived-experience perspectives which has been well received. A particularly notable article aligned the WHO QualityRights initiative with the WPA position statement and implementation programme to highlight their common goal[1]. It received the BJPsych Editor's Choice award for lead authors Professor Neeraj Gill and Dr Natalie Drew and is now widely cited.

- The WPA Consultation on Alternatives to Coercion was completed and published, with responses from 20 Member Societies representing 57,000 psychiatrists, 98 people with lived experience, 33 family members and informal caregivers, and 11 organisations representing one or both groups. Encouragingly, all Member Societies reported that they were already taking action or planning to do so. In addition to sharing their experiences, respondents offered practical suggestions for achieving change, many of which speak to the need for relationships, understanding, respect, trust and improving the skills, attitudes and knowledge of all involved. View the report: https://www.wpanet.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Alternatives-to-Coercion-Report-FINAL.pdf

- The Group continued to deliver seminars and courses at WPA meetings, supporting ongoing education and wider implementation of alternatives to coercion.

PRIORITIES FOR FURTHER WORK

Significant work is still needed to strengthen the standing of psychiatry and advance alternatives to coercion in mental health care.

·Develop standardised measures of coercion so progress can be compared within and across countries.
·Support policy and legislative reform that enables change in practice.
·Expand training, particularly at undergraduate level and across whole clinical teams including lived experience.
·Ensure that people with lived experience, families, and carers are empowered to lead and shape this work.

We are grateful for the strong collaboration between the Group and Partnerships with Service Users and Family Carers especially Guadalupe Morales Cano and Professor Martha Savage, and for the support of Ethics and Review Committee Chair Professor Silvana Galderisi and former President Professor Helen Herrman.

Associate Author : Professor John Allan

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Document Title : WPA Volunteering Working Group Work during the 2023–2026 Triennium
Author : Sophia Thomson, John Allan, and Egor Chumakov
Date : 1 March 2026

BACKGROUND OF THE WORKING GROUP

The World Psychiatric Association (WPA) Volunteering Working Group was established by the WPA President to support the objectives of the 2020–2023 Action Plan, with a particular focus on capacity building. Its primary mission is to expand educational opportunities by connecting member societies in need of professional development with volunteer trainers from other member societies worldwide. The activities of the Working Group continued during the 2023–2026 triennium with the support of WPA President Professor Danuta Wasserman and Secretary for Education & Scientific Publications Professor Norbert Skokauskas.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The WPA Volunteering platform is designed to connect interested member societies, enabling volunteer trainers to share their expertise and experience. This initiative aims to foster the development of skills, knowledge, and professional confidence among psychiatrists, trainees, and other mental health professionals who have limited access to training opportunities and educational resources.

WORKING GROUP LEADERSHIP TEAM

- Co-Chair: Sophia Thomson (UK)
- Co-Chair: Marc H.M. Hermans (Belgium) for the first 1.5 years of the triennium and John Allan (Australia) for the last 1.5 years of the triennium
- Secretary: Egor Chumakov (Russia)
- Working Group Members: Sophia Thomson (UK), John Allan (Australia), Egor Chumakov (Russia), Marc H.M. Hermans (Belgium), Peter Hughes (UK), Jacques van Hoof (Netherlands), Martha Savage (New Zealand), Sovady Bora (Cambodia), Amine Larnaout (Tunisia), Roxanna Ruiz (Guatemala)

GUIDELINES AND DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE ONLINE

All information and documents related to the WPA Volunteering Programme are available on the official WPA Volunteering Working Group webpage: https://www.wpanet.org/working-group-on-volunteer-program/

ACHIEVEMENTS AND ONGOING PROJECTS

Following the success of the WPA Volunteering Programme pilot projects conducted in Mexico and Pakistan during the 2020–2023 triennium, further efforts were made to organize training initiatives. In 2023, a workshop on mental health research was delivered to psychiatrists and psychiatric residents in Guatemala. The training was conducted by Dr. Ingrid Vargas-Huicochea and her team from the Research Coordination of the Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health, Faculty of Medicine, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. The project was organized with the assistance and support of the WPA Zonal Representative Dr. Thelma Sanchez.

The sessions were held online, and participants who successfully completed the activity received certificates of attendance. Invitations were extended through the psychiatrist coordinating the specialists in Guatemala, welcoming all those interested in developing a research proposal. The workshop aimed to equip participants with the necessary skills to turn their research ideas into an initial draft protocol; completing a research protocol was therefore a key requirement for obtaining the certificate.

A second project sought to respond to requests from individual colleagues in Libya to organize training in psychopharmacology within the country. In response, repeated efforts were made to establish contact

with relevant authorities in Libya, offering to arrange online training in psychopharmacology for colleagues there. Professor Amine Larnaout in Tunisia also offered to host trainees from Libya at his hospital for several months. Unfortunately, this project did not come to fruition.
One of the objectives of the Working Group during the 2023–2026 triennium was to build stable partnerships with member societies. With the support of the WPA Secretariat, several attempts were made to involve WPA Zonal Representatives in the project through different channels of communication.

In the final year, collaboration with the WPA Early Career Psychiatrists (ECPs) Section was intensified. Following the renewal of the ECPs Section's Operational Committee, an official representative of the Section was appointed to the Working Group and subsequently integrated into its activities.

The outcomes of the Working Group's efforts were submitted as part of a symposium proposal for the WPA Congress 2025 in Prague. Unfortunately, the proposal was not accepted by the Organizing Committee. However, several productive working meetings took place during the Congress in Prague, providing an opportunity to disseminate information about the objectives of the WPA Volunteering Programme. We extend our gratitude to the WPA Secretariat for their assistance in organizing these meetings.

A list of potential training topics has also been developed, which could be offered to member societies expressing interest in volunteer-based learning opportunities.

WAYS FORWARD

Advancing human rights through voluntary initiatives and educational activities continues to be a central priority for the Working Group on Volunteering. Looking ahead, the Working Group plans to establish additional connections with the World Health Organization during the next triennium, pending support from the elected WPA Executive Committee, with the aim of developing joint educational projects.

Furthermore, taking into account feedback from participants met during the WPA Congress 2025 in Prague, efforts are currently underway to consider renaming both the WPA Volunteering Programme and the Working Group in order to make the title more transparent and accessible to those not yet familiar with its activities.

The WPA Volunteering platform is currently accessible to all WPA member organizations. Member societies seeking support with training in various psychiatric fields are encouraged to contact the two co-leads of the WPA Working Group on Volunteering to discuss their needs and explore how the Working Group can connect them with appropriate volunteer trainers. Similarly, member organizations whose psychiatrists wish to contribute their expertise and time on a voluntary basis are also welcome to initiate discussions with the two co-leads.

Military personnel and veterans constitute a population with distinct occupational exposures that may significantly affect psychological health. Ongoing armed conflicts, rapid changes in military operations, and the emergence of new technologies in warfare have increased concern regarding the mental health consequences of military service. Protecting psychological well-being is essential for maintaining functional capacity, supporting family relationships, and ensuring successful adaptation after service.

Service members may encounter combat, life-threatening situations, traumatic loss, moral injury, military sexual trauma, prolonged separations from loved ones, and repeated deployments. Modern military operations have also created new sources of psychological strain. Personnel involved in cyber defence, intelligence gathering, or remotely operated weapons systems can experience substantial emotional burden despite being physically distant from the battlefield. Exposure to these stressors may result in adverse outcomes during active service and long after transition to civilian life.

A broad range of mental health conditions affect military and veteran populations. Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), complex PTSD, depressive disorders, anxiety disorders, substance use disorders, and suicide-related behaviours are among the most frequent concerns. Combat and operational stress reactions represent common responses to extraordinary circumstances and require prompt recognition and support. Although many service members adapt successfully to demanding environments, others experience persistent symptoms that interfere with daily functioning, social relationships, and occupational performance.

One of the greatest obstacles to effective care remains stigma associated with mental health difficulties. Concerns about reputation, fitness for duty, career progression, or negative perceptions by peers and commanders may discourage help-seeking. Delays in seeking professional support can contribute to worsening symptoms, greater impairment, and increased risk of self-harm. Efforts to improve mental health literacy and normalize help-seeking are therefore essential components of military mental health policy.

Scientific evidence supports the value of early identification, timely access to care, and interventions grounded in established clinical practice. Trauma-focused psychotherapies, pharmacological treatments, peer-support initiatives, and telepsychiatry services can contribute to improved outcomes when delivered appropriately. Preventive approaches, including resilience training, leadership engagement, and promotion of healthy coping strategies, may reduce vulnerability to psychological distress.

Suicide among military personnel and veterans remains a major concern in many countries. Effective prevention requires continuous monitoring of risk, access to evidence-based treatment, restriction of access to lethal means during periods of elevated risk, and coordinated support following suicidal crises. Leaders, healthcare professionals, families, peers, and policymakers all play important roles in creating a safer environment and promoting recovery.

The WPA Military Psychiatry Section affirms that safeguarding the mental health of military personnel and veterans is both a professional responsibility and a societal obligation. Sustainable policies, accessible services, and ongoing research are necessary to address current challenges and support those who serve or have served. Strengthening mental health care for military and veteran populations contributes to healthier individuals, stronger families, and more resilient communities.

WORLD PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

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Reports from the WPA Collaborating Centers

Document Title : World Psychiatric Association Collaborating Centres: 2024-2026: contribution to Triennial Report
Author : Professor Kam Bhui
Date : 28 October 2025

The establishment of the WPA Collaborating Centres in 2014 marked a decisive step in strengthening the global mission of the WPA. Collectively we focus on research, training and education, improving practice, policy, and promoting high quality, effective and safe care globally.





The Centres brought together leading institutions and leadership from different world regions, pooling academic, clinical and policy expertise to support the WPA Action Plan and responses to emerging challenges worldwide.
From their inception, the Centres have acted as bridges between local realities and global strategy, combining scientific excellence and authority with a commitment to education, capacity building and innovation. The number of Centres has expanded to ten sites across diverse countries, among them the UK, Italy, India (2 centres), Egypt, Hong Kong, South Africa, Kenya, Qatar and, the most recent addition in 2025, Switzerland. The mission is to support the WPA Action Plan and the presidential strategy, while retaining independence, agility and flexibility. Centres are self-funded and self-administered, with directors and their teams bringing considerable expertise and resources to the network. In this way, the Centres have added strength to WPA's global offer, promoting WPA's reputation and reach, without imposing additional demands on central resources.

Between 2024-2026, the centres have supported WPA meetings in Vienna, Prague, Mexico, and are supporting additional regional meetings and the upcoming meeting in Sweden in 2026. We also contribute to regional and special interest groups. The centres have supported WPA educational activities and prizes, providing teaching and training in clinical practice and in research, and supporting PhD, Masters and Undergraduate students. Our work in the last triennium has focused on prevention and public mental health, youth mental health, suicide prevention, providing better care for physical and mental health problems in an integrated manner, as well as considering conflict in the world and support for refugees and asylum seekers. The last year has been focused on an expansion of WPA CCs, but preparing a process and documentation to reach underserved areas and national membership societies that are not well connected or represented. The ambition in the coming three years is to expand from 10 to 20 CCs, with more central support and with additional income streams to WPA for research, education, and policy reach and impact.

We sadly lost several dear friends and colleagues, specifically, we pay tribute to Professor Dan Stein, who led the South African Centre. We are deliberating an expansion and will be approaching other centres in Africa and other underserved areas.

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Director: Professor Kam Bhui, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK.

Deputy Director: Dr Roisin Mooney. Project management: Harsimran Sansoy and Eve Rodgers. Partnerships: Dr Tennyson Lee at the Centre for Understanding Personality; Dr Peter Byrne, Director, Public Mental Health Implementation Centre, Royal College of Psychiatrists UK.

The Oxford Centre led by Prof Bhui serves several functions. Coordination and secretariat for other centres, planning WPA CC meetings, providing newsletter contributions, delivering educational activities and research, and establishing plans to generate income for WPA and expand the WPA CCs (in partnership with other Directors). Prof. Adorjan now co-leads the CCs overall with Prof. Bhui.

Seven WPA educational seminars were produced from on themes of War and Psychiatry, Climate Change and Health, Personality Disorder and Transference Focussed Psychotherapy, Prevention in Public Mental Health (https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqx9p0FShAQ261OjnDnSi-8ADS5xczX0v

We produced numerous publications, notably in JAMA psychiatry, BMJ Mental Health, Psychological Medicine, Lancet Planetary Health, World Social Psychiatry. Generally we promote excellence in global health research and policy, and support PhD/DPhil (3 completing in the last year). Bhui edited and contributed to the publication of Short Oxford Textbook in Psychiatry. Our grant income in the triennium exceeded: ~ £24m. We are now preparing new grant applications for WPA.

We undertook shared research on adolescent health and suicide prevention with the WPA CC in Kenya and WPA CC in Chandigarh. We provided mentoring and shared research on climate change and mental health with WPA CC in Italy. We provide teaching and training with partners: trainees receive training in transference focused psychotherapy in South Africa, India, Malaysia, Pakistan, China, and Somaliland. We are developing implementation of depression interventions adapted for local social and cultural realities, by new funding applications with Schulze and Adorjan (e.g. improving depression treatments through cultural adaptation of platforms in Pakistan, Ethiopia, Egypt, Kenya, Switzerland, Italy and UK).

The UK and Chandigargh India centre promoting public mental health and preventive psychiatry research and implementation. Bhui is a research and implementation lead at Public Mental Health Implementation Centre at RCPsych.



Professor Kristina Adorjan, Bern, Switzerland

In September 2024, the University of Bern established a new Competence Center for Global Mental Health Research in collaboration with the World Psychiatric Association (WPA). As the newest addition to the WPA Collaborating Centre network, the Swiss Collaborating Centre specialises in biological and genetic research, with a particular focus on Sub-Saharan Africa. The centre also leads initiatives in training and capacity development for researchers from low- and middle-income countries and has contributed to WPA congresses. https://www.upd.unibe.ch/research/research_groups/group_adorjan/research/index_eng.html

Kristina supports WPA sections, special interest groups, and regional groups, including scientific and publishing committees. Together with Bhui, she co-leads the WPA Collaborating Centres and plays a key role in expanding the global network of centres.



Professor Andrea Fiorillo, Naples, Italy

The Naples WPA Collaborating Centre has carried out activities on the three main pillars education, research and international collaboration. The Naples Centre disseminated educational resources specifically focused on the management of physical comorbidities in patients with severe mental disorders and on the improvement of healthy lifestyle behaviours.

Other educational activities include the dissemination of the chapter on mental disorders of the ICD-11, as well as the adaptation and dissemination of psychosocial interventions for the promotion of mental health and well-being in migrant population.

Researchers have contributed to the publication of an international handbook of psychiatry and mental health (i.e., "Social determinants of mental health", edited by Springer) and to the organization of the scientific sessions at the WPA annual congress. There is an active collaboration with the University of Bern on the promotion of Brain Health and on the improvement and dissemination of digital psychiatry.

Several research projects are funded by national and international institutions as well as self-funded, dealing with precision psychiatry, the role of neuro-inflammation on relapse in patients with severe mental disorders, prevention of mental disorders among young people, the management of mental disorders in women in the peripartum period, the impact of climate change on mental health, and the role of social determinants and exposome on mental disorders.

Promotion of postgraduate education is still the core of the activities of Centre. In particular, the Centre is particularly active in supporting early career psychiatrists and creating opportunities for medical students to engage with psychiatry during medical school training.

The Naples Centre has collaborations with Italian Universities and international sites, (Hospital Universitario La Paz, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Maastricht University, Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich Clinic for Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, University College of London, and University of Oxford).



Director: Professor Muhammad Waqar Azeem, Sidra Medicine, Doha, Qatar.
Deputy Director: Dr. Ahsan Nazeer

Salient clinical services and initiatives include: a) Child and Adolescent Mental Health and Women's Mental Health services. b) Treating children and families from Gaza, Ukraine, and Afghan Refugees. c)Providing mental health services to Assalam Schools, a part of "Education Above All" initiative. d) Autism Friendly Hospital Initiative to improve the level of comfort for children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) while they are receiving medical care at Sidra Medicine.

Education

- Undergraduates: Hosting medical students from Weill Cornell Medicine and Qatar University, Doha, Qatar
- Postgraduates: We established the world's first ACGMEI Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship. General Psychiatry Trainees and Pediatric Residents. Neurology and Developmental Pediatrics Fellows
- Other Specialities Students and Trainings: Internship for Psychology Master's Trainees, nurses and physicians, local schools and community groups

Research

- Research grants cover autism, ADHD, perinatal depression and anxiety, early-onset psychosis, genetics, neuroimaging, psychological aspects of chronic medical conditions, and validation of psychological scales.
- Faculty have produced more than 60 peer-reviewed publications and book chapters in the last three years.
- Faculty have co-edited five textbooks.
- The center has delivered more than 100 national and international presentations in the last three years.

Collaborations

- **International Collaborations: WPA**, WHO, AFPA, Arabian Gulf Child & Adolescent Association, WPA Collaborating Centers, WPA Education Section, WPA CAMHS Section, WPA SIG on Medical Students, American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) Global Mental Health / International Relations Committee, Royal College of Psychiatrists UK.
- **National Collaborations:** Ministry of Public Health, National Mental Health and Well Being Task Force, World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH), HMC, PHCC, Qatar Foundation Schools, Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), Doha Institute of Graduate Studies (DI), Qatar University (QU), Local Advocacy Groups



Professor David Ndetei & Dr Victoria Mutiso, Nairobi, Kenya.

Africa Institute of Mental and Brain Health (AFRIMEB) is a leading centre in the region in mental health and brain health research. Over the last 20 years, the institute has advanced mental health research, training, and service delivery across Africa by leading interdisciplinary research and large-scale epidemiological studies in Kenya. These include biomarker-informed investigations, thereby generating evidence to inform policy and practice, particularly among vulnerable and underserved populations.

A strong emphasis has been placed on community empowerment through mental health awareness, capacity building, and engagement with community health systems to improve access and reduce stigma.

The centre has expanded its focus on a broad range of priority conditions, including dementia, depression, PTSD, stress, ADHD, suicide, anxiety, psychosis, substance use, mental state of the homelessness population and the nexus between intimate partner violence (IPV) and climate-related mental health.
A key milestone for the institute is the establishment of a memory clinic within its precincts, which addresses a critical gap in mental and brain health services. The clinic provides dedicated assessment, diagnosis, and intervention for individuals experiencing memory-related challenges, cognitive decline, and dementia-spectrum conditions.

The centre continues to build capacity through training programs for early-career researchers, clinicians, and community health workers, alongside collaborations with local and international partners. Additionally, AFRIMEB contributes to national policy development and advocacy aimed at strengthening mental health systems.

Through its integrated approach, combining research, service delivery, training, and policy engagement, AFRIMEB is significantly contributing to reducing the mental health treatment gap and improving outcomes across diverse populations in Africa.



Director:Prof. Tarek Okasha, Cairo, Egypt

The Okasha institute of psychiatry is dedicated to high quality psychiatric care. Service stared in July 1990 and offers specialized care in response to public need besides education and research.
Services: *Inpatient*: The institute has 72 beds in six wards including with 4 units (General adult psychiatry, liaison psychiatry, child & adolescent psychiatry, women psychiatry, substance abuse & dual diagnosis and a psychiatric intermediate care unit (PICU). The inpatient department served **856** patients in 2025.

Outpatient: The outpatient department served around 38,106 clients in 2025. The clinic includes: General psychiatry clinic, Child psychiatry clinics, Substance Abuse& dual diagnosis clinics, Old age psychiatry clinic, Psychosexual disorders clinic, sleep disorders clinic, memory clinic, eating disorders clinic, tobacco cessation clinic and 24 hour Emergency Service Facilities.



Prof. Subho Chakrabarti, Postgraduate institute of medical education and research (PGIMER), Chandigarh, India

The Department of Psychiatry at the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) is located in Chandigarh, India. It is a general hospital psychiatric unit attached to a large, multi-speciality, tertiary-care hospital, with a large catchment area and high patient turnover. It provides general adult, child/adolescent, and substance use services. It has been a part of several WHO collaborative studies. During 2024–2026, the WPA-CC at PGI actively engaged in public mental health initiatives.

Training: The main focus was on integrating psychiatric services with primary healthcare and community outreach. The Centre organised training programmes for medical officers and continuing medical education activities for psychiatrists and allied mental health professionals in the community. The themes were early identification and prevention of mental disorders, suicide prevention, substance use disorders, social determinants of mental health, and stigma reduction.

Research: The Centre is conducting research on social contact–based interventions for reducing public stigma toward individuals with opioid use disorder.

Mental Health Awareness: The Centre also contributed to public awareness and advocacy activities.

Weekly school mental health programmes conducted by the Child/Adolescent services addressed common mental illnesses, examination stress, bullying, and problematic screen use, along with teacher awareness programmes on special childcare needs.

Monthly awareness sessions by the substance use services focused on substance use prevention and the harmful effects of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs.

The Centre also collaborated with the local government to provide skills training and employment opportunities for our patients and promote mental health awareness across educational institutions in Chandigarh.



Prof Linda CW Lam, Department of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine, the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), Shatin, New Territories, Hong Kong

Education: Our department provides undergraduate teaching to medical tudents of the Faculty of Medicine at the CUHK. We also accept aspiring postgraduate research students seeking MPhil and PhD studies in clinical and translational Psychiatry from all over the world.

Research: Our department has been active in a wide spectrum of mental health research from basic science, translational, clinical to epidemiological research including but not limiting to neurodevelopmental disorders (Autistic Spectrum Disorder in particular), community intervention on neurocognitive disorders, sleep and circadian rhythm disorders, translational neuroscience and digital mental health.

Our department has collaborated with other research units in Psychiatry and other disciplines both locally and internationally. We have collaborated with the Centre for Gut Microbiota Research at CU Medicine to provide a combined clinical and research programme for children with suspected Autistic Spectrum Disorder. In collaboration with the Department of Health of the Government of Hong Kong SAR, we have completed a 15-year territory-wide study to investigate the associations of different lifestyle behaviours and vascular risk factors with risk of dementia in older adults.

We have also completed a 9 year follow up study of anxiety and depressive disorders in Hong Kong adults, exploring significant psychosocial and lifestyle factors associated with long term outcome of common mental disorders in Hong Kong. Our team in sleep studies have ongoing collaboration with Peking University in China on community intervention for sleep hygiene. Our collaboration in the International COVID Sleep study (ICOSS I and II) with 14 countries/regions aim to identify the impact of COVID-19 on different sleep symptoms. We are pioneering the development of AI assisted models in early detection of complex behavioural phenotypes in major mental disorder; and we are developing of AI assisted simulation training in clinical psychiatric teaching.



Professor Janardhan Reddy, NIMHANS, Bengalore, India.

The Department of Psychiatry at NIMHANS is the oldest and largest department of psychiatry in India. Alumni from this department are now in leadership positions in institutions in the country and abroad. The department was established 70 years ago as the first postgraduate department in psychiatry.

Education: We offer post-graduate residency training in psychiatry (40 junior residents joining MD degree in psychiatry every year through a national level entrance exam conducted for institutes of national importance). We offer training on medicine, clinical psychology, psychiatric social work, and nursing (DM, MD, BSc/MSc, MPhil, and PhD degrees). The Department offers extramural training to postgraduates in psychiatry, internal medicine as well as students of clinical psychology, psychiatric social work, psychiatric nursing, and allied disciplines.

Clinical services offered by the institute: Adult, Geriatric, Addiction, Child and Adolescent psychiatry, Rehabilitation, Community, Telemedicine, Forensic, Brain stimulation including ECT, TMS and tDCS, centre for well-being, psychiatric subspecialties (perinatal, OCD, metabolic, schizophrenia, Consultation-liaison, etc).

Policy and programs: The department led the National Mental Health Survey (NMHS-1 and 2), and is the apex nodal center for the National Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (Tele MANAS), India's free, confidential, 24/7 national tele-mental health helpline launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. NIMHANS has been designated the Coordinating Centre of Excellence (CoE) for the BRICS Network of CoE in mental health. This is a significant step towards advancing collaboration in mental health research, training and evidence-based care across BRICS countries. Through the NIMHANS Digital Academy (NDA), thousands of health care professionals receive training in the management of psychiatric disorders. The department contributed to the Indian Psychiatric Society treatment guidelines, Covid guidelines for management of patients, National Human Rights Quality Improvement, National Mental Health Policy, National guidelines for drug abuse treatment, etc.

Research: Some of the major research activities include the Center for Brain and Mind (CBM), in collaboration with the National Center for Biological Sciences (NCBS) funded by the Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies, the C-VEDA (Consortium on Vulnerability to Externalising Disorders and Addictions), the B-CHADS (Bangalore- Child Health And Development Study), the Clinical Research Centre for Neuromodulation in Psychiatry, Global study on the Identification of Obsessive-Compulsive Profiles, the A-BIGNET (Asian Bipolar Genetics Network), the ENIGMA (Enhancing Neuroimaging Genetics through Meta-analysis) OCD and the India ENIGMA Initiative for Global Aging and Mental Health Aging study.

Funding support and collaborations: The research at the institute is supported by Government of India (e.g., DBT, DST, ICMR), international grants (e.g., NIH, NIMH, MRC, Wellcome Trust etc.) and philanthropies. The institute also has collaborations with the WHO, and several universities in the UK, USA, Canada, and Australia.



Reports from the Scientific Sections

During the 2023–2026 triennium, the WPA Affective Disorders Section strengthened its scientific visibility, international collaborations, membership, and global representation, while contributing actively to WPA scientific activities and developing new inter-societal initiatives in affective disorders.

At the 23rd WPA World Congress of Psychiatry in Vienna (2023), the Section organized the State-of-the-Art Symposium *"From Etiology to Treatment of Bipolar Disorders,"* chaired by Kürşat Altınbaş, with contributions from Dost Öngür, Lina Martinsson, and Allan Young. The symposium addressed advances in the neurobiology, diagnosis, and long-term treatment of bipolar disorder.

In October 2024, in collaboration with the WPA Section on Genetics in Psychiatry, the Section organized the online intersectional meeting *"Genetics and the Treatment of Bipolar Disorder."* Martin Alda discussed clinical predictors of long-term lithium response, while Sergi Papiol presented updates from the Consortium on Lithium Genetics (ConLiGen). The meeting strengthened scientific exchange across WPA Sections and engaged participants internationally.

The Section also contributed to the 24th WPA World Congress of Psychiatry in Mexico City (2024), where Melvin McInnis delivered a keynote lecture on modernizing the diagnostic process in mood disorders, highlighting common data models, dark data, psychopathology, and the integration of large-scale data resources into clinical practice.

A major priority throughout the triennium was expanding collaboration with international and regional scientific societies. Cooperative relationships were developed and strengthened with the International Society for Affective Disorders (ISAD), the International Society for Bipolar Disorders (ISBD), the Turkish Bipolar Disorder Society, and the Brazilian Association of Psychopharmacology. These partnerships supported scientific exchange, mutual visibility, speaker engagement, and the planning of future educational and research initiatives.

The Section expanded its membership and geographic reach through WPA channels, affiliated networks, collaborating societies, and outreach to early-career psychiatrists and researchers. Membership surpassed 40 members, with growing representation from Europe, the Americas, Asia, and the Middle East. Diversity in governance was further strengthened by welcoming Daniela Waissbluth Panzer of Santiago, Chile, as General Secretary, enhancing gender balance and geographic representation within the Executive Committee.

Building on these achievements, preparatory work began during 2026 for a dedicated thematic congress planned for Curitiba, Brazil, in 2027. Designed as an inter-societal initiative, the congress aims to bring together WPA Section members and partner societies around advances in affective disorders, including bipolar disorder neurobiology, precision psychiatry, pharmacogenomics, and long-term treatment outcomes.

The Section enters the next triennium with a stronger international network, broader membership, and a continuing commitment to scientific collaboration, education, and improved care for people with affective disorders.

World Psychiatric Association · Affective Disorders Section · Triennial Report 2023–2026

During the 2023–2026 triennium, the WPA Section on Anxiety and Obsessive-Compulsive Disorders advanced research, clinical practice, education and international collaboration across anxiety or fear-related disorders, obsessive-compulsive and related disorders, and disorders due to addictive behaviours, including problematic Internet use. The Section provided a multidisciplinary forum for clinicians and researchers and collaborated with the World Health Organization, the International College of Obsessive-Compulsive Spectrum Disorders, European College of Neuropsychopharmacology research networks, the Canadian Network for Mood and Anxiety Treatments, and the European Network for Problematic Usage of the Internet.

Section members contributed substantially to developments in taxonomy and nosology. Their work supported the ICD-11 classification of anxiety or fear-related disorders and obsessive-compulsive and related disorders, including clearer diagnostic groupings and a lifespan perspective. Collaboration with WHO helped consolidate previously separate conditions within the obsessive-compulsive and related disorders grouping, while field research demonstrated improved diagnostic accuracy compared with ICD-10. The Section also promoted recognition of compulsivity as a transdiagnostic domain and contributed to work on gaming disorder, gambling disorder and other problematic behaviours with addictive, impulsive or compulsive features.

Research conducted or reviewed by Section members highlighted the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on anxiety, obsessive-compulsive symptoms and problematic Internet use. Global problematic Internet use was estimated at 7.9% in a meta-analysis and exceeded 30% in some low- and middle-income countries. Reviews also identified post-COVID anxiety prevalence ranging from 16.6% to 29.6%, supporting standardized screening, early intervention and evidence-based treatment.

The Section advanced etiological research through genome-wide and epigenome-wide studies identifying genetic and DNA-methylation markers, including pathways relevant to GABAergic signalling and personalized treatment development. Treatment work extended beyond conventional pharmacotherapy and psychotherapy to neuromodulation, immunotherapy and neurosurgical approaches. Members contributed to revised international biological treatment guidelines and to open-access consensus guidance for anxiety and obsessive-compulsive disorders. Joint work with CANMAT and ICOCS produced comprehensive clinical recommendations covering diagnosis, psychological and pharmacological interventions, neuromodulation, treatment resistance, children and adolescents, and special populations.

Treatment resistance was another priority. Section members helped establish internationally agreed criteria for treatment-resistant anxiety disorders through a Delphi consensus process, addressing a problem affecting approximately 30% of patients. Similar work was undertaken for obsessive-compulsive and related disorders, alongside a systematic review of pharmacological, psychotherapeutic and neuromodulatory options.

The Section expanded educational outreach through six freely accessible teaching modules addressing diagnosis, epidemiology, course, neurobiology, treatment and comorbidities. It also supported the five-year BoostRAP programme, involving partners in more than 20 countries, to develop and test digital interventions and policy tools addressing problematic Internet use and digital human rights. Members are leading a Lancet Psychiatry Commission in this field.

Updates were published in World Psychiatry in 2024, with a further update accepted for publication. An accepted State-of-the-Art Symposium was prepared for the 2026 WPA Congress, and Himanshu Tyagi joined the Section as an OCD expert. The Section mourned the death of its Chair, Professor D. Stein, in December 2025, honouring his longstanding leadership and contribution to its development.

The Section, chaired by Dr Jennifer Harrison (Australia), continues to promote art and psychiatry. With a growing membership of 74, a strong international committee was elected in 2025 to continue guidance into the next triennium.

Activities and educational materials are regularly posted on the Section's WPA website and, in 2024, a triannual newsletter to the membership was instigated. In 2025, the first Romanian digital museum of psychopathological art was formed and, in Italy, a similar project featuring the artwork of children is underway.

Ranging from single-authored to co-edited books, members have contributed many international publications. For example, the 2025 *Routledge International Handbook of Art Therapy Practice*, includes 50 chapters from 35 countries. Publications have also appeared regularly in peer-reviewed scientific journals. All are necessary for good policy development and evidence-based clinical practice.

A robust educational program is essential, and the Section has maintained active participation in WPA World Congresses held in Vienna (2023), Mexico City (2024), and Prague (2025). Members have contributed to numerous key symposia, including presentations on children's drawings, film analysis, ekphrasis, medical student teaching, the role of arts in improving health, stigma, the history of art and psychopathology, the writings of Goethe, and the work of significant institutions such as The Ghislain Museum (Belgium), The Cunningham Dax Collection (Australia), The Museum of the Image of the Unconscious (Brazil), and others.

Members have also hosted or presented at international, WPA-affiliated conferences, for example, 'Psychotherapy, creativity and the arts' (Rome 2024), 'Psychartica' (Jaipur 2025, with its own You Tube channel), the World Federation of Psychotherapy Conference (New York City 2026) and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College Conference (RANZCP, Melbourne 2026). A webinar on 'The relationship between art and health: what the evidence tells us' was hosted in 2025.

Scientific collaborations with other WPA Sections have included The Section for Conflict Management and Conflict Resolution, The Section for Literature, and The Section for Early Career Psychiatrists. The Section has also dialogued with local communities, bringing lived experience of art practice into conversation with mental health services through advocacy in the Pacific, USA, South America and Europe. For example, in India, teaching is conducted in Kannada using the state language of Karnataka.

The Section has strengthened partnerships with many international organizations including the World Federation of Psychotherapy, The Romanian Institute of Anthropology „Francisc I. Rainer", the Australian New Zealand and Asian Creative Arts Therapy Association, RANZCP's Section for Philosophy and Humanities, the University of São Paulo, the World Association for Dynamic Psychiatry, and the University of Rome Sapienza. Such connections greatly enhance international collaborations and advocacy.

Looking ahead, the Section will continue to promote research, publications, exhibitions and education with plans to increase the visibility of art in mental health practice, and to support capacity building and evidence-based policy development. International conferences are planned, beginning with Vienna 2027. The WPA Section for Art and Psychiatry continues to play a leading role in advancing art and mental health internationally.

TRIANNIAL REPORT 2023-2026: SECTION ON CHILD AND ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY SECTION

Summary of activities

- 1. Quarterly Zoom meetings with robust attendance, global representation, and discussion
- 2. Participation at the Behavioral Health ECHO Hawai'i State Rural Health Association (HSRHA) http://www.hsrha.org/ on October 29 , 2024
- 3. Good representation in WPA Congresses – see the summary of our relevant participation in Mexico Congress 2024 (https://www.wpanet.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/WPACAP-e-Journal-Jan-2025.pdf) and Prague 2025 (https://www.wpanet.org/wpcontent/uploads/2026/01/2026_01_WCAP_Journal_issue29.pdf). Other examples of topics approved for the forthcoming Congress include: school shootings and school violence, motherhood and ADHD, global curriculum project.
- 4. Collaboration with WPA Section on Perinatal Psychiatry and Infant Mental Health, introduced in recent newsletter edition: https://www.wpanet.org/wpcontent/uploads/2026/01/2026_01_WCAP_Journal_issue29.pdf
- 5. Contribution, in partnership with the IACAPAP, to the global child and adolescent mental health curriculum https://www.iacapap.org/news/announcement-g-camh-curriculum-development-andengagement-survey.html
- 6. Webinars on Integrated Care: Education, Collaboration, and Innovation, led by section members and freely accessible at https://www.wpanet.org/section-page/child-and-adolescent-psychiatry/
- 7. Contribution to global mental health literacy initiative (in partnership with Professor Shuyan Liu at Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin (see https://psychiatriepsychotherapie.charite.de/fileadmin/user_upload/microsites/m_cc15/psychiatriepsychotherapie/AG_Umwelt_und_psychische_Gesundheit/CallsGMHL-A.pdf)
- 8. Regular contribution to World Infant, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Day (WICAMHD) in partnership with IACAPAP, WAIMH, and ISAPP. https://www.iacapap.org/events/world-infant-child-and-adolescentmental-health-day/wicamhd-2026.html
- 9. Semiannual newsletter/e-journal: freely accessible at https://www.wpanet.org/section-page/child-and-adolescent-psychiatry/
- 10. Groups are working on updates to previous global regional reviews of child and adolescent psychiatric training, and planning new reviews (examples of previously published papers):
    - a. Hirota T, Guerrero A, Sartorius N, Fung D, Leventhal B, Ong SH, Kaneko H, Kim B, Cho SC, Skokauskas N; Consortium on Academic Child and Adolescent Psychiatry in the Far East (CACAP FE). Child and adolescent psychiatry in the Far East. Psychiatry Clin Neurosci. 2015 Mar;69(3):171- 7. doi: 10.1111/pcn.12248. Epub 2014 Dec 1. PMID: 25346228.
    - b. Gregoric Kumperscak H, Clausen C, Anagnostopoulos D, Barac Otasevic Z, Boricevic Marsanic V, Burgic M, Como A, Nussbaum L, Pejovic Milovancevic M, Raleva M, Sartorius N, Shahini M, Terziev D, Skokauskas N. Child and adolescent psychiatry training and mental health care in Southeast Europe. Eur Child Adolesc Psychiatry. 2020 Jan;29(1):29-39. doi: 10.1007/s00787-019-01362-0. Epub 2019 Jun 21. PMID: 31227911.
    - c. Clausen CE, Bazaid K, Azeem MW, Abdelrahim F, Elgawad AAA, Alamiri B, AlAnsari AM, Alhamzawi A, Al Mai AM, Bakhiet AM, Bashtawi M, Çuhadaroğlu F, Hedar M, Holdar M, Jabr S, Jafri AS, Jumaian A, Moussa S, Osman AH, Razjouyan K, Yanes E, Guerrero A, Skokauskas N; Consortium on Academic

- Child, Adolescent Psychiatry in the Middle East (CACAP ME). Child and adolescent psychiatry training and services in the Middle East region: a current status assessment. Eur Child Adolesc Psychiatry. 2020 Jan;29(1):51-61. doi: 10.1007/s00787-019-01360-2. Epub 2019 Jun 12. PMID: 31190178.

- 11. Strong interest among the membership in contributing to potential forthcoming textbooks edited by section members

The WPA Classification Section include a total of 83 individuals from 19 different countries, eight Zones (USA, Mexico/Caribbean/Central America, Northern S. America, Southern S. America, Western Europe, Eastern & Southern Africa, and Eastern Asia), from five continents (North and South America, Europe, Africa, and Asia.)

Key focus of the Sections' activities has been on fundamental aspects of medicine upholding humanism and science as the two fundamental pillars of person-centered medicine and its principles of ethical, whole person, dignified assessment, diagnosis, and care.
During the triennium, 2023-2026, the WPA Classification Section has been involved with multiple academic activities including the following:

1. Elections of Section Officials and Committee Members in November 2023.
2. Participation in the WPA activities through presentation and organizing symposium on psychiatric diagnosis and diagnostic models, along active and prominent participation of WPA & APAL Section in the organization and scientific presentations of both the biennial congresses of the WPA-affiliated APAL/APAL members.
3. The Section was intimately involved in the development of the innovative Latin American Guide for Psychiatric Diagnosis (GLADP-2). The Latin American Guide for Psychiatric Diagnosis (GLADP) developed by the Latin American Psychiatric Association (APAL). GALDP adapts ICD-11 to best serve the needs of Latin American countries through the application of a person-centered and culturally informed diagnostic model. Following the publication of the ICD-11 Clinical Descriptions and Diagnostic Requirements (CDDR 2024), APAL Diagnosis Section initiated the development and testing of GLADP-2 to enhance person-centered diagnostic guide using the ICD-11.
4. Participation in the annual Latin-American Conferences on Person Centered Medicine in 2023 (Conference Title: Person-centered Mental Health and General Well-being), 2024 (Conference Title: Person-centered Primary Care) and 2025 (Conference title: Multidimensional Care for Person-centered Integral Health) has published or is preparing a formal book with selected presentations from the respective Conferences.
5. Organization and active participations of international conference on Person-centered Medicine in Geneva, Switzerland (2024, 2024 and 2025) and organizing International Congresses for Person Centered Medicine in Zagreb, Croatia (2024) and Reykjavik, Iceland (2025).
6. Several related scientific publications, book chapters, and journal issues were completed, many were produced from work presented at WPA conferences. Three books were published during this triennium, and one book in preparation. (See supplementary file)

SECTION FUTURE PLANS OF ACTIONS (2026-2029)

- Organize presentations and symposia on classification, diagnosis and nomenclature to WPA Congresses
- Contribute diagnosis and classification presentations in other pertinent professional conferences, including regional ones such as APAL.
- Promote the publication of academic papers in an array of academic and professional journals
- Contribute to the development of innovative and comprehensive diagnostic models
- Promote collaborative international research on diagnosis and classification
- systems
- Collaborate on diagnosis and classification with pertinent professional and academic organizations, particularly the International College of Person-Centered Medicine.
- Collaborate on the development of the Latin American Classification of Psychiatric Diagnosis (GLADP)

SECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Chairperson: Prof. M. Musalek
Co-chairperson: Prof. Luis Madeira
Secretary: Prof. Maria Luisa Figueira

SECTION ACTIVITIES 2023–2025

During 2023, the Psychopathology Section of the EPA maintained its core commitment to the study of psychopathology, with continuity in education, research, and scholarly exchange, alongside a set of focused events and collaborations. Members sustained regular scientific output, with several papers released during the year, and kept an active presence across European and national meetings, symposia, and teaching initiatives.

The section's activities featured its Annual Section Symposium, held in Naples under the theme "Psychopathology and New Forms of Human Aggregation." Throughout the year, members of the section produced a range of educational courses, book chapters, complete volumes, and papers. Notable among these is "Why Delusions Matter" by L. Bortolotti, a seminal book that explores the significance of delusions in understanding mental health.

The section also organized several courses (eg. Essentials of Phenomenological Psychopathology in Lisbon; “Begegnungen mit Atmosphären (Jahressymposium ‘Atmosphären und Begegnungen’, Sigmund Freud Universität, Vienna) and “Atmosphären und ihre Wirkungen” (Festsymposium 10 Jahre SFU Berlin) and podcasts “The Philosophy of Psychology and Psychiatry” (Las Cruces Community Radio, 2023) and “Philosophy of Psychiatry” (Behind the Stigma, 2023).

In 2024, Prof. Michael Musalek organized 25th Annual Conference of the International Network for Philosophy and Psychiatry (INPP) together with the Institute for Social Aesthetics and Mental Health, Vienna & Berlin, Vienna where several international speakers were allowed to discuss relevant psychopathology themes.

A recurring WPA Section’s educational activity, the “Essentials of Phenomenological Psychopathology” course, was offered in Lisbon as well as the Summer School of Psychopathology of the Romanian Psychiatric Association taking place in July 2025: „What keeps humankind alive in crises? Uncertainty: is there a room for hope?“

The Section’s Annual Symposium was held in Naples in December with the theme “Nature and Narratives of Impulse Control.”

During 2025, the Clinical Psychopathology Section of the WPA co-hosted, in partnership with national scientific societies and academic units, the 3rd SPPSM Conference on Philosophy and Psychiatry, with a specific focus on

„Phenomenology, from Jaspers to contemporaneity“, held in hybrid format in Lisbon on 26 and 27 June 2025.
The Section also contributed to an interdisciplinary postgraduate education course, „The Ethics, Aesthetics and Politics of the Body in Contemporary Society“, held in lisbon 15 to 18 May 2025.

In December 2025, the Annual Section symposium „Psychopathology of Absence and Loneliness“ took place in Lisbon (plenary lectures by F.Oyebode, M.Musalek, G.Bernegger, G.DiPetta and M.Billeci, L.Madeira with M.L.Figueira, and R.Vanacore.

WORLD PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

FUTURE ACTIVITIES (2026):

Annual Symposium of the WPA Section Clinical Psychopathology organized together with the EPA Section Psychopatholgy in Naples (5th and 6th December, 2026 (Preliminary Program: F.Oyebode „Waiting as a Core Human Condition: Hope, Dread and the Experience of Time"; M.Musalek „Towards Social Aesthetics of Waiting - Various Atmospheres and Their Effects"; G.Bernegger „No man's time: waiting as suspension and the Unfinished narrative"; L.Madeira and M.L.Figueira „Medical Illnesses demand waiting: A Phenomenological, Anthropological, and Ethical Analysis of Medical Temporality", etc.).

World Psychiatric Association: Section on Comorbidity
Section Co-Chairs: Dan Siskind & Norman Sartorius
Deputy Chair: Najma Siddiqi
Secretary: Susanna Every-Palmer
Report Submitted By: Dan Siskind and Susanna Every-Palmer

OVERVIEW

The WPA Section on Comorbidity continues to advance global knowledge, research, and clinical understanding of comorbid psychiatric and medical conditions. In 2023–2026, we expanded our membership, deepened international collaborations, and actively contributed to academic and policy discussions around the growing impact of comorbidity in psychiatric care.

The WPA Section on Comorbidity has partnered with the WPA Working Group on Comorbidity of Mental and Physical Health. It is important that the World Psychiatric Association takes action concerning the physical illnesses of people with mental illness because comorbidity leads to premature death of people with mental illness and significantly decreased quality of life of the sufferers. The program of our Section includes the organisation of scientific symposia at all WPA Congresses in this triennium and contributions to other meetings during the World Congresses of Psychiatry, including the Specialist Corner multimorbidity presentation. We have been active in other scientific meetings including EPA and SIRS. We have developed educational materials and webinars concerning comorbidity and its management and produced WPA position statements based on evidence about comorbidity and outlining the WPA position on the matter.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The Section on Comorbidity will continue to:

1. Identify topics related to comorbidity of mental and physical disorders and develop recommendations for WPA's involvement in research, education and service development relevant to dealing with problems related to comorbidities of this type.
2. Identify individuals and centres interested and willing to participate in WPA's program of research and education related to the comorbidity of mental and physical disorders.
3. Liaise with other WPA Sections with a view to ensuring that problems of comorbidity are considered in the work of these groups.
4. Propose the organisation of symposia, workshops and other types of meetings.
5. Prepare reviews of evidence and drafts of position papers.
6. Create training programs.

KEY ACTIVITIES

The Section Officers met quarterly throughout the triennium to progress the work plan.

International Collaborations & Publications

Section members collaborated on cross-national research exploring the complex, bidirectional relationships between mental and physical health, including:

- Major depression and metabolic syndrome
- Anxiety disorders and cardiovascular risk
- Psychosis and substance use
- Metabolic disorders and schizophrenia

These contributions appeared in high-impact journals, reinforcing the relevance of comorbidity in psychiatric practice and public health. We thank all members who shared their publications related to multimorbidity. A compilation of key publications is available on the WPA Section of Multimorbidity home page.

Membership also grew significantly, from 23 members in 2023 to 84 members in 2026, reflecting the increasing global interest in this field, and efforts by section officers to recruit experts in the area from around the world.

Elections for the secretariat of the WPA Section on Comorbidity were held at the Section on Comorbidity meeting at WPA Congress in Prague in October 2025.

WPA Congress Participation

We hosted well-attended sessions at the 2023 World Congress in Vienna, the 2024 WPA World Congress in Mexico City and the 2025 World Congress in Prague. These symposia generated rich discussions and helped shape future research priorities, particularly around implementation science and integrated care. Highlights included a "State of the Art Session" on Comorbidity, delivered by Richard Holt and chaired by Ivona Šimunović Filipčić and Gerhard Heinze, and the WPA Section on Multimorbidity Symposium on 17 November 2024 featuring presentations by Ivona Šimunović Filipčić, Richard Holt, David Cawthorpe, and Asiful Haidar Chowdhury. The session was chaired by Norman Sartorius and Ivona Šimunović Filipčić.

Looking ahead, we are planning a strong presence at the 2026 WPA Congress in Stockholm, including a Presidential Symposium.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We extend our sincere thanks to all Section members for their ongoing contributions, particularly those who led key research and collaborative initiatives this year. Special thanks to the WPA Secretariat for continued support; our colleagues across other Sections for their collaborative spirit; and to Nicky Traynor for administrative assistance and coordination.

We look forward to building on this momentum in the next triennium and continuing to advance the understanding and management of multimorbidity in psychiatric practice.

During the current triennium, the WPA Section on Conflict Management and Conflict Resolution has continued to strengthen its international profile and expand its academic and collaborative activities. The Section currently includes more than 70 members representing diverse geographical regions, reflecting the growing recognition of conflict management as an important dimension of psychiatric practice, leadership, and mental health systems.

In 2023, the Section conducted formal elections for the Scientific Section Committee and Section officers, ensuring transparent governance and continuity of leadership. At the beginning of the mandate, the newly elected leadership presented a strategic plan of action, outlining the mission, vision, and priority objectives of the Section for the triennium. The plan emphasized advancing scientific dialogue on conflict management in psychiatry, fostering international collaboration, and promoting knowledge exchange across clinical, academic, and policy contexts. We also elected a Leadership Committee to make the internal processes even more efficient.

A central focus of the Section has been the development of scientific activities within WPA congresses and meetings. In the period between General Assemblies, the Section organized activities and symposia at WPA international meetings:

- WPC Vienna - 2023 - intersectional symposium with Ecology Section
- WPC Mexico - 2024 - Women Leadership Symposia
- WPC Prague - 2025 - Symposia honouring Prof. Eliot Sorel

These activities addressed key topics related to conflict management and resolution in psychiatric settings, including organizational conflict in healthcare systems, ethical dilemmas in clinical decision-making, and conflict dynamics in crisis and disaster contexts.

In addition to congress-based activities, the Section has actively implemented initiatives outlined in its work plan. This included the organization of international webinars, bringing together experts from different regions to discuss contemporary issues in conflict management and resolution relevant to psychiatric practice, leadership, and healthcare systems.

The Section has also prioritized interdisciplinary and inter-sectional collaboration within the WPA. Productive partnerships have been established with other WPA Sections, particularly:

- the WPA Section on Disaster Psychiatry (common work on publications and symposia, ACRE committee)
- the WPA Section on Ecology (joint symposia during World Congress of Social Psychiatry in Marrakesh, January 2026)

These collaborations aim to explore the intersections between conflict, environmental challenges, disasters, and mental health, thereby strengthening the Section's contribution to broader global mental health discussions.

To enhance communication and visibility, the Section has maintained an active digital presence, regularly updating the WPA website with information on Section activities, educational initiatives, and recent publications by Section members. These efforts support knowledge dissemination and facilitate networking among psychiatrists interested in conflict management and resolution.

Overall, the Section continues to contribute to the advancement of scholarship, education, and international collaboration in the field of conflict management within psychiatry. Through scientific activities, educational initiatives, and partnerships with other WPA Sections, it seeks to promote constructive dialogue, strengthen professional competencies in conflict resolution, and support the development of resilient and collaborative mental health systems worldwide.

During the 2023–2026 triennium, the WPA Digital Mental Health Section continued to strengthen its international, interdisciplinary, and educational role within the World Psychiatric Association. The Section brought together psychiatrists and mental health professionals from different WPA regions with a shared interest in telepsychiatry, artificial intelligence, mobile health, digital therapeutics, ethics, clinical governance, and the responsible integration of digital technologies into mental health care.

A major priority during this period was the consolidation of the Section's membership and organisational structure. The membership list was updated, communication with members was strengthened, and dedicated working groups were established in the areas of Research and Publications, Communications, Artificial Intelligence and Innovation, and Ethics. These groups created a more active framework for collaboration and provided opportunities for members to contribute to scientific, educational, and policy-related initiatives.

The Section maintained a strong educational presence. The CME Course on Digital Psychiatry was successfully organised for three consecutive years, attracting more than 60 participants at its most recent edition in Prague. In parallel, Section members contributed to symposia, lectures, workshops, and international scientific meetings addressing artificial intelligence, telepsychiatry, digital ethics, human-in-the-loop models, mobile health, and emerging digital tools in clinical practice.

One of the most important achievements of the triennium was the completion, in April 2026, of the WPA Mobile Health & Artificial Intelligence Guidelines. This work represents a significant contribution to the development of internationally relevant, clinically informed, and ethically responsible guidance for psychiatrists and other mental health professionals. The Section is committed to supporting the dissemination, implementation, and further development of these guidelines.

Member engagement and communication were also enhanced through the launch of a Section newsletter and a membership survey entitled "Your Perspective as a Psychiatrist." These initiatives were designed to improve communication, identify members' priorities, encourage participation, and strengthen the Section's visibility within the WPA and the wider international psychiatric community.

For the WPA World Congress of Psychiatry 2026 in Stockholm, the Section developed and submitted a CME course and several symposium proposals on artificial intelligence, telepsychiatry, digital psychiatry, ethics, human-in-the-loop approaches, and the clinical application of digital technologies. These submissions reflected the Section's commitment to evidence-based innovation and to maintaining the central role of clinicians, patients, and ethical oversight in technologically supported mental health care.

Key priorities for the next triennium include the dissemination of the WPA digital health guidelines, expansion of educational activities, continuation of the newsletter and membership survey, strengthening of the working groups, promotion of international research collaboration, and development of practical standards for the safe, equitable, and clinically meaningful use of digital technologies in psychiatry.

During the 2023–2026 triennium, the WPA Section of Disaster Psychiatry, chaired by Nikos Christodoulou, with Rodrigo Ramalho as Co-Chair and Hesed Virto as Secretary, strengthened its contribution to research, education, professional collaboration and guidance concerning the mental health consequences of disasters, armed conflict and humanitarian emergencies.

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

The Section maintained a scholarly focus throughout the triennium. Its publications addressed the prevention and mitigation of disaster-related mental health effects; the development and urgency of disaster psychiatry as a clinical and public health field; pharmacological treatment of sleep disturbances in post-traumatic stress disorder; psychological and somatic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic; psychiatrists' roles in disaster situations; population mental health following political upheaval; and recommendations for mental health responses in earthquake-prone regions. Collectively, this work advanced evidence and practical understanding across preparedness, acute response and long-term recovery.

EDUCATION AND GLOBAL COLLABORATION

A major educational initiative was the WPA webinar "Wars in the 21st Century: Mental Health Impacts, Intervention Strategies, and the Cost to Our Humanity," held on 5 June 2026. Developed with the WPA Geo-Psychiatry Special Interest Group and the WPA Advisory Committee on Responses to Emergencies (ACRE), the webinar brought together international experts to examine the mental health effects of war, practical interventions, and the ethical and humanitarian dimensions of contemporary conflicts.

The Section contributed to both its organisation and scientific programme through Nikos Christodoulou and Rodrigo Ramalho. Its session supported the development of new guidance for disaster management. The event also generated opportunities for papers arising from the sessions to be published in the International Review of Psychiatry, with a summary planned for the WPA Education Psychiatry Journal.

WORLD CONGRESS CONTRIBUTIONS

The Section contributed prominently to successive World Congresses of Psychiatry. At the 2024 Congress in Mexico, it participated in the ACRE plenary session on psychiatrists' roles in disasters and in State of the Art sessions addressing climate change, artificial intelligence, armed conflict and conflict management.

At the 2025 Congress in Prague, a multidisciplinary symposium examined war, forced migration and refugee crises, including the experiences of mothers, women's mental health networks, migration in Latin America and conflict-related human rights violations.

For the 2026 Congress in Stockholm, the Section collaborated with the WPA Military Psychiatry Section on a symposium covering community resilience, rapid response to mass trauma, modular interventions for veterans with complex PTSD and transcranial magnetic stimulation for combat-related PTSD.

ACRE PARTICIPATION

Since 2023, the Section has participated actively in ACRE, contributing to WPA guidance, practical support and resources for mental health professionals responding to humanitarian emergencies. This engagement has reinforced links between research, education and operational preparedness.

MEMBERSHIP AND IMPACT

Membership increased by almost 25% during the triennium, reaching 95 members across 20 countries. This growth reflects the Section's expanding international reach and the increasing relevance of disaster psychiatry. Across its activities, the Section consolidated a multidisciplinary platform for evidence-based preparedness, response and recovery, while strengthening WPA capacity to address the mental health impacts of crises worldwide.

The Section on Dual Disorders of the World Psychiatric Association has carried out numerous activities over the past three years.

Its leadership was renewed slightly less than two years ago, (November 2024) and since then, its membership has expanded exponentially, as reflected in the membership list.

In addition, the Section has participated in numerous scientific sessions, both independently and in collaboration with various organizations, such as the Latin American Psychiatric Association, the World Association on Dual Disorders, and several national societies from the countries represented by the Section's members.

Below, we provide some recent examples:

We have distributed a "Roadmap on Dual Disorders" and have participated in several forums in Vancouver, Shanghai, and other cities.

The most recent forum, held this year during the American Psychiatric Association meeting in San Francisco, USA, addressed the need to integrate mental health care, including addictions and other mental disorders, given that addictions are themselves mental disorders.

We are active members of the WPA Working Group dedicated to developing clinical guidelines on schizophrenia and substance use disorders.

We have also published review articles with the participation of Section members from Spain, India, Argentina, Israel, China, and the United States:

Szerman, N., Ferre, F., Pal Singh Balhara, Y., Waisman, M., Danon, P., Vega, P., … Baler, R. (2026). *Evidence-based prevention of dual gaming disorder using clinical neuroscience and precision psychiatry. International Journal of Psychiatry in Clinical Practice, 1–11.*

The Section did not receive any external funding to carry out these activities, which were financed individually by its members.

LIST OF ACTIVITIES – TERM 2025–2027

During the 2025–2027 term, the WPA Early Career Psychiatrists Section strengthened its governance, international representation, educational activities, communication strategies, and opportunities for early career psychiatrists worldwide.

In April 2025, the new Committee was established, with roles and responsibilities defined through a participatory process. The Section developed its 2025–2028 Action Plan, initiated weekly Board meetings and bi-monthly Committee meetings, updated its membership database, simplified the membership application process, and expanded its social media presence. The Section was also represented at WPA regional and international meetings.

Throughout 2025, collaborations were developed with the Education and Publication Committee, medical students, WPA Sections, and other partner organizations. Educational initiatives included the webinar "Digital Psychiatry & Ethics: Exploring AI-Driven Mental Health Care," developed with the Digital Mental Health Section. The Section also disseminated international surveys, research opportunities, congress announcements, exchange programs, and educational resources.

Communication and engagement were strengthened through the creation of WhatsApp Communities, regular social media content, a structured publication protocol, and the launch of a trimestrial newsletter. A repository of professional, academic, and research opportunities was also created.

To celebrate the Section's tenth anniversary, a commemorative video project was launched, and an article describing ten years of growth, collaboration, and innovation was published in World Psychiatry. The Section also improved its institutional archive and developed an ECP Welcome Package.

The Section actively participated in the WPA World Congress of Psychiatry in Prague and the WPA Regional Congress in Quito. Activities included scientific sessions, the WPA Quiz Competition, Difficult Cases sessions, mentoring, poster and oral session moderation, networking meetings, and career-development initiatives. An article describing the ECP experience at the Quito Congress was subsequently published.

In 2026, the Section coordinated the ECP Exchange Program matching process, submitted symposia for the WPA World Congress in Stockholm, expanded cooperation with students and alumni, and launched the first WPA ECP Awards. Planning also began for collaborations with the World Association for Dynamic Psychiatry and European early career psychiatrists for their 2027 congresses.

A major governance achievement was the revision of the Section's Terms of Reference, presented and discussed during Town Hall meetings. Following this process, new appointed positions were created and candidates were selected for areas including awards, research, mentorship, exchange programs, newsletters, membership, medical student engagement, competitions, and event organization. These positions improve task delegation, distribute responsibilities more effectively, develop future leaders, and increase the visibility and active participation of ECPs from different regions.

The Section also selected Zone Active Liaison Officers (ZALOs) to strengthen regional representation. The ZALOs have begun mapping psychiatric associations, universities, ECP networks, training opportunities, challenges, and priorities within each country and WPA Zone. This mapping will support targeted regional strategies, identify collaboration opportunities, improve communication, and ensure that local needs are incorporated into the Section's international planning.

Ongoing priorities include regional engagement, educational activities, newsletters, social media communication, exchange programs, awards, research and mentorship initiatives, congress participation, and collaboration with WPA Sections and international partner organizations.

Yours sincerely,



Lamia Jouini, MD, MSc
Chair, WPA Early Career
Psychiatrists Section



Alex Vicente Spadini, MD, MSc
Co-Chair, WPA Early Career
Psychiatrists Section



Rick Peter Fritz Wolthusen, MD, MPP
Secretary, WPA Early Career
Psychiatrists Section

During the reporting period, the WPA Scientific Section on Eating Disorders remained highly active in promoting international collaboration, research, education and consensus building in the field of eating disorders. The Section currently has 216 active members from different countries and therefore fulfils the WPA requirement of having at least 20 members from different regions.

The current Section Committee consists of Prof. Dr. Ulrich Voderholzer, Germany, as Chair, Dr. Fernando Fernandez-Aranda, Spain, as Co-Chair, and Dr. Alessio Maria Monteleone, Italy, as Secretary. Formal elections for the Section Committee and officers were held during the current triennium.

At the beginning of the term, the Section presented a plan of action focusing on international scientific collaboration, consensus building, support of WPA congress activities and research on chronic and long-standing eating disorders. These objectives were actively pursued. The Section organized and contributed to several scientific meetings, including symposia at WPA World Congresses in Vienna and Prague, a state-of-the-art symposium on eating disorders, a symposium on chronic and long-term eating disorders, the International Eating Disorders Seminar in 2024 with more than 400 participants, and scientific support for the EDRS-2024 Conference in Sitges.

The Section also advanced collaborative research, including a European pathways-to-care study, an international Delphi survey on long-standing eating disorders, a global patient survey on chronicity, and international roundtable discussions. Section members contributed to peer-reviewed publications and consensus papers in leading journals, including World Psychiatry.

Educational and dissemination activities included regular newsletters, free-access educational events, congress contributions, Section meetings, and regular leadership coordination. Information on activities and publications has been maintained for dissemination through WPA channels.

The Section has carried out its planned activities and respectfully requests reinstatement for the next triennium.

Document Title : WPA Section on Education in Psychiatry Triennial Report (2023–2026)
Author : Mariana Pinto da Costa, Savita Malhotra, Nagesh Pai, Ozge Kilic, Djibril Moussa, Sami Ouanes, Francisco Araniva Garcia, Rodrigo Ramalho, Snehil Gupta
Date : July 2026

OVERVIEW

During the 2023–2026 triennium, the WPA Section on Education in Psychiatry promoted excellence in psychiatric education through capacity building, research, member engagement and innovation. Particular emphasis was placed on supporting low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), strengthening collaboration and expanding opportunities for trainees and early-career psychiatrists.

COMPLETED ACTIVITIES

A leadership team was elected in July 2025, with Mariana Pinto da Costa as Chair, Savita Malhotra as Co-Chair and Nagesh Pai as Secretary. Its work focused on educational collaboration, global engagement, policy development, research and digital communication.

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

The Section appointed a Member Engagement Lead, established a Google mailing list, consolidated its membership database and launched a feedback survey. Preliminary findings highlighted demand for stronger engagement, greater LMIC outreach, more digital networking and additional collaborative activities. Monthly updates from the Chair supported regular communication and information sharing.
Social Media and Digital Engagement Initiatives

The Section expanded its presence across Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and X/Twitter. These channels promoted educational projects, publications, conferences and members' activities, increasing international visibility and collaboration.

WORLD PSYCHIATRY JOURNAL CLUB

Launched in 2025 with the WPA Early Career Psychiatrists Section, the World Psychiatry Journal Club promotes critical appraisal, evidence-based practice and academic dialogue. The first session, held in December 2025, examined a psychopharmacology randomised controlled trial. A second session in March 2026, organised with the Early Career Psychiatrists and Digital Mental Health Sections, considered digital mental health interventions in inpatient settings. The third Journal Club in June 2026 examined a Cochrane review and meta-analysis.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Section developed links with psychiatric education groups in Latin America and supported learners and early-career psychiatrists in resource-limited settings by sharing educational resources and encouraging institutional collaboration.

POLICY AND RESEARCH

Initiatives under development include a Global Survey on Standards of Psychiatry Education and Training, examining certification, accreditation and recertification systems across countries. A research project will explore gender, cultural diversity and the inclusion of lived-experience perspectives in psychiatric education.

PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

Members contributed to the 2025 World Congress of Psychiatry in Prague and presented at a national conference on psychiatry teaching and psychotherapy in Bhopal. At the 2026 World Association for Social Psychiatry Congress in Marrakech, the Section led a symposium on empathy, patient involvement, and the interface between law, mental health and education.

Planned Activities

Priorities for 2026 include continued capacity building in LMICs, completion and dissemination of global surveys, training-of-trainers and mentorship programmes, expanded digital learning, development of the Journal Club, stronger institutional partnerships, and increased opportunities for medical students and early-career psychiatrists.

ORGANISED SYMPOSIA

The Section organised a symposium at the 2025 World Congress in Prague addressing artificial intelligence, psychotherapy and the impact of COVID-19 on early-career psychiatrists. A symposium entitled "Education in Psychiatry – Current Practice and Future Directions" was accepted for the 2026 World Congress in Stockholm.

PUBLICATIONS

The Section produced publications on the evolution of psychiatric education, its global activities, and patient involvement in undergraduate psychiatric teaching. These contributions strengthened the evidence base for accessible, inclusive and culturally responsive psychiatric education worldwide.

HISTORY AND ACTIVITIES

The Epidemiology and Public Health Section has a long history of high caliber exchange of expertise in psychiatric epidemiology, bringing together experts from across the world who mentor and share information with younger members, and many of today's leaders in the field of psychiatric epidemiology trace their development to these exchanges. Its distinguishing feature is genuine global reach: members remain locally active in their own countries and regions, giving the Section a international perspective on epidemiology and public mental health. The Section convenes a biennial congress, and it recognizes scholarly contributions through the Michele Tansella Award. Total membership is 132 scholars spanning North America, South America, Europe, Africa, and Asia. The executive board, serving three-year terms, comprises Katherine Keyes as President, Lukoye Atwoli as Vice President, Corina Benjet as General Secretary, and Louisa Degenhardt, Michael Ni, Mauro Carta, and Viviane Kovess as members. The board meets monthly to guide activities and plan future meetings.

The Section's recent activity reflects sustained scientific and organizational momentum. Its 20th Congress was held in Bangkok, Thailand, on October 9 to 11, 2024, drawing 138 registered attendees from 33 countries and featuring more than 50 presentations under the theme of changing environments, well-being, and population mental health. The Section actively coordinates with allied scientific societies; for example, in March 2025 we co-sponsored a symposium at the American Psychopathological Association meeting in Boston, chaired by the Section President and featuring talks by several board members alongside Theresa Betancourt. In the years that we do not have a Congress meeting, we sponsor virtual talks from leaders in the field so that members continue to benefit from shared exchange. On the scholarly front, past President Elie Karam and current President Katherine Keyes co-authored an editorial in World Psychiatry, published in June 2025, reflecting on the Bangkok congress and the future of psychiatric epidemiology.

Looking ahead, the Section will be presenting scientific work at the WPA Congress in Stockholm in September 2026. Its 21st Congress will convene in Cagliari, Sardinia, Italy, from September 30 to October 2, 2026, under the theme of mental health in an increasingly polarized and uncertain world and the role of epidemiology and public health. The scientific program is being assembled to span political violence and polarization, trauma and forced migration, methodological innovation, human rights, artificial intelligence and social media for surveillance, and mental health across the lifecourse. Together these activities reaffirm the Section's role as an international hub translating epidemiological insight into public health action.

The Evidence Based Psychiatry Section engages in scholarly, scientific, and public health activities designed to promote education and training in the field of Evidence Based Psychiatry and to close the gap between research and clinical practice.

Regular meetings of the section leadership have been established and collaboration with national organizations are in place.

The section took active participation in the following meetings during this three-year period:

- Days of Mental Health 2023, Thessaloniki Greece 10-11 Nov 2023
- Congress of the Hellenic Psychiatric Association 2024
- Days of Mental Health 2024, Thessaloniki Greece 6-7 Dec 2024
- Congress of the Hellenic Psychiatric Association 2025
- Days of Mental Health 2025, Thessaloniki Greece 28-29 Nov 2025
- Congress of the Hellenic Psychiatric Association 2026
- Is scheduled to participate in the Days of Mental Health 2026

Section members are active researchers, publishing approximately several journal articles, chapters, and books within a typical triennial period. Members are also regular contributors to regional and international conferences as plenary speakers, chairs of special sessions, and as presenters.

(Elections for Section officers were done in September 2025 and the above were appointed uncontested)

Web pages: https://www.wpanet.org/evolutionary-psychiatry

Current Membership: 73
https://www.wpanet.org/_files/ugd/842ec8_ca899a74189a4ac08e2a6c764d9eb453.pdf

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE SECTION

- Raise awareness of the value of understanding the contribution of evolutionary theory to psychiatry.
- Encourage research into the evolutionary psychiatry.
- Provide a forum for psychiatrists and others to discuss evolutionary models, research ideas and data with fellow evolutionists.
- Facilitate networking with academic institutions and evolutionary scientists, biologists, psychotherapists, psychologists and other disciplines such as philosophy.
- Collaborate with other scientific sections of the WPA to further the objectives of the WPA as well as promote evolutionary science.
- Collaborate with national evolutionary psychiatry associations.

SECTION 2025-2026 EVOLUTIONARY PSYCHIATRY WEBINAR PROGRAM

- 30th January 2025 6pm GMT via Zoom
  Leif Kennair - "Mental disorders: is sustained negative emotional processing adaptive?"

- 27th March 2025 6pm GMT via Zoom
  Daniel Nettle - "Depression: Where do we locate the causation?"

- 29 May 2025 6pm BST via Zoom
  Molly Fox - "Evolutionary Perspectives on Alzheimer's Disease"

- 29th of January 2026 at 6pm GMT.
  Dr Gurjot Brar(Ireland).
  Title: Why Evolutionary Theory is Relevant and Useful for Psychiatric Trainees

- 26th of March 2026 at 6pm GMT.
  Professor Alfonso Troisi (University of Rome)
  Title: The GOAL model. An evolutionary guide to clinical assessment in psychiatry.

- Date:30th of April 2026 at 6pm BST.
  Speaker: Dr Gul Deniz Salali, University College London (UK)
  Title: Embodied Development: How Cooperative Care, Activity, and Social Learning Shapes Childhood in a Forager Context.

- Date:25th of June 2026 at 6pm BST.
  Speaker: Professor Samir Okasha FBA, Professor of the Philosophy of Science, University of Bristol (U.K.)
  Title: Does Evolution Matter for Psychiatry?

The section has been active implementing all WPA guidelines. It has been developing, proposing and organizing section based and individual presentations, in spite of the numerous hurdles by the WPA and lack of any, especially financial support by WPA. Efforts were taken and are still ongoing to raise necessary funding for section related projects.

Due to the forbidding high conference costs and new annual recurrence, it was difficult to organize such as symposia and ensure symposia, fulfilling WPA requests, such as the rule of having only one participant per country, and requesting participation payment by speakers even in section symposia. Consequently, the section organized a section sponsored conference at medical university of Vienna, and started a close collaboration with other WPA sections, local Sport Psychiatry Associations, the International Association for Sport Psychiatry, and partners in several countries, extending global outreach of the section with inclusion of low-economy countries, in spite of the above mentioned barriers for such countries in WPA activities, and a global research project headed by Section member Steve Baron. Section representatives have participated in all section meetings.

Further major projects were presented in peer-reviewed papers project results to the international scientific community.

An educational book in collaboration (Springer/Nature) was published with WPA logo, received WPA permission and presented in the WPA conference.

Section members have participated in international sports events to support sport teams mental health. A project has been developed to provide sport based activities to refugee camps, and is still searching for funding, while a primary mission to camps in Iraq had been conducted, confirming the interest especially of young refugees.

A number of new section members was recruited, following the great interest , and elections tried in Prague, that will have to be done in Stockholm to ensure an adequate quorum.

Life style psychiatry, both to promote mental health and general health and the need to embed it in public health was discussed and will be followed by further activities in the section.

Sport ethics, human rights in sports and sport education, and the growing neglect for concrete action in that area has become a major focus of concern by section members. The present global development underlines a long history of neglect. Issues of concern include the sexual abuse of young athletes in situations of dependency on sport organization, the insufficient mental health care and lack of trustworthy services to them, the lack of concern for the impact of career orientation including failed careers, the lack of concern for and training in human rights and ethical standards, and the impact of corruption and finally the political persecution and even execution of athletes in many countries such as Iran.

They will therefore be addressed in the educational material and programs as well as position statements under preparation by the sections as noted before will address this issues. An experienced lawyer and former athlete, Mag. Reem Alksiri (Syria/The Netherlands) was therefore recruited for legal support.

Over the past three years, the WPA Section on "Family Research and Intervention" has remained actively engaged in advancing scientific knowledge, education, and international collaboration in the field of family-oriented mental health care. Despite the challenges posed by the evolving global healthcare landscape, the Section has maintained a high level of productivity, strengthening its role within the World Psychiatric Association (WPA) and contributing to the dissemination of evidence-based family interventions across diverse cultural and clinical settings.

A major component of the Section's activities has been its sustained participation in national, regional, and international scientific meetings. Members have contributed extensively to WPA-sponsored congresses through symposia, workshops, panel discussions, and invited lectures. These scientific activities have provided important opportunities to present recent research findings, exchange clinical experience, and promote the visibility of the Section on "Family Research and Intervention" among psychiatrists, researchers, and policymakers. Participation in international meetings has also encouraged dialogue on emerging challenges in mental health care, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and facilitating the exchange of cross-cultural perspectives on the role of families in prevention, treatment, and recovery.

The Section has strengthened collaboration with other WPA Sections by promoting joint scientific initiatives, educational activities, and interdisciplinary discussions. These partnerships have broadened the scope and quality of the Section's work, fostered the integration of complementary expertise, and contributed to a more cohesive WPA community, providing a strong foundation for future collaborative research and educational initiatives.

Education and knowledge translation have represented another strategic priority during the reporting period. In particular, the Section has initiated the development of a new WPA manual specifically designed for families and caregivers. This project reflects the increasing recognition that families play a fundamental role in mental health promotion, treatment adherence, recovery, and social inclusion. The manual is intended to provide accessible, evidence-based information to support families in understanding mental disorders and managing the challenges associated with long-term care. Although coordinated by the Section on Family Research and Intervention, the manual is being planned as a collaborative WPA initiative involving contributions from numerous other Sections. This multidisciplinary approach will ensure that the publication integrates expertise from multiple psychiatric specialties, thereby enhancing its scientific quality, practical relevance, and international applicability. The project also reflects the Section's ongoing commitment to patient- and family-centered care, inclusiveness, and global knowledge sharing.

Overall, the activities undertaken during the past three years demonstrate the Section's sustained commitment to scientific excellence, educational innovation, and international collaboration. Through active engagement in scientific congresses, the expansion of collaborative networks within the WPA, and the development of a major educational resource for families and caregivers, the Section has further consolidated its contribution to the strategic mission of the World Psychiatric Association. These achievements reaffirm the central importance of family perspectives in contemporary psychiatric research, clinical practice, and mental health policy, while providing a strong platform for future initiatives aimed at improving family-oriented mental health care worldwide.

Massimo Clerici, MD, PhD, Full Professor of Psychiatry - University of Milano Bicocca (Italy) (*) & Ester di Giacomo, MD, PhD, Psychiatric Department - ASST Fatebenefratelli Sacco Milano (Italy) (+)
(*) Chair WPA Section "Family Research and Intervention"
(+) Secretary WPA Section "Family Research and Intervention"

TRIENNIAL REPORT WPA FORENSIC PSYCHIATRY SECTION

The number of members in the Forensic Section has grown exponentially, coming from all 5 continents, and currently we have 108 members.

Every 3 years we hold the election you mentioned, and that was the case in 2023, as it will be again this year.

The action plan and, above all, its execution are fundamental elements. As co-chair, I intend to be the next chair, and part of my action plan consists of holding online meetings so that the members can present the forensic psychiatric realities of their countries. This is because legislation, among other aspects, varies substantially between different nations.

At every WPA meeting, our section organizes symposia, or at least one symposium. This year I will be coordinating the symposium on Compassion in Forensic Psychiatry (n. 361).

The Forensic Psychiatry section has had quite satisfactory productivity over the last three years. In addition to annual participation in all world congresses, we drafted the Consensus on Ethics in Forensic Psychiatry in November 2025, which I edited and it was updated on the website. Another highly relevant activity was the book "Forensic Psychiatry: Clinical and Ethical Approaches," published in 2024 by Cambridge Scholars Publishing. This book was written by us, members of the forensic section, and edited by me.

TRIENNIAL REPORT OF THE WPA SECTION ON GENETICS IN PSYCHIATRY

The WPA Section on Genetics in Psychiatry currently has 54 registered members from the United States, Europe, Africa, and Asia. Elections for the Section's officers were held in May 2024. Fernando Goes was elected Chair, Smita Deshpande Co-Chair, and Urs Heilbronner Secretary. Our main goals during this term have been to share recent developments in psychiatric genetics, consider how genetic findings can be responsibly applied in clinical practice, and encourage collaboration among clinicians and researchers from different parts of the world. Section members presented symposia at WPA World Congresses in Bangkok, Vienna, Mexico City, and Prague. These sessions covered advances in psychiatric genetics and pharmacogenetics, with particular focus on their relevance for clinical care. For the Vienna meeting, we prepared a short educational booklet on pharmacogenetics for psychiatrists and other mental health professionals. More recently, we published an article in World Psychiatry in 2025 describing the Section's activities, progress in psychiatric genetics, and the challenges involved in translating research findings into clinical practice. We have continued to update information about the Section's membership, leadership, activities, and publications for the WPA website. Overall, we have carried out the main activities outlined in our plan for the term and will continue to support education, international collaboration, and the thoughtful application of genetics in psychiatry.

At the start of the triennium, a plan of action was formulated that included the following issues:

- Mobilize the membership to become more involved with the Section by designing section symposia to be presented at World and Thematic Congresses of WPA
- Actively participate and present symposia at congresses of other societies and organizations that have an affiliation with WPA.
- Present educational workshops and continuing education courses related to Immunopsychiatry
- Review the membership list and ask members to confirm their interest in retaining their membership in the Section
- Consider renaming the Section
- Engage Section members in designing and implementing educational and research endeavors

MEMBERSHIP

After thorough review of the list, members were asked to express their interest or resign from their membership. An update list was generated and posted to the website. Currently there are 43 members, and additional ones are being considered. They are from Europe, North and South America, Asia and Australia.

PARTICIPATION IN WPA MEETINGS

Members actively participated with symposia and individual presentations at the following meetings since the beginning of the triennium: WCP Vienna and WCP Prague. Plans are to participate in WCP 2026.
Participation in meetings of societies affiliated with WPA Members actively participated in the following WPA affiliated congresses and meetings: Scandinavian College of Neuropsychopharmacology 2023; 7th and 9th Congresses of Neurobiology, Psychopharmacology and Treatment Guidance in 2024 and 2026; 7th and 9th Psychoimmunology Expert Meetings (PIE) in 2023 and 2025.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Section members have remained active and impressively productive in pursuing their research projects. They have continued to publish articles in prestigious journals and give presentations nationally and internationally.
- During the Congress in Prague members were asked to consider renaming the Section from Psychoimmunology and Psychiatry to Immunopsychiatry. After considerable exchanges among the members, the name Immunopsychiatry was agreed upon. A position statement was written and submitted to the WPA leadership for consideration and approval which was granted. The position statement was posted to the Section's website.
- During the PIE meeting in 2025, a Section meeting was held with Section members in attendance.

It was agreed to form a Steering Committee that would develop and implement new goals for the Section. With approval from the WPA leadership, this Committee was formed and started meeting regularly. A major goal was established, to prepare a position paper in support of adding Inflammation as a diagnostic criterion to be included in the diagnostic manuals (DSM and ICD). The Committee has made significant progress drafting the outline of such a position paper along with four individual articles authored by members of the Steering Committee. The Journal of Personalized Medicine agreed to publish a Special Issue with the proposed title: "Inflammation at the Epicenter: Toward Biomarker-Driven Diagnosis and Personalized Treatment in Psychiatry." This Special Issue is expected to be published in early 2027.

ELECTION FOR SECTION COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS

This will be held during the upcoming WCP meeting in Stockholm later this year.

TRIENNIAL REPORT FROM THE LITERATURE AND MENTAL HEALTH SECTION

Scientific board 2023-2026:

- Chair: Sergio Javier Villaseñor Bayardo, Mexico
- Co-Chair: Ekaterina Sukhanova, USA
- Secretary: Claudia Lorena Castellanos Medina, Mexico
- Committee Member: Renato Alarcón, Peru
- Committee Member: Andrés Martín González Meléndez, Mexico
- Committee Member: Franklin Escobar-Córdoba, Colombia

Election for the Scientific Section Committee and officers:
The elections were carried out by a vote of all active members, who were previously summoned to nominate candidates for the positions. Nominations closed on May 30th. Because there was only one nomination for each position, the board was selected by consensus as follows:

Scientific board 2026-2029:

- **Chair:** Claudia Lorena Castellanos Medina, Mexico
- **Co-Chair:** Ekaterina Sukhanova, USA
- **Secretary:** Juan Maass, Chile
- **Committee Member:** Sergio Javier Villaseñor Bayardo, Mexico
- **Committee Member:** Daniel Delanoë, France
- **Committee Member:** Juan Jesús Bautista Carrera, Mexico

Overall, the section counts with 30 active members from 15 different countries:

Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, France, Greece, Iran, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Poland, United States of America, Venezuela

Plan of action presented	Status	Details
To promote and update health professionals from Mexico in the diagnosis and treatment of mental health problems at their communities through the section's participation at the organization of the congress entitled "Diagnostic spectrums in Mental Health" held in Mexico at April 10th and 11th 2025.	Completed	Participation in the congress was a success, both Chair and the secretary of the section were part of the organizing committee. There were over 500 attendees and more than 1,170 online viewers.
Participation in the intersectional state of the art lecture between Literature and mental health section, art section and transcultural psychiatry section at the 25th WPA World Congress of Psychiatry.	Completed	Title of the symposia: Literature, Culture and mental illness. Presented by the chair of the Literature and Mental Health section on October 7th 2026.
To update the membership list and include more health professionals from different countries to it, by giving out information and extending invitations at congresses and via e-mail.	Completed	The section was promoted as part of the activities of the board in every participation in congress. As a result, new members from different countries were recruited. New members were also recruited online sending their application through the website.
To publish the abstracts of the symposia and conferences from the congress "Diagnostic spectrums in Mental Health" as educational material both in the original language (Spanish) as well as a translated version into English for the dissemination of scientific information.	Pending	Since this was a participation with The Jalisco Institute of Mental Health and Addictions, publication was delayed by administrative issues outside the section. The Spanish version was published in Mexico and is now ready to be published online. A translated version into English is still on progress.

Symposia at WPA meetings in the three-year period between General Assemblies

- 24th WPA World Congress of Psychiatry "New Horizons for Good Mental Health for All". (14-17 November 2024 in Mexico City, Mexico):
  - "Trauma experienced by migrants depicted in literature" symposia in collaboration between the Literature and Mental Health section and the Transcultural psychiatry section.
  - "Literature and mental health: Topics, links and global perspective" state of the art symposia.

- 25th World Congress of Psychiatry "The Role of Psychiatry in the Changing World" (5-8 October 2025 in Prague, Czech Republic):
  - "Literature, Culture and Mental Health" State of the art symposia in collaboration between the Literature and Mental Health section and the Transcultural psychiatry section.

WPA Scientific Sections Meeting:

- Claudia Castellanos, secretary of the section, attended the WPA TPS section meeting on November 16th during the 24th WPA World Congress of Psychiatry.
- Claudia Castellanos, secretary of the section, attended the WPA TPS section meeting on 7th October 2025 during the 25th World Congress of Psychiatry.

Document Title : Military Psychiatry Section Triennial Report – 2023-2026
Author : Marina Letica Crepulja - Chair of the Section
Date : 17 May 2026

The WPA Section on Military Psychiatry has continued to grow and strengthen its international collaboration during the current triennium. The Section currently includes 58 members from different world regions, all affiliated with their respective national psychiatric associations.

At the beginning of 2024, elections for the new Section leadership were successfully conducted in accordance with WPA regulations. Professor (Associate) Dr. Marina Letica-Crepulja was elected Chair, Professor Dr. Kristina Adorjan Co-Chair, and COL (ret) Dr. Elspeth Ritchie Secretary. Following the elections, the Section presented a comprehensive action plan focused on scientific collaboration, educational activities, publication initiatives, and participation in WPA congresses.

The Section organized and contributed to several WPA scientific activities. A State-of-the-Art Symposium entitled "Military Personnel and Veterans' Mental Health" was presented at the WPA World Congress of Psychiatry 2025 in Prague. In collaboration with the WPA Disaster Psychiatry Section, an intersectional symposium, "Mental Health Strategies for Trauma in Emergencies: From Prevention to Treatment," was accepted for the WPA World Congress of Psychiatry 2026.

The Section successfully completed planned activities, including preparation and publication of the WPA Position Statement on Military Personnel and Veterans' Mental Health, publication of a Section report in World Psychiatry, active collaboration with other WPA Sections, regular hybrid Section meetings, and participation in international expert events. The Section website was continuously updated with membership information, activities, and publications. In addition, the Secretary, Chair, and Co-Chair became authors and contributors to the accepted Oxford Textbook of Military Psychiatry project.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES AND LINKS

- WPA Military Psychiatry Section webpage (membership list, activities, publications): https://www.wpanet.org/section-page/military-psychiatry/
- WPA Military Psychiatry Section Annual Report 2024 (includes Action Plan 2025): https://wpanet.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/WPA-Military-Psychiatry-Section-Annual-Report-2024.pdf
- WPA Military Psychiatry Section Annual Report 2025: https://www.wpanet.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/WPA-Military-Psychiatry-Section-Annual-Report-2025.pdf
- WPA Position Statement on Military Personnel and Veterans' Mental Health: https://www.wpanet.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Position-Statement-on-Military-Personnel-and-Veterans-Mental-Health.pdf
- World Psychiatry report from the WPA Section on Military Psychiatry: https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/wps.21373
- WPA World Congress of Psychiatry 2025: https://booklet.kenes.com/boxes/WCP25_box
- WPA World Congress of Psychiatry 2026: https://wcp-congress.com/
- Accepted intersectional symposium for WPA World Congress of Psychiatry 2026: "Mental Health Strategies for Trauma in Emergencies: From Prevention to Treatment" https://booklet.kenes.com//boxes/WCP26_box
- Oxford Textbook of Military Psychiatry: Oxford University Press – Psychiatry Textbooks

The WPA Section on Neuroimaging in Psychiatry was established in 1996 in Madrid, during the 10th World Congress of Psychiatry. The main goals of the Section include the dissemination of innovative methodological approaches as well as research findings from different applications of neuroimaging techniques in psychiatry; the sound integration of clinical and neuroimaging research; and the promotion of collaborations with other WPA Scientific Sections and among researchers interested in the field across the world.

In line with these goals, the Section organized, throughout the years, symposia in World Congresses of Psychiatry and International WPA Meetings, and promoted joint initiatives with other WPA Scientific Sections.

It has also promoted a book on «Neuroimaging of Schizophrenia and Other Primary Psychotic Disorders», to which several members collaborated.

In the last three years, Committee members, Officers (Chair: Antonio Vita (Italy), Co-Chair: Lynn DeLisi (USA), Secretary: Margaret Niznikiewicz (USA)) and regular members have pursued the objectives of the Section and published hundreds of articles and books on the progress of neuroimaging research in psychiatry and on the translation of the findings into clinical practice. They also promoted the education of other members through the organization of courses in national and international congresses on achievements and perspectives of neuroimaging research in psychiatry.

Furthermore, the Section organized the following Symposia within WCP:

- Symposium “Approaches to ameliorate brain function and symptoms in serious mental illnesses” with the contribution of Andrea De Bartolomeis (Italy), Margaret Niznikiewicz (USA), Joan Camprodon Gimenez (USA) and Antonio Vita (Italy),

- a State of the Art Symposium on the topic “Longitudinal trajectories of brain abnormalities in schizophrenia: state of the art” (not accepted).

New section members were accepted, now in the remarkable number of 37, representing 14 Countries.

In accordance with the WPA bylaws, new elections of Section officers have been run online in August 2026. The newly elected Officers are:

Chair: Armida Mucci, Full Professor of Psychiatry and Director of the Department of Mental and Physical Health and Preventive Medicine at the University of Campania "L. Vanvitelli," Italy.

Co-Chair: Sophia Frangou, Professor of Psychiatry at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York (USA), and "President's Excellence Chair" in Brain Health and Professor of Psychiatry at the University of British Columbia, Canada.

Secretary: Ingrid Agartz, Professor Emeritus at the University of Oslo (UiO) and researcher at Diakonhjemmet Hospital, Oslo.

The newly elected Officers have an outstanding profile in research and education in the field of Neuroimaging in Psychiatry and are well representative of different Countries.

In the absence of different nominations, the other past Committee members (S. Borgwardt, T. Dierks, P. Fusar-Poli, S. Galderisi, A. Heinz) have been confirmed.

The list of Officers, Committee members and regular members can be found on our webpage.

Given its long history, its past and current activities and the outstanding panel of newly elected board of Officers, we propose reinstatement of the Section on Neuroimaging for the period 2026-2029.

Document Title : WPA Section of Old Age Psychiatry (WPA-SOAP)
Author : M. S. Renuka Prasad
Date : 31 July 2026

GOVERNANCE

The Section was led for most of the triennium by Prof. Carlos Augusto de Mendonça Lima, whose sudden passing in 2025 was a profound loss to world psychiatry. The Section regrouped, held elections per WPA procedures, and elected Prof. M. S. Renuka Prasad (Canada) as Chair in fall 2025. Under his chairship the Section entered rapid renewal — membership grew nearly 50% in one year — while Prof. Lima's legacy of dignity and human rights anchors its global agenda.

2023–2024

At the WPA World Congress in Vienna (2023), the Section initiated the Global Alliance for Human Rights-Based Care and Support for Older Persons; a second meeting in Buenos Aires (IPA Congress, 2024) defined education and advocacy streams aligned with Human Rights Council Resolution 52/12. Members contributed four submissions to UN calls for input (Independent Expert; Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, cited in OHCHR document A/AC.278/2024/CRP.2; OHCHR); co-organized a WFMH World Mental Health Day webinar with IPA and ILC; presented four IPA Congress sessions; published in International Psychogeriatrics (2024;36:1, 9–12); joined GAROP advocacy; and lectured at the SF3PA Congress.

2025

The new executive recommitted to these priorities, framing ageism as a structural determinant of mental health. Prof. Renuka Prasad presented on Indigenous seniors' mental health access, dementia-inclusive systems, and late-life substance use disorders; Prof. Kiran Rabheru co-chaired a Lancet Commission on Long-Term Care, founded the Canadian Coalition Against Ageism, and was appointed Deputy Editor of the American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry; and members produced publications, guidance, and workshops.

2026

This was the Section's most consequential year. WPA-SOAP made the emerging UN Convention its overarching priority: developing a White Paper, International Survey, and Expression of Interest; and co-convening the Leiden workshop with IPA and OHCHR (30 June 2026) — Prof. Rabheru's work as lead convenor, and Prof. Renuka Prasad presenting the Section's global vision. The workshop produced the Leiden Summary Statement and workstreams spanning evidence, education, lived experience, advocacy, partnerships, brain health, legal capacity, and AI/digital inclusion. The Section's collective work underpinned WPA President Prof. Danuta Wasserman's statement at the first UN Intergovernmental Working Group session — the first time psychiatry's voice entered the UN Convention process in such depth for older persons. Worldwide dissemination to member societies across all WPA zones is generating national translations, country representatives, and society-leadership meetings — a model for section-led global engagement. At the September 2026 World Congress, the Section presents two symposia — "Healthy Aging and Compassion" and "From Aspirations to Accountability: Mental Health, Brain Health, Human Rights, and the UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons" — a State-of-the-Art symposium on Biological pathways and prevention in Psychiatric Disorders, and multiple posters.

PRIORITIES

Support the UN Convention process; develop rights-based, person-centred care frameworks; grow the Global Alliance through new liaisons; advance educational projects (including the train the-trainer model); and build a unified international leadership network integrating evidence, practice, and lived experience.

Respectfully submitted,
M. S. Renuka Prasad
Chair, WPA Section of Old Age Psychiatry

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

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 or 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

Document Title : WPA Section on Personality Disorders (2023-2026)- Triennial Report
Author : Professor Youl-Ri Kim, Chair
Date : July 2026

Since 2003, the Section on Personality Disorders has promoted a better understanding of personality dysfunction and led the development of the ICD-11's spectrum-based, dimensional classification system. In this system, personality difficulty is described not as a diagnosis, but as a part of mental pathology. The Section continues to expand this global framework, develop diagnostic tools, and advocate for universal clinical familiarity to improve treatment and reduce patient stigma.

During the 2023–2026 triennium, notable publications from the Section include a review of the Section's activities published in World Psychiatry (2024), a collaborative paper in the British Journal of Psychiatry (2026), which champions the ICD-11 personality disorder classification as the definitive path forward, and an upcoming report accepted for publication in World Psychiatry, which focuses on integrating the core concept of personality back into clinical diagnoses.

The Section is supported by robust academic contributions and communication initiatives in the area of personality disorders. Following the "State of the Art" symposium at the World Congress in Prague in 2025, this year's Stockholm 2026 congress will feature a pre-conference training course on assessing personality disorders in the ICD-11, focusing on the new DIPP-11 interviewer-rated assessment tool. At the congress, the Section will also host its official symposium, titled 'Multimodal approaches to personality disorders'.

The current leadership of the Section was officially established during the World Congress in Mexico City in 2024, led by Chair (Professor Youl-Ri Kim), Co-chair (Professor Bo Bach), and Secretary (Dr. Jacob King). The membership of the Section has grown this year to include 72 people working at the cutting edge of the field, representing 30 countries. The Section is actively recruiting new members, with welcoming early-career professionals and student members.

The Section will continue to devote itself to supporting the implementation of the ICD-11 framework, strengthening international collaboration, and expanding intersectional activity at co-sponsored WPA conferences alongside other Sections. Those interested in the work of the Section on Personality Disorders are invited to get in touch.

During the 2023–2026 triennium, the WPA Section on Personalized Psychiatry continued its work to promote a more individualized approach to the understanding, prevention and treatment of mental disorders. The Section is chaired by Giampaolo Perna (Italy), with Charles B. Nemeroff (USA) as Co-Chair and Alan F. Schatzberg (USA) as Secretary, and includes an international group of clinicians and researchers with expertise in areas relevant to personalized psychiatry.

One of our main priorities during the triennium was to strengthen the scientific basis of personalized psychiatry and, crucially, to encourage its translation into clinical practice. Section members contributed extensively to research on clinical and biological biomarkers, genetics and epigenetics, neuroimaging, EEG, pharmacogenomics, immunopsychiatry, machine learning and artificial intelligence, individualized neuromodulation and prediction of treatment response.

A particularly important contribution was our 2024 paper in World Psychiatry, “Advancements, challenges and future horizons in personalized psychiatry”, authored by the Section Chair together with Daniela Caldirola, Alan Schatzberg and Charles Nemeroff. The paper discussed both the progress made in the field and the challenges that still need to be addressed before personalized approaches can become part of everyday psychiatric practice.

The Section also continued to support Personalized Medicine in Psychiatry, the Elsevier journal created to provide an international forum for research and scientific discussion in this field. The journal has progressively developed over the years and reached an important milestone in 2026, when it received its first Journal Citation Reports Impact Factor of 2.1.

International collaboration remained a major focus. Research links were maintained and developed among Section members and institutions in different countries, including collaborations involving Italy, Maastricht University and the University of Texas at Austin. Section members also presented work related to personalized and precision psychiatry at major international scientific meetings, including the Society of Biological Psychiatry Annual Meeting, the Annual Conference on Precision Psychiatry, and the APA Annual Meetings in 2025 and 2026.

Overall, the 2023–2026 triennium was characterised by increasing scientific activity, stronger international collaboration and greater visibility for personalized psychiatry. Our next challenge is clear: to move from promising research findings to approaches that psychiatrists can realistically use in everyday clinical decision-making, while maintaining the scientific rigour required for truly evidence-based personalized care.

The Pharmacopsychiatry Section engages in scholarly, scientific, and public health activities designed to promote education and training in the field of psychopharmacology and biological psychiatry and to close the gap between research and clinical practice.

Regular meetings of the section leadership have been established and collaboration with national organizations are in place.

The section took active participation in the following meetings during this three-year period:

- Congress of the Hellenic Psychiatric Association 2024
- 9th International Congress on Neurobiology and Psychopharmacology, 8-10 March 2024, Thessaloniki Greece
- Congress of the Hellenic Psychiatric Association 2025
- 10th International Congress on Neurobiology and Psychopharmacology, 27 Feb-1 March 2025, Thessaloniki Greece
- Congress of the Hellenic Psychiatric Association 2026
- 11th International Congress on Neurobiology and Psychopharmacology, 6-8 March 2026, Thessaloniki Greece

Section members are active researchers, publishing approximately several journal articles, chapters, and books within a typical triennial period. Members are also regular contributors to regional and international conferences as plenary speakers, chairs of special sessions, and as presenters.

Document Title : WPA Section of Philosophy & Humanities in Psychiatry Triennial Report 2023-2026
Author : Dr Anna Bergqvist, Secretary, WPA Section of Philosophy & Humanities in Psychiatry
Date : 24 August 2026

OFFICERS, VISION & MISSION

The WPA Section of Philosophy & Humanities in Psychiatry (SPHP), with 165 members from Africa Americas Asia Europe and Oceania, is led by Chair Professor Michael TH Wong (Hong Kong, China), Co-Chair Professor Werdie van Staden (South Africa), Secretary Dr Anna Bergqvist (UK/Sweden), and Honorary Senior Advisor Professor KWM (Bill) Fulford (UK), all re-elected at the start of this triennium; a new election follows the 2026 Stockholm World Congress. The Section has no finances to report. Our mission is to promote the relevance of philosophy and humanities to contemporary psychiatric practice through collaboration, academic and educational activity, publication, and initiative, working closely with the WPA's Psychotherapy, Clinical Psychopathology, Transcultural Psychiatry, Biological Psychiatry, Classification, Education, and Early Career Psychiatrists Sections, and with the International Network for Philosophy and Psychiatry (INPP), our closest partner organisation. The action plan at the start of the term is (1) to organize symposia conferences and training webinars and courses and (2) to conduct research and produce publications.

COLLABORATION, CONFERENCES & CURRICULUM

The Section presented at all four WPA World Congresses this triennium (Vienna 2023, Mexico City 2024, Prague 2025, Stockholm 2026), including intersectional symposia with the Clinical Psychopathology and Transcultural Sections. Through INPP, now comprising 43 national associations under a new INPP/AAPP governance structure established in 2024, the Section co-sponsored annual conferences in Vienna (2024), Leipzig (2025) and Nijmegen (2026), where Secretary Bergqvist was invited Keynote Speaker. Officers also serve on the Royal College of Psychiatrists' Philosophy Special Interest Group Executive Committee, running annual conferences on machine learning and AI (2024), autonomy and responsibility (2025), and the self (2026), plus a joint RCPsych-RANZCP webinar and a co-produced perinatal mental health project with the Perinatal Faculty. Through the Oxford Collaborating Centre for Values-Based Practice, Co-Chair van Staden embedded values-based, person-centred training into the University of Pretoria medical curriculum, and Honorary Advisor Fulford co-developed a 2026 Summer School on Values-Based Practice and Personalisation in Mental Health, alongside the Centre's ongoing Advanced Seminar Series.

RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS & FUTURE PRIORITIES

Secretary Bergqvist leads The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy and Public Mental Health (Oxford University Press, with Kamaldeep Bhui and David Crepaz-Keay), due 2026–27, building on her completed UKRI Collaborative Doctoral Award with the Mental Health Foundation. She is also Co-Investigator on a £900,000 NIHR grant improving experiences of Black African Caribbean men detained under the Mental Health Act, and Principal Investigator on a pending €4 million Horizon Europe application. Co-Chair van Staden was elected Editor-in-Chief of Philosophy, Psychiatry & Psychology. Members published widely, including in World Psychiatry, The Lancet Psychiatry and PLOS Mental Health, and contributed to major volumes with Cambridge, Springer Nature and Oxford University Press, including a second edition of Essential Values-Based Practice and the forthcoming Values and Clinical Decision-Making in Personalised Mental Health Care. Looking ahead, the Section will continue advancing shared decision-making, values-based practice and lived-experience expertise as core conceptual resources for public mental health, including producing position statements, sustaining its close partnership with the WPA into the next triennium.

Document Title : WPA Section on Positive Psychiatry Triennial Report (2023–2026)
Author : Karen Reimers, MD (USA), Psychiatrist and Chair
Date : 16 July 2026

During the 2023–2026 triennium, the WPA Section on Positive Psychiatry continued its work in education, research, and international collaboration.

The Section maintained an active international membership and strengthened its leadership structure. Elections were completed in 2025. Regular virtual meetings were held to coordinate Section activities and develop new projects.

Section members organized and participated in educational programs at WPA and other international meetings. Activities included programming at the WPA World Congresses in Mexico City and Prague, including an invited State of the Art lecture on positive psychiatry by Professor Dilip V. Jeste. Members also contributed to symposia at the 2025 American Psychiatric Association Annual Meeting on topics including positive psychiatry, healthy aging, resilience, and artificial intelligence in mental health.

The Section continued to support international research collaborations. Members participated in multicountry projects examining positive psychiatry in different cultural settings. A special issue of Academia Mental Health and Well-Being was organized to showcase international work in the field. Members also contributed books, book chapters, and peer-reviewed articles. Major publications included the second edition of Positive Psychiatry, Psychotherapy and Psychology: Clinical Applications for Positive Mental Health, contributions to the APA Handbook of Positive Psychiatry, and articles published in journals including World Psychiatry and Nature Mental Health.

To support education and collaboration, the Section launched an international initiative to develop a shared library of teaching materials. Members are contributing slides, lectures, and educational resources that can be adapted for local teaching and future WPA educational activities.

During the next triennium, the Section plans to continue expanding its international membership and collaborations with other WPA Scientific Sections. Priorities include supporting early-career psychiatrists, promoting research on resilience, wisdom, meaning in life, social connection, and healthy aging, and developing practical educational resources for clinicians and trainees. The Section will also continue to explore the appropriate use of digital technologies and artificial intelligence in positive psychiatry.

The Section of Preventive Psychiatry brings together a global network of psychiatrists and psychiatry trainees undertaking research, teaching/ learning, clinical practice, and a diverse range of actions framed by a mental health promotion and preventive approach.

The main emphasis in the Action plan for 2023 – 2026 has been done on the increasing visibility of the section through the publication activity and on the collaboration with other sections due to the broad range of problems that preventive psychiatry covers.

The Section Officers and Executive Committee were nominated online just before the WPA Congress 2023 and approved during the Section meeting at Vienna Congress at September 28, 2023.

Chair: Olga Karpenko (Russia)
Co-chair: Uttam Garg (India)
Secretary: Rodrigo Ramalho (New Zealand)

Executive Committee:
Bulent Coskun (Turkey)
Maria Mitkovic-Voncina (Serbia)
Kuruvilla Thomas (India)
Leonardo Baldacara (Brazil)
Nasar Khan (Pakistan)

During the section meeting Section Action plan was discussed and approved. You can find more details in the WPA e-newsletter that was dedicated to this event

Section consists of 66 members from the countries all over the globe.

SECTION SYMPOSIA

Although the section was active in proposing symposia to each WPA congress, focusing mostly on intersectional symposia on the relevant issues of preventive psychiatry (primary care, prevention in disasters, education on prevention, digital technologies and prevention, etc.), only one symposium was approved for WCP during the last three years for the unknown reason.

Intersectional symposium together with the Section Quality Assurance (QA) in Psychiatry "AI-DRIVEN DIGITAL PSYCHIATRY: PROMISES AND PITFALLS IN PREDICTIVE AND PREVENTIVE CARE" was held during the Congress in Prague 2025.

Another symposium "Evolution and transformation in current preventive approaches in public mental health" was held within the WPA-cosponsored National Conference of the Indian Association for Social Psychiatry in Raipur in November 2023.

PUBLICATIONS

This part on the Action plan was more successful than intersectional collaboration through the symposia at WPA congresses and resulted in several high-impact publications dedicated to the mental health prevention and highlighting the Preventive psychiatry section.

- Minichino, A., Davies, C., Karpenko, O. et al. Preventing psychosis in people at clinical high risk: an updated meta-analysis by the World Psychiatric Association Preventive Psychiatry section. Mol Psychiatry 30, 2773–2782 (2025). https://doi.org/10.1038/s41380-025-02902-8 2.

- Fusar-Poli, P., Pillinger, T., McCutcheon, R.A., Rangaswamy, T., Asmal, L., Singh, S.P., Oliver, D., Stefanelli, R., Crossley, N.A., Gadelha, A., Lopez-Jaramillo, C., Mutamba, B.B., Cheour, M., Valencia, M., Asher, L., Aymerich, C., Catalan, A., Yon, D.K., Shin, J.I., Solmi, M., Lawrie, S.M., Kulisewa, K., Karpenko, O., Ben-Zeev, D., Cortese, S., Lund, C., Howes, O., Kéri, P., Sunkel, C., Bonoldi, I., Damiani, S., Fusar-Poli, L., McGorry, P.D., Kane, J.M. and Correll, C.U. (2026), Real-world comprehensive care of people living with schizophrenia: recommendations across different settings and clinical stages. World Psychiatry, 25: 231- 264. https://doi.org/10.1002/wps.70066
- Christodoulou, N. and Karpenko, O. (2025), The WPA Section on Preventive Psychiatry: report on 2014-2024 activities. World Psychiatry, 24: 150-151. https://doi.org/10.1002/wps.21297
- Veronese, N., Gianfredi, V., Smith, L. et al. Recommendations from the European interdisciplinary council on ageing on physical activity and diet for mental health conditions in older adults. Aging Clin Exp Res 38, 83 (2026). https://doi.org/10.1007/s40520-025-03315-x

The Section was founded in 1996 by Prof. Rubén Hernández (Venezuela) and Prof. Said Abdel Azim (Egypt), with Prof. António Palha (Portugal) joining shortly thereafter.

The Section's last election took place on November 15, 2025 in Quito Ecuador WPA Regional Meeting : led by Dr. Radwa Said Abdelazim Elfeqi (Chair, Egypt), Dr. T.S. Sathyanarayana Rao (Co-Chair, India), Dr. Katherine Jeaneth Chérrez Palacios (Secretary, Ecuador), and Msc. María Belén Villacís Chicaiza (Co-Secretary, Ecuador), supported by four Officers: Dr. Debanjan Banerjee (India), Prof. Chiara Simonelli (Italy), Prof. Kevan R. Wylie (United Kingdom), and Dr. Lidia Gouveia (Mozambique), who bring diverse clinical, academic, and cultural expertise.

During this period, the Section organized and contributed to numerous academic activities at WPA events and worldwide. At the 24th World Congress of Psychiatry in Mexico City (November 2024), two official courses were delivered on sex therapy, creative techniques, and comorbidities. At the WPA Regional Congress in Alexandria, Egypt (April 2025), the Section led a comprehensive course on sexual disorders with international faculty, an academic debate on polyamory versus polygamy, and a symposium on inappropriate sexual behavior in dementia. The Section also participated in the 23rd World Congress in Vienna (2023) and an International Congress in Pereira, Colombia. In collaboration with JSS Medical College (Mysuru, India), residential clinical skills training workshops in Psychosexual Medicine were conducted between 2023 and 2026. Additionally, the Section carried out intersectional activities with the WPA Sections on Addiction Psychiatry, digital Psychiatry endorsing innovative creative arts therapies and life style psychiatry approaches.

A major milestone was the creation of the Sexuality and Psychiatry Section within the Latin American Psychiatric Association (APAL), formally constituted on November 17, 2025, following the WPA Regional Congress in Quito, Ecuador, led by Dr. Katherine Jeaneth Chérrez Palacios (Ecuador) and Msc. María Belén Villacís Chicaiza (Secretary, Ecuador). This regional extension addresses the cultural, epidemiological, and social realities of Latin America and the Caribbean. The APAL Section operates through two Task Forces — Sexuality and Mental Health, and Gender Violence and Trauma, Sexual and Gender Diversity and has launched a phased implementation plan for 2026–2027 that includes membership recruitment, scientific webinars, multicenter research protocols, and proposals for future congresses. A joint APAL–WPA Academic Conference on Sexuality and Mental Health has been scheduled for August 28, 2026, featuring presentations by Dr. Rubén Hernández, Dr. Radwa Said Abdelazim, MD. Sophia Sánchez López, and Dr. Adriana Zenteno.

The member directory currently includes 44 active professionals from 22 countries across Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East, representing disciplines of psychiatry, psychology, and sexology respecting WPA's regulatory framework, including position statements on intimate partner violence, gender identity, and sexual orientation.

Paid Courses Module: The section proposed the module of paid courses in **sections meeting** as an educational and financial product for WPA - implemented this module in WPA regional meeting Alexandria 2025 offering reduced fees for 200 post-graduate students and residents and delivering four courses in collaboration with sections on substance use, digital psychiatry and creative arts therapies. Rendering 3600$ in total revenue from those courses to WPA.

SECTION OFFICERS

Adam Wichniak[1], Dimitris Dikeos[2], Thorsten Mikoteit[3,4],

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3. Private Clinic of Psychiatry, Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics, Schlossparkklinik Dirmstein, Dirmstein, Germany
4. Faculty of Medicine, University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland (thorsten.mikoteit@unibas.ch)

EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

Sleep and wakefulness disturbances represent a critical crossroad in modern mental healthcare. Insomnia is recognized not only as a distinct psychiatric disorder in its own right—and the most frequent sleep-related complaint in the general population—but also as a pervasive, high-burden symptom across the spectrum of psychiatric illness. Disturbed sleep frequently precedes the clinical onset of psychiatric disorders, escalates as mental health conditions progress, and routinely persists as a treatment-resistant residual symptom following primary intervention.

In light of these clinical realities, the WPA Section on Psychiatry and Sleep-Wakefulness Disorders continues its dedicated work to bridge the gap between sleep medicine and general psychiatric practice worldwide.

MISSION AND INTERDISCIPLINARY CORE

Sleep medicine is inherently interdisciplinary. A core priority of our Section is unifying sleep specialists, clinical psychiatrists, researchers, educational institutions, and public healthcare bodies across the globe. By establishing active collaborative networks, the Section works to:

1. Disseminate evidence-based information on sleep and circadian biology to mental health professionals.
2. Optimize diagnostic accuracy and screening protocols within psychiatric settings.
3. Promote integrated, patient-tailored therapeutic interventions that address both sleep disruption and comorbid mental illness.

ADVANCES IN ASSESSMENT METHODS

To address the clinical complexity of sleep-wakefulness disorders, our Section highlights and promotes the integration of advanced objective diagnostic tools. Beyond polysomnography (PSG), actigraphy, and daytime vigilance testing (MSLT/MWT), significant diagnostic progress includes: central hypersomnolence assessment, circadian rhythm monitoring, biomarker identification

EVOLVING TREATMENT PARADIGMS

The Section actively promotes a dual, integrated model combining evidence-based psychotherapy, modern pharmacotherapy, and behavioral lifestyle interventions:

- First-Line Psychotherapy: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I)—comprising sleep restriction, stimulus control, cognitive restructuring, and relaxation—remains the gold standard first-line treatment for chronic insomnia, including cases with complex psychiatric comorbidity.
- Targeted Pharmacotherapy: Where medication is indicated, the Section emphasizes modern, mechanism-specific agents that target underlying sleep- and wakefulness-regulating circuitry rather than offering broad, non-specific sedation.

- Behavioral Pillars: Sustained clinical improvement relies on foundational behavioral routines, particularly enforcing a consistent wake-up time, paired with routine daytime physical activity.

FORWARD STRATEGIC VISION

Looking ahead, our Section will focus on participating in international scientific symposia, fostering research collaborations across low-, middle-, and high-income countries, and updating educational guidelines for practicing psychiatrists. By establishing early detection and targeted sleep interventions, we aim to attenuate the course of psychiatric illness, lower relapse rates, and substantially improve patient quality of life worldwide.

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Rosenblum Y, Nakagawa J, van Hattem T, Krugliakova E, Sabhapondit B, Bovy L, Mikoteit T, Steiger A, Zeising M, Dresler M. Sleep Neurophysiology in Depression. Biol Psychiatry. 2025;98(11):842-853.

The WPA SPIDD, chaired by **Professor Kerim Munir (USA)**, was highly productive throughout the 2023–2026 triennium, building capacity, strengthening training, and promoting inclusive, person-centered psychiatric services for people with IDD and autism. With more than 50 members across all WPA regions and through its affiliated WPA Working Groups (WG) on IDD and Autism, the Section has advanced integration into mainstream psychiatric research, education, and practice.

The Section position paper, *Reframing psychiatry of IDD: from margins to mainstream, from classification to care* in World Psychiatry (2026;25(1):157-158), outlines the field's transformation and our programme's contributions. SPIDD was instrumental in placing IDD within the neurodevelopmental disorder chapter of DSM-5 and ICD-11, replacing IQ-centric severity thresholds with a tripartite model of adaptive behavior that reflects conceptual, social, and practical support needs. Members published widely on precision diagnosis and rational pharmacotherapy, psychotic and catatonic presentations, quality of life, borderline intellectual functioning and the law, and health service reform.

The Section's educational programme spanned the WPA World Congresses in Vienna (2023), Mexico City (2024), Prague (2025) and Stockholm (2026). We organized two symposia at each, plus a State-of-the-Art session with Professor Gregorio Katz, founder of Mexican IDD psychiatry. For Stockholm, the Section contributes five activities: (1) neurodevelopmental challenging case series with Early Career Psychiatrists (ECP); (2) State-of-the-Art session on borderline intellectual functioning and gullibility; (3) symposium on global mental health with the Section on Developing Countries; (4) Specialist Corner on Ethical and Legal issues with Professors Neeraj Gill and Silvana Galderisi, sponsored by President Wasserman; and (5) symposium on closing the gap in neurodevelopmental disorders.

Major educational and training outputs include the WPA Global E-Handbook on IDD, an open-access living document hosted by WPA that consolidates country-level insights across all regions and includes SPIDD's WPA Human Rights Statement on Mental Health in Individuals with IDD, approved by the General Assembly. The Springer *Textbook of Psychiatry for IDD and Autism* – 43 chapters by 116 specialists – is in a second edition in preparation, led by Professor Marco Bertelli as EIC (co-chair WPA WG on Autism). A free introductory podcast with Professor Ashok Roy (co-chair, WPA WG on IDD) and a continuing professional development resource with certification complete the training portfolio.

Interdisciplinary and international collaboration is central to the Section's mission: members contributed to the WHO Rehabilitation 2030 initiative, where Module 5 on neurodevelopmental disorders marks a milestone for resource-limited settings, and to the autism chapter in the IACAPAP E-Textbook of Child and Adolescent Mental Health in its second edition. Section members serve on the editorial board of the *Journal of Mental Health Research in Intellectual Disabilities,* with the Section chair as EIC. Looking ahead, the Section will expand E-Handbook contributions, revise the professional development resource over the next two years, and continue to address diagnostic overshadowing, service fragmentation, and the neglect of borderline intellectual functioning. Embedding ethics and human rights in mainstream psychiatric training as integral rather than additive remains a key priority.

Document Title : WPA Scientific Section on Psychiatric Rehabilitation Triennial Report (2023-2026)
Author : Prof. Kamonnet Wannasewok, Secretary
Date : 10 June 2026

MEMBERSHIP

The Section maintains an active roster exceeding the required minimum of 20 members, drawn from multiple geographic regions including Europe, the Middle East, Asia, Latin America, and the Australia. A full membership list (names, emails, regional classification) is submitted as an attachment.

COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Elections were held within the required three-year period. The current elected officers are:

- Chair: Prof. Medhat Elsabbahy (United Arab Emirates)
- Co-Chair: Prof. Alberto Fergusson (Colombia)
- Secretary: Assoc. Prof. Kamonnet Wannasewok (Thailand)

PLAN OF ACTION

A plan of action was presented at the start of the current triennium, centred on three priorities: global collaborative networks; strengthening the evidence base for schizophrenia and severe mental illness care; and integrating rehabilitation principles into mainstream psychiatric practice.

SYMPOSIA AT WPA MEETINGS (2023–2026)

The Section organised and participated in the following WPA symposia, exceeding the required minimum of two:

- **23rd WPA World Congress, Vienna (September 2023):** Symposium – "Psychiatric Rehabilitation in the 21st Century: State of the Art."
- **WPA 2025 Regional Congress, Alexandria (April 2025):** Workshop – "Challenges in Establishing a Psychiatric Rehabilitation Service."
- **WPA World Congress 2026:**
  - Accepted the State of the Art Symposium – "Mental health system, access, and rehabilitation" with Eugene Koh(Malaysia), Medhat Elsabbahy (UAE), chaired by Rodrigo Ramalho (New Zealand), Johannes Wancata (Austria)
  - Accepted the Presidential symposium: "Challenges for psychiatric rehabilitation" with Medhat Elsabbahy (UAE), Marianne Farkas (USA), Florence Jaguga (Kenya): Helen Killaspy (UK), chaired by Danuta Wassermann (Sweden) and Johannes Wancata (Austria)

ACTIVITIES PER PLAN OF WORK

The Section has carried out activities consistent with its plan of work:

- Academic publication: Chapter 8, "Neuroscience-Informed Psychoeducation for Schizophrenia," published in Progress in Brain Research (Elsevier, 2026), co-authored by Elsabbahy, Wannasewok, Jagial, Khan, and Wancata.
- Presentations at conferences beyond WPA congresses, including the Abu Dhabi Integrated Mental Health Conferences (2024, 2025), International Conference of Asia, Asia-Pacific, SAARC, WPA and Middle East Psychiatric Federations (2024), the 8th Schizophrenia Forum Abu Dhabi (2025), and the 10th Annual Regional Conference of Integrated Psychiatry, Cairo (2024).
- High-level plenary advocacy for integrating rehabilitation into mainstream psychiatric care, including co-chairing the panel "Visions on Future of Psychiatry 2030 Circa" alongside WPA leadership.

FORMAL REQUEST FOR REINSTATEMENT

We respectfully request that the Secretary for Scientific Sections forward a positive recommendation to the Executive Committee to reinstate the WPA Scientific Section on Psychiatric Rehabilitation for the 2026–2029 triennium.

DEVELOPMENTAL AND INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY TRAINING FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN VIETNAM (2024-2025)

Via USAID funding and in collaboration with the Centre for Disability Research and Policy (CDRP) Vietnam and administered by the Center for Creative Initiatives in Health and Population (CCIHP), and delivered via Hue University, this program enabled the establishment of an ongoing one-year course for upskilling medical and allied health professionals on developmental and intellectual disability. This has three modules namely 1) assessment and diagnosis 2) general principles of management and 3) interventions and rehabilitation.

Also, contributed to the Vietnam Psychiatry Association joint meeting (October 4-6, 2024) in Hanoi.

ONLINE PACIFIC HEALTH EXCHANGE (OPHELIA) PROGRAM 2024-25

The lunchtime Ophelia program delivers online, specialised child and adolescent mental health (CAMH) training to Pacific-based healthcare workers. As well as delivering training, this aims to understand the telehealth model and structures that would sustain an engaged community of practice and support the development of professional networks across the Pacific. Following the success of the 2024 Fundamentals series with over 130 attendees, an advanced course was developed for delivery in 2025. The 2025 program had attendance from 11 Pacific countries with a broad range of medical backgrounds. This is a collaboration between Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatry (RANZCP), St Vincent's Mental Health and Fiji National University.

CAPACITY BUILDING IN UKRAINE

Contributed to an online conference on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and mental disorders in children caused by the war, held on 21 November 2024, offering specialist presentations and a live Q&A. Meetings continue with Ukrainian colleagues with providing Trauma response resources and mentoring support.

THE CAMBODIAN ONLINE CHILD AND ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY INTRODUCTORY TRAINING (CO-CAPIT)

Provided 11 online sessions to 87 participants across Cambodia.

ONGOING CAPACITY BUILDING & TRAINING ACTIVITIES

The book "Where There is No Child Psychiatrist" with the free e-book version is being used to upskill health professionals internationally with a focus on developing countries.

SUPPORTED PAKISTAN'S FIRST CHILD & ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, 2025

Supported the establishment and ongoing support for the Advanced Training in Child Psychiatry in Iraq in collaboration with the Scientific Council and Iraqi Board of Psychiatry Examinations
Indigenous Mental Health Resources: A Global Perspective.
Contributed to this WPA Inter-Zonal Seminar online and in New Delhi, India from 6th to 7th September.

Document Title : Triennial Report 2026: WPA Section on Psychiatry Law and Ethics
Author : Roy Abraham Kallivayalil (Section Chair)
Date : 31 May 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Section on Psychiatry, Law and Ethics is one of the most active Sections of WPA. The Section deals with legal and ethical issues related to the practice of psychiatry and draws on international conventions, past and present, as well as the moral philosophy and its application to psychiatry. The membership of the Section has more than doubled from 34 to 72 during this triennium reflecting the interest and academic enthusiasm it has generated among our member societies. It fully complies with WPA requirements regarding membership diversity, governance renewal, scientific and academic programmes and remains committed to expanding its global network and its mission and the goals of WPA.

Office-bearers for 2023- 2026

- Chair: Roy Kallivayalil (India)
- Co-chair: Tsuyoshi Akiyama (Japan)
- Secretary: Neeraj Gill (Australia)
- Committee Members: Harneet Kaur (India), Rodrigo Ramalho (New Zealand), Kuruvilla Thomas (India), Manuel Trachsel (Switzerland), Christos Tsopelas (Greece)

NEW MEMBERS

There is a remarkable increase in membership which has more than doubled from 34 to 72 in three years. Many regions and countries hitherto unrepresented in our Section have found a place, including Romania, Paraguay and Chile, Kenya, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka, Turkey, Malaysia, USA, UK and South Africa

ACTION PLAN

2023-2026 Activities (Completed)

1. **WFMH and WPA Section on Psychiatry, Law and Ethics Symposium** on "Mental Health, Human Rights and Legislation" was held during the 75th (Platinum Jubilee) Annual Conference of the Indian Psychiatric Society at Kochi India Jan 18- 21, 2024.
2. **WPA Section on Psychiatry, Law and Ethics Symposium** was held during the 25th World Congress of Psychiatry, Prague, Oct 5-8, 2025. Title: "Psychiatry, Law and Ethics- Challenges in contemporary times".
3. **Section meeting:** An in-person meeting of our Section was held during WPA World Congress Prague on October 5th . All members of our Section attending the Congress joined the meeting. We decided to keep the section active and dynamic and also to admit new members who are keenly interested.
4. **WPA Scientific Sections Meeting:** Our Section attended this meeting during WPA Prague on October 7, 2025 convened by the WPA Secretary for Sections Prof Armen Soghoyan. Roy Kallivayalil presented a report on our Section and participated in the deliberations.
5. **WASP Congress, Marrakech Jan 2026 :** Symposium in collaboration with the World Association for Dynamic Psychiatry on " Creative Dimensions in Psychiatric and Psychotherapeutic Treatment of the Vulnerable
6. **The WPA Section on Psychiatry, Law and Ethics symposium** was held during the 77th Annual Conference of the Indian Psychiatric Society in New Delhi, January 27–31, 2026. The session was titled "Challenges in South Asia, MHCA 2017, Forensic Psychiatry, Digital Psychiatry and Data Privacy,"
7. **Collaboration with the World Association of Dynamic Psychiatry:** Keynote address on "Dynamic Psychiatry and Ethics in the Contemporary World "- by Roy A Kallivayalil (Section Chair), Raipur, India, April 24-26, 2026
8. **Strengthening of Inter Sectional Collaboration:** with
   a. Ecology, Psychiatry and Mental Health Section
   b. Preventive Psychiatry Section

SCIENTIFIC OUTPUT AND PUBLICATIONS: (MORE THAN 10 PUBLICATIONS LISTED SEPARATELY)

BOOK PUBLICATIONS

The Glow of Synthesis: Twelve Beacons of Light in Social Psychiatry 2025: Roy Kallivayalil, Rama Rao Gogineni and Salman Akhtar

Neeraj Gill and Norman Sartorius (eds). Mental Health and Human Rights – The challenges of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to Mental Health Care. Springer Nature, Switzerland. 2024.

ACTION PLAN: UPCOMING ACTIVITIES IN 2026

- Section Symposium on "Psychiatry, Law and Ethics in the Contemporary World: Human Rights, Neuroscience, Cultural and Linguistic Challenges and End-of-Life Care" at **WPA World Congress of Psychiatry, Stockholm, Sept 23- 26, 2026:** Accepted for presentation.
- Section Meeting during WPA World Congress Stockholm
- Participation in international research projects.
- Preparation of peer-reviewed publications
- Expansion of collaboration with WADP and WFMH.
- Strengthening Inter Sectional Collaborations.

We thank WPA President Prof Danuta Wasserman and Secretary for Sections Prof Armen Soghoyan for their valuable guidance and support.

Prof Roy Abraham Kallivayalil (Chair)
Neeraj Gill (Secretary)
WPA Section on Psychiatry, Law and Ethics
May 31, 2026

Document Title : WPA Section on Psychiatry, Medicine and Primary Care
Author : Rodrigo Ramalho, Eugene Koh, Bulent Coskun
Date : 26 May 2026

TRIENNIAL REPORT: WPA SECTION ON PSYCHIATRY, MEDICINE AND PRIMARY CARE

The work of the Section on Psychiatry, Medicine and Primary Care is grounded in the recognition that mental health care cannot be separated from broader health systems, including primary care delivery. During the past three years, the Section's activities have been shaped by the goal of empowering students and early-career professionals to support the integration of mental health into primary healthcare. As part of this goal, we have organized and delivered monthly online meetings for the past five years. These meetings, called 'Intergenerational meetings', connect experienced psychiatrists and internationally renowned experts with early-career professionals and medical students. The sessions are broadcast live on YouTube and remain available online, expanding their educational reach beyond those able to attend live. These meetings are part of the Section's SEED (Students Education, Empowerment, and Development) initiative.

The Section has also organized an annual Zoom gathering on World Mental Health Day. These gatherings, which we call 'Zoom parties', have provided an inclusive space for members and colleagues from different parts of the world to connect, exchange ideas, and celebrate mental health. They have included artistic presentations from SEED members. These gatherings, as well as the intergenerational meetings, are commonly organized via SEED's WhatsApp group, where members can also further exchange ideas and promote events.

The Section currently hosts 38 members. Members of the Section have also contributed to research dissemination, and education and training. For example, Section members reported invited presentations on topics aligned with the Section's remit, including lifestyle psychiatry in urology at the Global Men's Health Conference in Panama in February 2026. The Section also has a member delivering a presentation related to women and mental health at the upcoming WPA Congress in Stockholm. Additionally, the Section has an accepted State of the Art Symposium, which will focus on mental health referrals and healthcare continuity. During the WPA Congress in Stockholm, the Section will also hold its election for new committee members.

The Section has also produced scholarly outputs. Two recent publications are: first, one published in World Psychiatry that examines the role of psychiatry in primary care and highlights the Section's contributions to this field1. The second, published in BJPsych International, offered recommendations for improving mental health responses in earthquake-prone regions, drawing on lessons following the recent earthquake in Türkiye. This second publication was put together with members of SEED, and it was -for some of them- their first academic publication.

Looking ahead, the Section is well-positioned to continue its contribution to the WPA through continued educational activities, expanded engagement with students and early-career professionals, and further collaboration with other WPA Sections.

REFERENCES

1. BARON, D., KOH, E., RAMALHO, R., & COSKUN, B. (2025). THE ROLE OF PSYCHIATRY IN PRIMARY CARE: WPA SECTION CONTRIBUTIONS. WORLD PSYCHIATRY, 24(2), 289.
2. Ramalho, R., Ersönmez, R., Kına, İ., Keçeci, İ., Apparao, R., Koh, E. B., & Coskun, B. (2024). Improving mental health response in earthquake-prone regions: recommendations following the recent earthquake in Türkiye. BJPsych International, 21(4), 97-99.

Document Title : WPA Section on Psychoanalysis in Psychiatry Section Triennial Report (2023–2026)
Author : Massimo Clerici, MD, PhD, and Ester di Giacomo, MD, PhD,
Date : July 2026

The Psychoanalysis in Psychiatry (PIP) Section comprises 75 members from 24 countries across all four WPA regions. During the 2023–2026 triennium, its officers are Chair **Saman Tavakoli (Iran), Co-Chair Paola Mieli (USA), and Secretary Mario Eduardo Costa Pereira (Brazil).** Committee members are **Fabian Guénolé (France), Dušica Lečić-Toševski (Serbia), Petrin Redayani Lukman (Indonesia), Silvia Olarte (USA), and Hachem Tyal (Morocco).** Ex officio members are Chairs Emeriti and Consultants Michel Botbol and Hervé Granier (France), and Advisors César Alfonso (USA), Maria Ammon (Germany), and Graciela Onofrio (Argentina).

PIP affirms psychoanalysis's contribution to psychiatry beyond psychotherapy, as an indispensable framework for psychopathology, clinical ethics, psychiatric education, the psychiatrist–patient relationship, and understanding subjectivity in clinical practice. It advances this position through participation in World Congresses of Psychiatry, its International Meetings, and collaboration within the WPA and with international partner organizations.

PIP has been active at the World Congresses of Psychiatry, the WPA's flagship events. At the 25th World Congress (Prague, October 2025), members organized the symposium "From Infancy to Adolescence in Psychodynamic Psychiatry," chaired by Fabian Guénolé and Inge Seiffge-Krenke. At the 26th World Congress (Stockholm, September 2026), the PIP's intersectional symposium with the Psychotherapy Section, "Psychodynamic Psychotherapy and Clinical Change," chaired by Dušica Lečić-Toševski and Timothy Sullivan, has been accepted. PIP members will also deliver the pre-congress course "Psychodynamic Approaches to Team-Based Clinical Practice in Psychiatry," directed by Fabian Guénolé.

PIP convened two International Meetings. The first (University of Campinas, UNICAMP, Brazil, February 2024), chaired by Mario Eduardo Costa Pereira and co-chaired by Hervé Granier, was held under WPA auspices. Its theme was "New Foundations for the Relationship between Psychiatry and Psychoanalysis." The second (Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, June 2026), chaired by Paola Mieli and organized with the Après-Coup Psychoanalytic Association, examined psychoanalysis's contribution to psychopathology, clinical training, diagnostic processes, and new technologies. Both Meetings, with speakers from their respective host countries and abroad, were honored by the participation of WPA President-Elect Thomas Schulze and former WPA President Juan Mezzich (https://www.apres-coup.org/202526/pip2026).

PIP's productive partnership with the World Association for Dynamic Psychiatry (WADP) spans two WPA co-sponsored World Congresses. At the 20th (Marrakech, April 2024), PIP organized the symposium "Violence in Young People: Collective Trauma and Challenge for Public Mental Health," chaired by Dušica Lečić-Toševski and co-chaired by Michel Botbol, and held its Section Meeting. The partnership continues at the 21st WADP World Congress (Vienna, March 2027), which is likewise co-sponsored by WPA and co-organized by PIP.

Outside the WPA, PIP worked with the World Federation for Psychotherapy and WADP; within the WPA, with the Psychotherapy; Classification, Diagnostic Assessment and Nomenclature; Perinatal and Infant Psychiatry; and Early Career Psychiatrists Sections. It also deepened dialogue with the International College of Person-Centered Medicine.

Under the WPA's three-year cycle, Committee terms are established at the World Congress of Psychiatry. Elected on 19 May 2023, the current Committee and officers took office at the 2023 Congress; elections for the next term will precede the 2026 Congress.

Looking ahead, PIP will regularize its International Meetings, develop educational and webinar programs with partners, and continue advocating psychoanalytic thinking in psychiatric research and training.

Document Title : Triennial Report 2023-2026: Psychological Aspects of Persecution and Torture Section
Author : Prof. Dr. med. Thomas Wenzel (Chair), Dr. med. Joost den Otter (Secretary)
Date : June 2026

INTRODUCTION

The increasing global prevalence of human rights violations, together with both traditional and emerging forms of torture and persecution, including transnational repression and persecution (Dukalskis et al., 2024; Furstenberg et al., 2021), has created significant challenges for our Section. In response to these developments, the Section has initiated and supported a number of pilot and model activities in this field while continuing to fulfil WPA requirements for Sections.
This report focuses exclusively on activities that were officially coordinated, endorsed, or conducted under the auspices of the Section. Individual activities of Section members are not included unless they were undertaken in direct collaboration with, or on behalf of, the Section.

WPA-RELATED ACTIVITIES

The Section actively sought collaboration with several WPA Sections, including the Sections on Women's Mental Health, Sport and Exercise Psychiatry, Addiction Psychiatry, Forensic Psychiatry, and others. These collaborations resulted in the preparation of several interdisciplinary and inter-sectional symposium proposals. While not all submitted proposals were accepted into final congress programmes, these collaborations strengthened professional networks and promoted interdisciplinary dialogue within the WPA.

Despite limited resources, the Section contributed to numerous WPA scientific and educational activities, including workshops, Section-sponsored symposia, State-of-the-Art presentations, lectures, and "Meet the Expert" sessions at WPA meetings and congresses, including events in Prague, Yerevan, Malta, Alexandria, Stockholm, and other venues. The Section also participated in meetings of WPA Section Chairs.

In collaboration with the WPA Section on Art and Psychiatry, the Section supported poetry and humanities-related side events, including activities held at the Freud Institute in Vienna and during the WPA meeting in Alexandria.

SECTION MEETINGS AND MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Section meetings were scheduled during major WPA conferences. However, attendance has increasingly been affected by the substantial costs associated with travel and congress participation, particularly for members from conflict-affected and low-resource countries. Although differentiated registration fees have been introduced, overall participation remains constrained by financial barriers, especially in the absence of any industry or governmental support, nor membership fees.

The Section has actively recruited new members to strengthen its activities and to replace highly respected colleagues who have passed away, including Professor Semen Gluzman (Ukraine). A Section newsletter was established and is distributed to members who have expressly indicated their interest in receiving communications.

Preliminary elections have been conducted and will be formally confirmed during the next Section meeting, planned in conjunction with the Stockholm meeting and, if necessary, conducted in a hybrid or online format. Through this process, the Section aims to promote leadership renewal, encourage broader member participation, recruit new leaders who have demonstrated commitment to Section activities, establish an Ethics Committee, and reactivate the Scientific Committee.
The Section also facilitates the dissemination of recent peer-reviewed scientific publications relevant to its field among interested members.

PUBLICATIONS AND SCHOLARLY CONTRIBUTIONS

Section members have contributed to a number of publications in leading scientific journals and to WPA-affiliated book projects.

Examples include the publication in the Lancet of "Hijab Is No Diagnosis," (Mirzaei et al., 2025) co-authored with WPA President Professor Danuta Wasserman and President-Elect Professor Schulze, as well as contributions to books presented within WPA book workshops, including: An Uncertain Safety (Wenzel & Drožđek, 2019). Springer Nature.

Additional publications and scholarly projects affiliated with the WPA and/or the Section are currently in preparation.

FUNDING AND EXTERNAL PROJECTS

The Section applied for European Union funding; however, the application was not eligible for consideration because the WPA, as a Switzerland-based organisation, did not meet the relevant eligibility criteria.

The Section successfully contributed to or implemented a range of projects, without financial benefit to the sections, including:

- For Syria: A universal jurisdiction project supporting survivors of torture from Syria; A United Nations-supported project related to the Istanbul Protocol in Syria; An ESPRI-WPA mini-project and several related initiatives concerning the Istanbul Protocol in Syria.
- On Uyghur community: A project on the situation of Uyghur women human rights defenders, hosted by the University of Munich in collaboration with Professor Schulze and the World Uyghur Congress; A follow-up project focusing on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) interventions for affected Uyghur communities.
- Advisory and support activities for students and trainees from Nepal, Gaza, Syria, and Afghanistan.
- Collaborative book projects, workshops, and educational activities with universities in Kathmandu, Stuttgart and Dohuk (Iraq).
- Support activities for survivors of torture participating in universal jurisdiction proceedings, including projects partly supported by United Nations funding.
- Section-sponsored symposia on victims of crime and torture in Vienna and other countries.

Document Title : WPA Psychoneurobiology Section – Triennial Activity Report
Author : Section Officers
Date : May 2026

During the 2023-2026 triennium, the WPA Section on Psychoneurobiology has continued to strengthen its scientific activities, international collaborations, and educational initiatives within the WPA framework. The Section currently includes more than 25 members from different geographical regions. Elections for the Scientific Section Committee and officers were held on September 30, 2023, during the WPA World Congress of Psychiatry in Vienna. The elected officers are:

- Paola Bucci, Chair;
- Mohammad Arbabi, Co-Chair;
- and Giulia M. Giordano, Secretary.

The activities of the Section have been consistent with the objectives outlined in the 2023-2026 Action Plan, with a focus on neuroinflammation, brain connectivity, cognitive dysfunctions, biomarkers, electrophysiology, and translational psychiatry. Building on the scientific activities developed by the previous leadership, the current Committee continued to support the Section's international visibility through symposium proposals for WPA Congresses in 2024 and 2025, involving speakers from Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. In addition, the Section successfully obtained acceptance of a State-of-the-Art Symposium for the WPA World Congress 2026 in Stockholm.

The Section also organized WPA-endorsed seminars in 2024 with international experts from Iran, the United Kingdom, and Japan, promoting scientific exchange and educational activities. Membership engagement has progressively increased through regular updates of the membership list, including the admission of new members and psychiatrists already active within the WPA Early Career Psychiatrists Section.

The Section has regularly updated its WPA webpage and maintained active scientific productivity through numerous peer-reviewed publications by its members, in line with the Section's objectives in psychoneurobiology, translational psychiatry, and neuroscience research. For 2026-2027, the Section is also planning an international webinar series (four online seminars per year) and a thematic Special Issue with an opening WPA Section position paper dedicated to translational psychoneurobiology and precision psychiatry.

Document Title : World Psychiatric Association Psychotherapy Section Triennial Report (2024–2026)
Author : Dr David Choon Liang Teo
Date : 26 June 2026

This report is submitted to the WPA Executive Committee in support of the reinstatement of the WPA Psychotherapy Section for the next triennium, in accordance with the requirements for Scientific Sections.

FOREWORD

The WPA Psychotherapy Section has continued to advance the Association's mission by promoting excellence in psychotherapy through international collaboration, education, scientific exchange, and interdisciplinary scholarship.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

During the current triennium, the Section has maintained an active and geographically diverse membership. As of June 2026, the Section comprises 65 members representing 26 countries across multiple world regions, reflecting its continued international growth and diversity. New members have been recruited throughout the triennium, further strengthening global representation.

ELECTIONS

The current Section Committee was elected within the required three-year period in accordance with WPA regulations. Under the leadership of Chair Dr Constantine D. Della, together with the Section officers and committee members, the Section has pursued the action plan approved at the beginning of the term, focusing on expanding psychotherapy education, fostering international collaboration, supporting scientific meetings, and promoting person-centred psychiatric care.

ACTION PLAN

At the start of the current term, the WPA Psychotherapy Section agreed an action plan to achieve the following goals:

- Actively participate in international scientific congresses
- Foster global collaboration in psychotherapy research and scholarship
- Contribute to publications in peer-reviewed journals

ORGANISATION AND PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

The Section has maintained a strong scientific presence by organising and contributing to numerous WPA and international congresses. During the triennium, Section officers and members organised or participated in educational symposia, workshops, courses and invited lectures at major international meetings, including:

- American Academy of Psychodynamic Psychiatry and Psychoanalysis Annual Meeting (2024)
- Changi General Hospital Psychodynamics Conference, Singapore (WPA co-sponsored) (2024)
- 24th World Congress of Psychiatry, Mexico City (2024)
- 51st Annual Convention of the Philippine Psychiatric Association and World Federation for Psychotherapy Regional Meeting (2025)
- American Psychiatric Association Annual Meeting (2025)
- Pacific Rim College of Psychiatrists / World Association of Cultural Psychiatry Congress (2025)
- 25th World Congress of Psychiatry, Prague (2025)
- Southeast Asia AFPA Regional Congress (2026)
- 24th World Congress of Psychotherapy, New York (2026)

The Section has actively contributed to the educational mission of the WPA through scientific presentations, workshops, invited lectures and interdisciplinary educational programmes. Members have delivered lectures spanning psychodynamic psychotherapy, cultural psychiatry, psychotherapy for medically ill patients, personality disorders, therapist wellbeing, spirituality and psychotherapy, supervision, psychotherapy research, physician burnout, workplace mental health, and the integration of psychotherapy with contemporary psychiatric practice. These activities have strengthened international collaboration and promoted psychotherapy across diverse cultural and clinical settings.

The Section has contributed to scholarly activities through publications, invited lectures, educational programmes, conference proceedings, interdisciplinary collaborations, and scientific exchanges supporting the educational mission of the WPA.

Members have supported WPA educational programmes through conference teaching, expert panel discussions, and collaborative scientific activities with partner organisations including the World Federation for Psychotherapy, national psychiatric associations, and academic institutions.

Information relating to membership, scientific activities, educational programmes and publications has been regularly submitted for updates on the WPA Scientific Sections website.

FINANCIAL REPORTING

The Section has no independently administered finances beyond WPA governance arrangements and has complied with all reporting requirements requested by the Executive Committee.

CONCLUSION

The WPA Psychotherapy Section respectfully submits that it has fulfilled all requirements for reinstatement as a WPA Scientific Section.

Throughout the current triennium, the Section has maintained an internationally representative membership, conducted committee elections in accordance with WPA regulations, implemented its action plan, organised and participated in numerous international scientific meetings, contributed to educational and scholarly activities, maintained communication through the WPA website, and continued to promote psychotherapy as an integral component of contemporary psychiatric practice.

The Section respectfully requests reinstatement for the next triennium and remains committed to advancing psychotherapy worldwide through education, research, international collaboration, and clinical excellence.

In the triennium, the Section has led the development of the International Network on Cancer in patients with severe mental illness (about 80 members) and relative educational material (in preparation) as a companion to a specific book by Springer (see below).

The section has a 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

The Section organized a Section Symposium at 23rd World Congress of the World Psychiatric Association, Sept-Oct, 2023, Vienna; a Section Symposium held at the World Congress of World Psychiatric Association in Mexico City, Mexico, November 14-17, 2024; a Section Symposium held at the World Congress of World Psychiatric Association in Prague, Czech Republic, October 5-8, 2025; a Section Symposium to be held at the World Congress of World Psychiatric Association in Stockholm, Sweden, September 23-26, 2026.
It also co-organized a Symposium at 24th World Congress of Psycho-Oncology — September 2023, Milan Italy; a Symposium at 26th World Congress of Psycho-Oncology — September 2025, Adelaide, Australia; a Symposium at 6th National and 2nd International Conference on Psycho-Oncology, September 17-19, 2026, Bucharest, Romania; a Symposium at 26th World Congress of Psycho-Oncology — November 2026, Barcelona, Spain

Within the WPA it collaborated with the Section on Psychiatry and Primary Care; the WPA Section on Women; the WPA Section on Urban Mental Health.

The Section also continued its liaison and collaboration with several international societies, mainly (i) the International College of Psychosomatic Medicine (ICPM) (www.icpmonline.org); (ii) the European Association of Psychosomatic Medicine (EAPM) ((www.eapm.eu.com/); (iii) the International Psycho-Oncology society (IPOS) by helping in the implementation of the of multilingual core-curriculum in psycho-oncology (https://www.ipos-society.org/professionals/multi) and the International Standard of Quality Cancer Care (https://www.ipos-society.org/about/quality); (iv) the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Distress Guidelines – 2024, 2025, 2026 (panel Chair: Michelle B. Riba), being part of the Panel Discussant at American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting (Chicago, ILL June 1, 2026) on Distress and Sleep Guidelines); (v) the European Association of Palliative Care (EAPC), contributing to the development of the EAPC Task Force on Palliative Care in patients with severe mental illness, in preparing the new strategies, educational material and proposals for patients with SMI in palliative care (https://eapcnet.eu/); (vi) the European Society of Oncology (ESMO) writing the clinical guidelines for the treatment of anxiety, depression and sleep disorders in cancer patients.

In the triennium the Section has published 2 books (McFarland D., Grassi L., Silver S.M., Riba M., : The Complex Role of Patient Trust in Oncology. Springer, Cham, 2024 - ISBN 978-3-031-48556-5; Grassi L., McFarland D.C., Riba M.B Cancer in patients with severe mental illness - Screening, assessment, and management. Springer, Cham, 2026 (in press), 3 chapters in collaboration with members in the WPA book: Fiorillo A., Javed A., Sartorius N.: Comorbidity between Mental and Physical Disorders: Identification, Management and Treatment. Springer, Cham, 2025 ISBN 978-3-031-81801-1) and several publications in peer-reviewed journals. Some of the abovementioned activities are in press in the World Psychiatry journal.

ANNUAL REPORT OF WPA SECTION ON QUALITY ASSURANCE 2025

Chairs: Prof. Wolfgang Gaebel
Prof. Jack McIntyre
Secretary: Prof. Jagannathan Srinivasaraghavan

GUIDELINES & EDUCATIONAL COURSES

- Continued implementation of guidelines in Mental Health specifically related to Schizophrenia.
- Improving perceived gaps in awareness, planning & delivery of care by psychiatrists and mental health professionals by online educational course developed with WHO collaboration centre (DEU-I31) & University of Rochester.

PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

- Section presentation in WPA meetings in Vienna & Mexico City in 2023 & 2024.
- Submitted a symposium proposal for presentation in the WPA meeting in Stockholm, Sweden this year.
- Continued publications & presentations on quality indicators of mental health care.

CURRENT PLANS

- Recognizing reasonable quality of care & universal health care for all is a United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 3 (good health), we are focusing on possible research leading to improvements.
- Deaths and significant injuries related to use of restraints have been documented. Will strive to achieve possible ways to prevent or reduce such mishaps.

MEMBERSHIP

We are actively working to include & encourage younger members & also increase participation from Asia & Africa.

FUTURE PLANS

- In order to promote intra as well as inter Sectional dialogue and collaboration, operating a viable website is seriously being considered.
- We are rethinking the concept of renaming the Section with a strong focus on quality management & universal health coverage to make its purpose & work clearer & attractive for potential new members. This will be an agenda item during our meeting in Stockholm.

Document Title : WPA Section on Religion, Spirituality and Psychiatry (SRSP) 2023-2026 Triennial Report
Author : Dr. Alan Fung
Date : 20 August 2026

The 2023-2026 SRSP Executive Committee (EC) members include: Chair: Dr. Alan Fung (Canada); Co-Chair: Dr. Bruno Paz Mosqueiro (Brazil); Secretary: Dr. Rajashree Ray (India); other EC Members: Dr. Farha Abbasi (USA), Dr. Agatha Chong (Hong Kong SAR, China), Dr. Sarah Eagger (UK) and Dr. Anahy Fonseca (Brazil).

The *WPA Position Statement on Spirituality, Religion and Psychiatry, 2023 Revision*, was approved by the WPA Executive Committee and General Assembly in 2023 . During 2023-2026, the SRSP EC has focused on implementing recommendations in the Position Statement to enhance mental health outcomes utilizing spirituality, focusing on the following areas.

EDUCATIONAL ENDEAVOURS

The SRSP has organized and/or sponsored symposia at WPA World Congresses of Psychiatry, including a State-of-the-Art Symposium on Spirituality and Psychiatry featuring Dr. Peter Verhagen (chaired by Dr. Fung and Dr. Paz Mosqueiro) and oral presentation on lifestyle psychiatry and spirituality by Dr. Fung in 2025; as well as two symposia in 2026 ("Tailoring issues of religion and spirituality in psychiatry from a multi-continental, science-based perspective", chaired by Dr. Verhagen; "Spirituality to empower lived experience in mental health care: worldwide perspectives and advances", chaired by Dr. Paz Mosqueiro and Dr. Fung). Moreover, the SRSP has continued its expert webinar series on spirituality & psychiatry; and co-organized a spirituality webinar series with the Indian Psychiatric Society (IPS) Spirituality and Psychiatry Section in 2025. Furthermore, it co-sponsored the 2024 International Yoga Day Conference.

GLOBAL SUMMIT

The SRSP organized the 6th Global Summit on Spirituality, Religion and Mental Health (May14-15, 2026, Boston, Massachusetts, USA). An official WPA co-sponsored meeting with over 360 attendees from 18 countries, it was the first time that the WPA SRSP has collaborated with the American Psychological Association Division 36, and the Harvard Initiative on Health, Spirituality, and Religion – among other sponsors – in holding this global conference. All SRSP EC members actively contributed to the Conference organization, with Dr. Fung serving as Co-Chair (Psychiatry) of the Summit and the International Organizing Committee, and Dr. Alexander Moreira-Almeida as Co-Chair (Psychiatry) of the Scientific Committee. Dr. Thomas Schulze (WPA President-Elect) and Dr. Paul Summergrad (WPA Secretary of Finance) served as keynote speakers.

COLLABORATIONS WITH NATIONAL PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATIONS

Dr. Ray co-edited the 2025 IPS publication Spirituality and Mental Health, with contributions from various SRSP members. Dr. Chong co-founded the Spirituality Section at the Hong Kong College of Psychiatrists in 2024 – serving as its Founding Chair. Two SRSP Past Chairs (Dr. Verhagen and Dr. Moreira-Almeida) received the American Psychiatric Association (APA) Oskar Pfister Award for outstanding contributions in psychiatry and religion in 2024 and 2025, respectively. Dr. Fung has served as Chair of the APA Caucus on Spirituality/Religion and Psychiatry since 2025.

COLLABORATIONS WITH SPIRITUAL CARE PROFESSIONALS AND FAITH COMMUNITIES

The SRSP has collaborated with the World Council of Churches and presented at their Global Ecumenical Health Meeting in Oct 2023; and, together with Dr. Schulze, has been in active discussions with the International Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers in supporting Catholic clergies worldwide in their mental health ministries.

During the 2023–2026 triennium, the main work of the WPA Scientific Section on Schizophrenia was the organizational restructuring of the section.

The section reviewed and updated its membership list through a membership confirmation process. Following this process, 21 members confirmed their continued membership, meeting the WPA requirement of at least 20 active members from different regions. In 2026, five new members joined the section: Lone Baandrup, Joanna Moussiopoulou, Vladislav Yakimov, Myrto Samara, and Ellis Onwordi. The section currently has over 40 registered members from multiple continents.

The section also worked on re-establishing communication among its members and on reviewing its governance structure. The timetable for the next elections has not yet been finalized and will be clarified in consultation with the WPA Secretary for Scientific Sections.

In addition, the section contributed to the WPA Book Forum through the publication Comorbidity between Mental and Physical Disorders (Springer, 2025), edited by Andrea Fiorillo, Afzal Javed, and Norman Sartorius. The volume addresses the relationship between mental and physical disorders, including issues relevant to schizophrenia.

Further activities are currently in preparation. These include participation in the World Congress of Psychiatry, the next virtual meeting, that is planned for October 2026, the launch of a section newsletter, and the creation of a shared repository for publications, ongoing research projects, and proposals for collaboration.

The section is also developing proposals for future WPA congress symposia. Possible topics include schizophrenia research, comorbidity, common biological mechanisms, and global mental health perspectives.

Overall, the triennium was primarily devoted to restoring the section's membership base, communication structures, and organizational capacity. These steps provide the basis for future scientific, educational, and collaborative activities.

Through its networks of international members (n=53) and organizational affiliates (n=15), the Stigma Section engages in scholarly, scientific, and public health activities designed to reduce prejudice and discrimination because of mental disorders and improve social inclusion for people with mental illnesses and their families.

The Section leadership meets on a regular basis to develop and implement action plans including collaborating with national organizations to host a biennial international Together Against Stigma Conference. The section election is typically held before the stigma conference. During the last triennial election, the Section received permission to retain its Section Committee without an election as they were heavily involved in planning for the Together Against Stigma Conference that was held in Iceland.

This year, the 11th international Together Against Stigma Conference will be held in November in New Delhi, India and the election will precede this. Stigma Section members are active researchers, publishing approximately 300 journal articles, chapters, and books within a typical triennial period. A detailed bibliography of these publications is maintained on the WPA website.

Members are also regular contributors to regional and international conferences as plenary speakers, chairs of special sessions, and as presenters.

Document Title : WPA Section on Suicidology – Triennium Report 2023–2026
Author : Vladimir Carli and Sara Sutori
Date : August 2026

During the 2023–2026 triennium, the WPA Section on Suicidology continued to strengthen its international scientific, educational and collaborative activities in suicide research and prevention. By March 2026, the Section comprised 36 members from 23 countries, demonstrating broad geographical representation and multidisciplinary expertise. The Section website was updated to include the current membership list, recommended readings authored by members and the previous annual activity report.

In 2025, the Section made a substantial contribution to the World Congress of Psychiatry in Prague. It presented the Section Symposium "Integrating Insights from Research and Practice to Enhance Suicide Prevention" and the State-of-the-Art Symposium "Advancing Clinical Care for Suicidal Patients through Scalable and Accessible Interventions." It also delivered the course "From Insight to Practice: Advanced Suicide Risk Assessment and Prevention," supporting the translation of current evidence into clinical practice.

The Section further contributed to the organization of the third hybrid workshop on "Open Questions in Transcultural Suicidology," held in Stockholm in December 2025. Members also supported the first Swedish Suicide Research Conference as part of its Organizing Committee and Scientific Management Team, strengthening cooperation between international and national suicide-prevention networks.

Scientific dissemination remained a major area of activity. Section members authored more than 120 scientific publications during 2025, addressing suicide, suicidal behaviour, risk and protective factors, clinical interventions and related areas of mental health. The Section's recent work and developments were also presented to the wider WPA community through the article "Report from the WPA Section on Suicidology: Recent Advances and Activities," published in World Psychiatry in 2026.

The Section's 2026 programme expanded its international conference and educational engagement. Planned contributions included an accepted Section symposium, "Integrating Pathways for Global Suicide Prevention," at the World Congress of Psychiatry in Stockholm; a symposium on complex pathways to youth suicide at the European Symposium on Suicide and Suicidal Behaviour in Vilnius; and a contribution on recent developments in transcultural suicidology at the European Congress of Psychiatry in Prague. The Section Chair, Vladimir Carli, was also scheduled to deliver a plenary presentation on scalable clinical interventions at the Sneha Suicide Update in Chennai.

Educational activities for 2026 included co-organizing a course on leadership in psychiatry and delivering a further course on advanced suicide risk assessment and prevention at the World Congress of Psychiatry in Stockholm. A Section committee election was also scheduled during the Congress.

Overall, the Section combined international collaboration, scientific production, clinical education and knowledge dissemination to advance evidence-based, culturally responsive and accessible approaches to suicide prevention across the WPA network.

SECTION ON TRANSCULTURAL PSYCHIATRY TRIENNIAL REPORT (2023-2026)

The World Psychiatric Association (WPA) Section on Transcultural Psychiatry (WPA–TPS) has continued to strengthen its international profile through scientific, educational, and collaborative activities over the past three years. The Section Board met regularly both during WPA meetings and online, maintaining close communication to coordinate the Section's ongoing work and future initiatives.

Education remained a central priority. During 2023 and 2024, the Section organised a total of six international webinars addressing key topics in transcultural psychiatry, topics included cultural competence in psychiatric practice, cultural responsiveness in clinical assessment and treatment, and the conceptualisation of war trauma and PTSD. Building on this success, four webinars were organised in 2025, covering the history of transcultural psychiatry and decolonisation, global mental health and ethics, ethical dilemmas in diagnosing mental illness across cultures, and depression and culture. These webinars have provided an important platform for knowledge exchange and have enabled members from different regions of the world to engage between World Congresses of Psychiatry.

The WPA–TPS Newsletter continued to serve as one of the Section's principal communication channels. Four editions were published during 2024 and three editions during 2025, featuring review articles, original contributions, project updates, conference announcements, and news from Section members. Members continue to be encouraged to contribute articles and reports, strengthening the newsletter as a platform for international collaboration and exchange of ideas.

The Section maintained a strong scientific presence at the World Congresses of Psychiatry. Many of the Section members participated as symposium organisers, presenters, faculty members, and chairs.

Supporting early career psychiatrists remains an important priority. In 2024, the Section awarded two travel stipends to facilitate participation at the World Congress of Psychiatry in Mexico City, enabling promising early career psychiatrists from India and Mexico to attend the Congress and engage with the international transcultural psychiatry community.

During 2025, the Section further expanded its collaborative activities. It became a co-organiser of the international conference Living in the Aftermaths: Trauma, Politics, and Survival in Yugoslavia and Successor States, 1945–Present, to be held in Rijeka, Croatia, in April 2026. The Section also continued its collaboration with the international MiM2M Project, which seeks to improve multilingual mental healthcare for migrants through interdisciplinary research. In addition, preparations are underway for a Special Issue of Transcultural Psychiatry focusing on the historical development of transcultural psychiatry and its relevance for contemporary challenges.

The Section remains committed to advancing transcultural psychiatry through high-quality scientific activities, international collaboration, education, and advocacy. By promoting cultural responsiveness in mental healthcare and strengthening global professional networks, the WPA–TPS continues to contribute to equitable, culturally informed psychiatric practice worldwide.

Document Title : Urban Mental Health Section Triennial Report (2023-2026)
Author : Takahiro Kato (Section Secretary)
Date : July 2026

TRIENNIAL REPORT, THE WPA SECTION FOR URBAN MENTAL HEALTH (2023–2026)

During the 2023–2026 triennium, the WPA Section on Urban Mental Health continued to promote international collaboration and academic exchange on the mental health challenges associated with rapid urbanization. Through scientific meetings, webinars, publications, and regular communication among members, the Section strengthened its global network and addressed emerging issues affecting mental health in urban settings.

The Section successfully organized scientific symposia at the WPA World Congress of Psychiatry in Vienna (2023) and Mexico City (2024), providing an international platform for discussion on current topics in urban mental health. These symposia highlighted the impact of urbanization on mental health across different regions and encouraged interdisciplinary collaboration among psychiatrists and mental health professionals.

In 2025, the Section organized two international webinars. The first webinar, Mental Health Challenges in the Digital Urbanized Society: Internet Gaming Disorder, Modern-Type Depression, Personality Formation and Hikikomori (January 20, 2025), focused on the psychological consequences of digitalization and rapid urban development. The second webinar, Climate Psychiatry in Urban Cities (July 14, 2025), addressed the mental health impacts of climate change and environmental change in urban settings. In addition, an international seminar entitled Harmonization between Urbanization and Nature in Future Mental Health was held at Hokkaido University, Japan, on September 23, 2025, promoting dialogue on sustainable urban development and mental well-being. Regular online Section meetings further strengthened collaboration among members from different regions.

The Section also contributed to academic dissemination through publications. In 2025, two representative papers were published, including an article in World Psychiatry describing the role of the WPA Section on Urban Mental Health and another in Neuropsychiatry focusing on urban mental health, hikikomori, and modern-type depression. Membership remained active and international, with approximately 30 members representing 18 countries, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and global exchange.

Looking ahead, the Section will continue its scientific and educational activities at the WPA World Congress of Psychiatry 2026 in Stockholm. The Urban Mental Health Section will organize an Urban Mental Health Symposium on 23 September 2026 (15:30–16:30), presented by Professor Umberto Volpe and Professor Takahiro A. Kato, and will also convene its annual Section meeting. Through these initiatives, the Section remains committed to promoting research, education, and international collaboration to address emerging mental health challenges associated with urbanization.

Document Title : WPA Section on Women's Mental Health (2023–2026) – Triennial Report
Author : Prof. Florence Thibaut
Date : July 2026

The WPA Section on Women's Mental Health (WMH), chaired by **Professor Florence Thibaut (France)**, continued throughout the 2023–2026 triennium to promote excellence in research, education, advocacy, and international collaboration in women's mental health. With more than 70 members from all world regions, the Section has strengthened the integration of sex- and gender-sensitive approaches into psychiatric research, education, and clinical practice.

Scientific activity remained a major priority. Members contributed to numerous peer-reviewed publications, including a multidisciplinary Delphi consensus on priority women's health issues published in *BMJ Public Health (2025)*, a study on gender and income disparities in participation at WPA World Congresses published in *Archives of Women's Mental Health (2026)*, and a comprehensive review of the Section's achievements and future priorities accepted for publication in *World Psychiatry (2026)*. These publications address key challenges in women's mental health while contributing to evidence-based policy and clinical practice.

The Section maintained an extensive educational programme through active participation in WPA World Congresses held in Vienna (2023), Mexico City (2024), Prague (2025), and Stockholm (2026). Across these meetings, members organized numerous scientific symposia, state-of-the-art sessions, and Continuing Medical Education (CME) courses covering major topics including perinatal psychiatry, gender differences in psychiatric disorders, violence against women, addictions, workplace mental health, migration, autism in women, digital psychiatry, and women's leadership. In addition, two international CME webinars on perinatal mental health and women with addictive disorders were organized in collaboration with the Malaysian Psychiatric Association.

Interdisciplinary collaboration remained central to the Section's mission. Joint scientific activities were developed with several WPA Sections, including Digital Mental Health and Psychiatry, Psychological Consequences of Torture and Persecution, Addiction Psychiatry, Early Career Psychiatrists, Perinatal Psychiatry and Infant Mental Health, and Genetics in Psychiatry. These collaborations have facilitated the integration of gender perspectives across multiple areas of psychiatry.

The Section also strengthened partnerships with international organizations, notably the International Association for Women's Mental Health (IAMWH), the International Neuropsychiatric Association (INA), the World Federation of Societies of Biological Psychiatry (WFSBP), the European Psychiatric Association (EPA), and the Malaysian Psychiatric Association. These collaborations have supported joint scientific meetings, educational initiatives, international guidelines, and global advocacy.

Looking ahead, the Section will continue to expand international research collaborations, promote education and capacity building, support evidence-based policies, reduce gender inequalities in mental health care, and increase the visibility of women's mental health within global psychiatry. Through its scientific productivity, educational leadership, and international partnerships, the WPA Section on Women's Mental Health continues to play a leading role in advancing women's mental health worldwide.

Reports from Zonal Representatives

Document Title : The Report from the WPA Board (2023-2026)
Author : Dr. Ramune Mazaliauskiene and Dr. Thelma Sanchez-Villanueva
Date : July 2026

Welcome to the presentation of the 2023–2026 triennium reports of the World Psychiatric Association (WPA) Zonal Representatives. The WPA Board—elected in 2023 at the WPA Congress in Vienna, Austria—comprises 18 Zones that together cover the entire world and is co-chaired by **Thelma Sánchez-Villanueva and Ramunė Mazaliauskienė.**



Thelma Sanchez-Villanueva
Mexican Psychiatric Association Mexican Consortium of Neuropsychopharmacology Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean



Ramune Mazaliauskiene
Lithuanian Health sciences university, Lithuanian Psychiatric association, Northern Europe.

The Zones and their representatives are:

- **Zone 1 (Canada)**, and the representative: **Gary Chaimowitz;**
- **Zone 2 (United States of America)**, and the representative: **Bernardo Ng**;
- **Zone 3 (Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean),** and the representative: **Thelma Sanchez-Villanueva;**
- **Zone 4 (Northern South America),** and the representative: **Rodrigo Nel Cordoba Rojas;**
- **Zone 5 (Southern South America)**, and the representative: **Miguel Angel Cuellar Hoppe;**
- **Zone 6 (Western Europe),** and the representative: **Johannes Wancata;**
- **Zone 7 (Northern Europe),** and the representative: **Ramune Mazaliauskiene;**
- **Zone 8 (Southern Europe)**, and the representative: **Konstantinos N. Fountoulakis;**
- **Zone 9 (Central Europe),** and the representative: **Igor Filipcic;**
- **Zone 10 (Eastern Europe),** and the representative: **Nikolay Negay;**
- **Zone 11 (Northern Africa),** and the representative: **Amine Larnaout;**
- **Zone 12 (Middle East),** and the representative: **Mahdi Abu Madini;**
- **Zone 13 (Central and Western Africa),** and the representative: **Aida Sylla;**
- **Zone 14 (Eastern and Southern Africa),** and the representative: **Juliet Nakku;**
- **Zone 15 (South Asia),** and the representative: **Vinay Kumar;**
- **Zone 16 (South East Asia),** and the representative: **Chawanun Charnsil;**
- **Zone 17 (Eastern Asia),** and the representative: **Yong Chon Park;**
- **Zone 18 (Australia and the South Pacific),** and the representative: **Valsamma Eapen.**

As the articulating link between the Executive Committee (EC) and the regions, the Board ensures two-way communication—supported by EC participation in Board meetings—so that central strategies are aligned with regional realities.

The Board executes and advances the EC's Plan of Action and the President-Elect's work plan (including their financial aspects), and advises the EC and General Assembly on:

- Strengthening collaboration among Member Societies across Zones;
- The creation of Scientific Sections; the WPA budget and accounts;
- The agendas of General Assemblies;
- The Nominations Committee's report on candidates and recommendations concerning voting procedures.

Throughout the triennium, Zonal Representatives have encouraged collaboration within their Zones, stimulated Member Societies' participation in WPA activities, assisted the EC in identifying needs and ways to meet them, and disseminated WPA information and educational materials. These reports present achievements, challenges, innovations, and evidence-informed feedback from clinical practice, research, and community mental health back to WPA Headquarters—closing the loop from policy to practice and back again. Continuity and renewal are ensured as part of the Zonal Representatives will continue into the next term and new Representatives will be elected by the General Assembly.

The presence of all regions within this 18-Zone structure is essential: it guarantees representation of diverse cultural contexts, health systems, resource settings, languages, and legislative environments. Each zone confronts particular challenges—ranging from workforce shortages, stigma, and humanitarian emergencies to digital transformation, aging populations, co-morbidities, and financing constraints—yet each also contributes distinct strengths and innovations that enrich the global agenda.

At the same time, universal elements of human suffering and mental illness—loss, trauma, anxiety, mood disorders, psychosis, addiction, and the social determinants that shape them—transcend borders. This shared human reality underscores the value of a macro-organization such as the WPA: to harmonize standards, foster scientific exchange, coordinate education, advocate for rights and equity, and mobilize coherent, evidence-based responses at scale while remaining sensitive to local needs. By uniting global perspectives with regional specificity, the WPA Board ensures that policies are both universally grounded and locally actionable—advancing mental health for all.



Document Title : Zone 1 (Canada) Triennium Report to the World Psychiatric Association General Assembly 2023-2026
Author : Gary Chaimowitz, MB, ChB, FRCPC, DFCPA, Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences, McMaster University, Zone 1 (Canada) Representative
Date : 01 April 2026

I am pleased to provide this summary of issues in Zone 1 (Canada) for the information of the General Assembly.

PUBLIC HEALTH CARE AND MENTAL HEALTH FUNDING

While health care in Canada is primarily financed, organized, and delivered by the provinces and territories, the federal government also provides financing and is responsible for certain populations, including Indigenous Peoples, members of the Canadian Armed Forces, veterans, refugees, and people in federal corrections.

The federal government previously announced a commitment to establish a Canada Mental Health Transfer, which would have allocated permanent, ongoing federal funding to the provinces and territories for mental health services starting in the 2023 budget. The Canadian Psychiatric Association (CPA), along with its coalition partners, has long reiterated the importance of this transfer in their advocacy campaigns and pre-budget submissions to the federal government.

Despite this commitment, the federal government instead negotiated a series of bilateral deals with each province and territory to deliver on needed investments in mental health care. Each province or territory negotiated deals with common measurement indicators and other accountability conditions in return for a portion of $25 billion in federal funding over 10 years. The funds must go towards four priorities, one of which is improved access to mental health and substance use services. How much goes to which priority is up to provinces and territories.

Analysis of the action plans showed that an average of 16 per cent of bilateral funds went to mental health and substance use. Seven provinces and territories have allocated 10 per cent or less—and some, none at all.
This is concerning, given the historic underfunding of mental health care in Canada. It is also temporary money. CPA and coalition partners are asking the federal government to reopen the Canada Health Act or to pass companion legislation to enshrine the principle that mental health and substance use care is of equal value to physical health care.

MENTAL HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE AND SCOPES OF PRACTICE

Psychiatric human resources are a key issue across Canada, and the CPA has updated its position paper on the subject. Using the most recent data, it analyses the size, composition, and distribution of the current psychiatric workforce, and discusses the impact of psychiatrists' relatively low compensation and the growing demand for psychiatric services, including unmet needs. Current and projected shortages, as well as the potential policy levers to address them, are also included. The updated position paper will be published later in 2026 in The Canadian Journal of Psychiatry / La Revue canadienne de psychiatrie.

CPA is part of a steering committee for a project that will develop a National Plan for Health Workforce Well-Being. The project, which aims to improve retention across health-care professions, is being led by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada with a $3.5 million grant from Health Canada. The project will create policy and/or program recommendations in six priority areas:

- Create and sustain positive work and learning environments and culture
- Invest in measurement, assessment, and research
- Support mental health and reduce stigma
- Engage effective resources to minimize administrative burden
- Institutionalize and invest in well-being as a long-term value
- Recruit and retain a diverse and inclusive health workforce, focused on meeting current and future needs
- Using validated survey metrics to inform quality improvement of health workforce well-being

The project builds upon a similar initiative in the US led by the National Academy of Medicine (NAM), taking inspiration from the six priority areas of their recommendations. A final action plan will be developed by March 31, 2028.

In November 2025, the CPA, provincial psychiatric associations, and subspecialty psychiatry academies issued a collective response to the Ontario provincial government's proposal to grant psychologists who have a modicum of additional training the power to independently prescribe some psychiatric drugs. Expanded scopes of practice are increasingly put forward as a solution to access in many parts of Canada. The evidence does not support the assertion that this proposal would result in improved access and is problematic from a quality-of-care point of view. To quote the Ontario Medical Association president, "The wrong treatment at the right time is still not the right treatment."

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN DYING (MAID)

Medical assistance in dying (MAID) was first legalized in Canada in 2016 through an amendment to the Criminal Code. The law limited eligibility for MAID to decisionally capable adult Canadians who clearly consent and have a grievous and irremediable medical condition that causes suffering that is enduring and intolerable to them and where their natural death was reasonably foreseeable (NDRF). People with mental disorders were not specifically excluded from eligibility to request MAID on the sole basis of their mental disorder but were unlikely to be eligible due to the NDRF requirement.

In 2019, two individuals challenged the NDRF requirement in the Quebec Superior Court, which ruled that this requirement was contrary to the plaintiffs' rights under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The federal government amended its law in 2021. The requirement that natural death be reasonably foreseeable was removed as an eligibility criterion, and a sunset clause temporarily excluded mental illness as the sole basis for a request. A person could still be eligible for MAID and have a mental illness; however, they need another serious illness, disease, or disability that meets the eligibility criteria.

The new law introduced a two-track approach to safeguards, depending on whether the person's natural death is reasonably foreseeable. In cases where natural death is not reasonably foreseeable, a more stringent safeguard track applies, and there must be a minimum of 90 days between the eligibility assessment and provision of MAID. The person must be informed of the means available to alleviate their suffering and must seriously consider those means. To safeguard against possible systemic inequality issues in the provision of MAID, requirements to collect information about gender identity, race, Indigenous identity, and disability were added.

The temporary exclusion of mental illness was originally set to expire in March 2023, was extended to March 2024, then extended again to March 2027. The delay was to be used to prepare for safe and consistent assessment and provision of MAID. In February 2026, a special joint parliamentary committee was struck to undertake a comprehensive review relating to the eligibility of persons whose sole underlying medical condition is a mental illness to receive MAID.

In preparation for lifting the mental illness exclusion from Canada's MAID law, a variety of activities have occurred in preparation for readiness of practitioners and the health system.

- In 2022, the Final Report of the Expert Panel on MAID and Mental Illness provided advice to the federal government on the safeguards, protocols, and guidance that should apply in MAID requests on the sole basis of a mental illness.
- In 2023, model MAID practice standards were developed to assist regulators, as well as provinces and territories, institutions, and programs, as they draft MAID policy. A companion document, Advice to the Profession, accompanied release of the practice standards to provide guidance and clarification on specific clinical questions raised by the model standard such as irremediability, incurability, suicidal ideation, what is required to ensure a person has been informed of the means available to relieve suffering, and what it means to give "serious consideration" to the means available to relieve suffering.
- An accredited MAID curriculum to support clinician education and training was developed and implemented between 2023-2026.

CPA informed members about the development of the practice standards and their contents, as well as the curriculum. In addition to keeping members abreast of and facilitating MAID training opportunities, the CPA has developed a position paper on capacity assessments in the context of MAID, which outlines best practices for psychiatrists when evaluating capacity to consent to MAID where a concurrent or sole mental disorder may be motivating the request.

In April 2025, CPA began work on developing additional guidance on MAID assessments where a mental disorder may be a significant contributing factor or the sole basis for a request. The guidance is aimed at psychiatrists and other clinicians who assess or consult on MAID requests and will provide direction on determining whether a person's medical problem constitutes a grievous and irremediable medical condition, and how to assess and manage suicide risk in the context of a MAID request. This guidance was funded by Health Canada and will be released in March 2026.

INVOLUNTARY TREATMENT OF SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS

Involuntary addiction treatment, where individuals are detained and treated for substance use against their will, has emerged as a contentious and complex issue across several provinces. In the face of the toxic drug crisis, some leaders argue that existing voluntary treatment options are inadequate to meet the urgent needs of individuals with severe addictions. Yet others raise ethical, legal, and practical concerns about forcibly confining individuals to treatment.

Despite the growing political interest, the evidence base for involuntary addiction treatment remains limited and inconsistent. While some studies suggest increased retention in treatment, others highlight heightened overdose risks and potential harms upon release. Caution has also been noted about the risk that forcing individuals into treatment could further alienate marginalized groups and diminish their trust in health-care systems.

Critics of involuntary treatment argue that the approach undermines the right to personal liberty and security, which is protected under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. They contend that significant investment in the social determinants of health would be a more ethical and effective approach.
Coercing people into treatment without adequately addressing root causes of addiction, such as trauma, poverty, and other underlying drivers, is unlikely to produce lasting recovery.

Proponents of involuntary treatment argue that it can be a necessary tool to save lives when people are unable to seek help themselves. However, the voices of individuals with lived experience are often absent from these discussions. As some experts have noted, there is a need for more research that centres the perspectives of people who use drugs and those who have experienced involuntary treatment firsthand.

STIGMA, DISCRIMINATION AND SYSTEMIC RACISM

Despite progress, stigma continues to be a pervasive problem faced by people with mental health and substance use disorders who seek health care. A Mental Health Commission of Canada poll found that 40 per cent of people who identified as living with a mental health or substance use disorder reported experiencing stigma while receiving care in a health-care setting, and 72 per cent reported serious self-stigma that negatively affected their self-perception.

Racism remains a persistent problem in Canadian medicine and psychiatry that manifests at the individual, institutional, and societal levels, and results in health care disparities for people of colour and immigrants. Concerted changes in training and mental health services are required to redress the ongoing problem of systemic discrimination and structural violence. Dr. Deji Ayonrinde, the former co-chair of the CPA's Structural Racism and Discrimination Task Force, has agreed to take on the role of Special Advisor on Inclusion and Diversity. In this capacity, he will assist the Board to implement the task force's recommendations.

SUICIDE PREVENTION

In 2019, Canada had the sixth highest suicide rate out of the 33 countries in North, Central, and South America. Further, a 2024 Senate committee report found that, despite the Suicide Prevention Framework created in 2016, suicide rates in Canada have not decreased.

The Senate report proposed changes to make the framework effective, citing elements in the CPA's recommendations for a suicide prevention strategy. The national suicide prevention action plan, released in May 2025, updates the framework to make it more effective and is a first step toward a pan-Canadian suicide prevention strategy with dedicated funding and buy-in from the provinces, territories, and Indigenous groups.

CPA is developing a position paper that will highlight local, national, and international evidence-based best practices, including the voices of those with lived experience, to inform a pan-Canadian national suicide prevention strategy and to highlight opportunities for future policy development.

It has been an honour to serve on the WPA Board over the last three years.

Respectfully submitted,

Document Title : Zone 2 (USA) Triennial Report for the World Psychiatric Association General Assembly 2023-2026
Author: Bernardo Ng, M.D.
Date: March 2026

This report summarizes the 2023-26 activities of the WPA Zone 2 (United States of America) Representative, Dr. Bernardo Ng, and the WPA Member Society, the American Psychiatric Association (APA).

FOR 2023-2024

Zonal Representative

- Chair of the WPA Scientific Committee for the 2024 WPA World Congress of Psychiatry in Mexico City
- Facilitated the recruitment of colleagues to present lectures from all the member societies in the Americas
- Liaison of the WPA Medical Student Workgroup with local universities
- Recommendations of more members for the WPA Volunteer working group
- Participated in and facilitated the panel discussion of WPA ethical guidelines
- Attended all WPA board meetings
- Participated in WPA-APA executive leadership meetings
- Consultant to APA Council on International Psychiatry and Global Health

Member Society

- WPA executive leadership invited to participate in the 2023 APA Annual Meeting scientific program presenting "Social Determinants of Mental Health: Perspectives from the WPA"
- WPA and APA executive leadership business meeting held during the 2023 APA Annual Meeting
- APA leadership and members participated in the 2023 WPA World Congress of Psychiatry

FOR 2024-2025

Zonal Representative

- Member of the WPA Scientific Committee for the 2025 World Congress of Psychiatry in Prague
- Facilitated the recruitment of colleagues from the Americas to present in Prague
- Moderated poster presentations of early career psychiatrists
- Liaison in communication with APA and Royal College of Psychiatrists on the Prague Agreement
- Participated in WPA-APA executive leadership meetings
- Consultant to APA Council on International Psychiatry and Global Health

Member Society

- WPA executive leadership invited to participate in the 2024 APA Annual Meeting scientific program presenting "Improving Global Mental Health: WPA Action Plan 2023-26"
- WPA and APA executive leadership business meeting held during the 2024 APA Annual Meeting
- APA leadership and members participated in the 2024 WPA World Congress of Psychiatry
- APA leadership participated in WPA Fellowship nomination process

FOR 2025-2026

Zonal Representative

- Member of the WPA Scientific Committee for the 2026 WPA World Congress of Psychiatry in Stockholm
- Consultant to the APA Council on International Psychiatry and Global Health

Member Society

- WPA executive leadership invited to participate in the 2025 APA Annual Meeting scientific program
- WPA and APA executive leadership business meeting held during the 2025 APA Annual Meeting
- APA leadership and members participated in the 2025 WPA World Congress of Psychiatry in Prague

BOARD

Co- Chair of the Board 23-26

COMPONENTS

- Member of the Editorial Board of Education and Psychiatry WPA Journal (2 publications)
- Member of the Committee of the Scientific Sections Secretary
- Member of the EDIT Committee

MEETINGS

- WCP Mexico City 2024 (scientific, organizing, fellowships and supervisory committees, WPA medical students essay competition, ethics panel, speaker)
- WCP Prague 2025 (scientific, supervisory, fellowships committees, WPA medical students essay competition, speaker)
- WCP Stockholm 2026 (scientific, fellowships committee, WPA medical students essay competition, speaker)
- Regional Congress WPA Ecuador 2025 (speaker)

REPRESENTATION

- Central American and the Caribbean Psychiatric Association (ACCAP) meetings
  - 2024 Honduras (speaker, representative)
  - 2025 Costa Rica (speaker, representative)
  - 2026 Panama (speaker, representative)
- Latin-American Psychiatric Association (APAL) meetings
  - 2024 Argentina (speaker, representative)
- American Psychiatric Association (APA) meetings
  - 2024 USA (speaker, representative)
  - 2026 USA (speaker, representative)
- WARMI meetings
  - 2024 USA (speaker, representative)
  - 2025 USA (representative)
  - 2026 USA (representative)
- American Association of Hispanic Psychiatrists (ASHP) meetings
  - 2024 USA (representative)
  - 2025 USA (representative)
- Orden San Juan de Dios
  - 2024 (speaker, representative)
  - 2025 (speaker, representative)
- Cuban Psychiatric Association
  - 2024(speaker, representative)
  - 2025 (speaker, representative)
- Honduran Psychiatric Association
  - 2024 (speaker, representative)
  - 2025 (speaker, representative)
  - 2026 (speaker, representative)
- Kazakhstan Psychiatric Association
  - 2026 (speaker, representative)

PROJECTS

- WPA Interzonal Seminar Indigenous Mental Health Resources 2025
- Prague Agreement (WPA & RCPsych) 2025
- International Association of Women´s Mental Health (IAWMH), Royal College of Psychiatrists (RCPsych) & Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCPsych) 24 hours global webathon M8 2026
- International Network for the Reduction of Stigma 2026

SOCIETIES UPDATE

Board renewal: Mexico, El Salvador, Puerto Rico, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Dominican Republic

MEDIA

FB Z3 +550 Followers

Zone 4 brings together four WPA Member Societies: the Colombian Psychiatric Association, the Ecuadorian Association of Psychiatry, the Peruvian Psychiatric Association and the Venezuelan Society of Psychiatry.

OVERVIEW

The reporting period was marked by sustained scientific exchange, professional education, regional congress activity and institutional advocacy. Across the four countries, the Member Societies strengthened links with universities, health authorities, psychiatric training programmes and the wider Latin American psychiatric community. Their work also supported residents and early-career psychiatrists, promoted evidence-based care and raised the profile of mental health in public policy.

PERU

The Peruvian Psychiatric Association continued its international conferences and continuing education programme through virtual and in-person academic sessions, including an international discussion on current approaches to ADHD. It marked its 72nd anniversary in collaboration with the Medical College of Peru and the National Institute of Mental Health, and encouraged research through a residents' clinical case competition and the third Moisés Lemlij Research Competition. In March 2026, the Association helped convene the Expert Group on Mental Health and Psychosocial Factors at Work with health and labour authorities, contributing to work on workplace mental health regulation and access to care. It also participated in discussions on Mental Health Law No. 30947 and subsequent amendments, advocating for clinical standards and professional competence in diagnosis and treatment. Peru remained active within APAL, including the update of its statutes, and Juan Alberto Perales Cabrera was recognised as an APAL Honorary Member.

VENEZUELA

The Venezuelan Society of Psychiatry delivered a varied 2025–2026 programme spanning specialist training, public education and regional outreach. Activities included presentations of specialist degree projects, a session on mental health in emergencies, an autism spectrum disorder workshop, film forums, the first residents' meeting and chapter workshops addressing trauma, disaster, dependence and clinical practice in crisis settings. The Society also marked World Mental Health Day and Venezuelan Psychiatrist's Day and prepared its 31st National Conference, maintaining a strong focus on resilience and mental health in emergencies.

ECUADOR

The Ecuadorian Association of Psychiatry strengthened national and regional scientific exchange. Its third International Congress of Psychiatry and Mental Health, held in Quito on 5–7 August 2024, was organised with university and Ministry of Public Health support. Participant feedback showed strong interest in child and adolescent psychiatry, neurodevelopmental disorders, suicide prevention, emergencies, psychotherapy, psychopharmacology, addictions, trauma, community and forensic psychiatry, mental health law and the impact of technology and artificial intelligence. Ecuador then hosted the WPA Regional Congress in Quito on 14–16 November 2025, organised with WPA and APAL. The programme addressed determinants of suicide, neurodevelopmental disorders, child and adolescent mental health, forensic psychiatry, migration and medical education. The congress reinforced regional collaboration and participation by early-career professionals.

COLOMBIA

The Colombian Psychiatric Association combined professional development, international engagement and policy advocacy. It convened directors of psychiatry postgraduate programmes and held its first Residents' Meeting.

The Association facilitated the participation of WPA President-Elect Thomas G. Schulze in the 63rd Colombian Congress of Psychiatry in Pereira and contributed to international scientific panels. It supported Colombia's successful bid to host the 34th APAL Congress in Cartagena in 2026 and advanced Colombia's candidacy to host the 2027 World Congress of Psychiatry, including scientific planning and venue coordination for approximately 4,000 participants.

Further activities included Post-APA meetings organised with the CISNE group to disseminate recent scientific and clinical advances. The Association engaged with Invima, the Bogotá Health Secretariat, the Congress of the Republic and other partners on suicide prevention, mental health legislation, access to care and high-cost conditions. It also represented the region at the Peruvian Congress of Psychiatry, the World Congress of Psychiatry in Prague and the European Congress in Berlin, and joined an international call for increased World Bank investment in mental health.

REGIONAL IMPACT AND PRIORITIES

Collectively, Zone 4 expanded opportunities for education, research exchange and professional networking while reinforcing psychiatry's contribution to health policy. Priorities emerging from the report are continued support for residents and early-career psychiatrists; stronger cross-country collaboration; accessible continuing education; attention to suicide prevention, emergencies and vulnerable populations; and sustained engagement with governments and institutions to improve mental health systems and financing across northern South America.

Zone 6 "Western Europe" includes 9 countries with 15 national societies. Overall, the number of psychiatrists is high, but there are marked differences between countries: the highest numbers of psychiatrists per 100.000 population have Switzerland (52/100.000) and Germany (27/100.000), while the lowest numbers were reported for the United Kingdom (18/100.000), Ireland (18/100.000) and Belgium (17/100.000; Eurostat; https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/-/ddn-20200506-1). Zone 6 is a multilingual zone, with Dutch, English, Flemish, French, German, Italian, Luxembourgian and Romanche as major languages, not considering various national languages and dialects.

Zone 6 has a long history of psychiatry, such as of freeing the severely mentally ill from their chains, of recognizing that physical health and mental health are inseparable. In the last 150 years, medical schools from Western Europe influenced psychiatry worldwide.

Nowadays, psychiatry is a very active specialty in all countries

- Clinical practice is based in various funding systems, private or public or a mix. In all countries, mental health services are available for the large majority of the population.
- Community psychiatric services for severely mentally ill outpatients have been developed in all countries.
- Scientific associations for psychiatry and its subspecialties are available at national levels, including those for children. At the European level, the European Psychiatric Association, the European Society of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry are very active. Some associations focus on subgroups, such as the Marcé Society for Perinatal Mental Health.
- Research in mental health is very active in Western Europe, headed by some university departments conducting research at international top level.

This triennium (2023-2026) the activities of psychiatry in Western Europe and other European zones were affected by the war in Ukraine with Russia. Large numbers of displaced persons came to Western European countries and needed psychiatric care. In addition, various psychiatric organizations in Western Europe provided support for colleagues and patients in the Ukraine. This war caused increased prices for everyday life and for health care, followed by financial cuts for psychiatric and other health services in some countries.

Western Europe continued to participate in Symposia and actions during WPA conferences and co-sponsored events, such as at meetings in Mexico, Marrakech and Abu Dhabi in 2024, in Prague, Alexandria and New Delhi in 2025. Zone 6 was present at meetings of Sections (Bangkok 2024) and other international associations such as the World Federation of Neurology (Seoul 2025) or the World Association of Psychosocial Rehabilitation (Vancouver 2025). During the World Congress of Psychiatry 2025 in Prague, a symposium together with all other European WPA zones was a major opportunity for presenting the situation of mental health care in all European regions. Collaborate symposia with several National psychiatric Association from Western Europe were organized in Vienna (2025 and 2026) and submitted for the WPA congress in Stockholm (2026). Reciprocal invitations to give lectures were used by the National Associations from Switzerland, Germany and Austria in every year. Zone 6 was present and gave a lecture at the WPA Inter-Zonal Seminar on "Indigenous Mental Health Resources" in New Delhi in 2025.

There had been some administrative meetings of representatives of National Psychiatric Associations of zone 6 (partly online, partly in person). These meetings were used to learn from each other about the most pressing challenges for psychiatry in Western Europe and to collect ideas for future collaboration.

The following major problems have been reported from Western European countries:

- Stigma of mental disorders, psychotropics and psychiatry is very common. The antipsychiatry movement is in some countries a continuous and major challenge.
- The number of psychiatrists is too low in several countries and is further decreasing because of the high mean age of psychiatrists who will retire soon. Especially higher numbers of child psychiatrists are needed.
- In some countries, residents do not choose psychiatry as a specialty due to its stigmatized representation.
- Several countries report recurring shortage of some psychotropics. Important reasons are problems among supply chains and insufficient stockage within Europe.
- Funding for mental health care and psychiatry is too low in most countries. Especially funding for the severly mentally ill is too low. Some countries focussed on persons with mild disorders, ignoring the needs of the most severly ill.
- Research in psychiatry lacks funding compared to other medical specialties.
- In some countries, the knowledge about mental illness and its treatment is insufficient among other health professions.
- Comprehensive activities for early recognition and treatment of mental disorders are provided often insufficiently.
- Between psychiatrists and other mental health professions (e.g., psychologists, psychotherapists) often major conflicts impede good collaboration.

Zone 6 has participated in various WPA activities, such as the statement "Economic Case for Investing in Mental Health" named "Prague Agreement" and signed by many psychiatric associations.

Many thanks to Thelma Sanchez-Villanueva (Zone 3) who together with colleagues from other zones organized informal meetings of the WPA Board. These meetings had been extremely helpful for exchanging ideas and knowledge. The WhatsApp group for the Board was used by numerous colleagues and stimulated interactions and networking all over the world.

Unfortunately, some aspects which had been reported earlier continued to be a challenge:

- Despite numerous attempts, there had been problems in contacting some national associations.
- How to articulate initiatives in order to increase the engagement of National Associations in WPA activities.
- How to increase the role and the mission of zonal representatives to National Associations.

Fortunately, there had been some improvements:

- The number of meetings between national representatives increased.
- There had been some collaborative symposia within zone 6.

Johannes WANCATA
Zone 6 Representative
Vienna, Austria, March 2026

Membership information: Zone 7 consists of 8 countries: Denmark – 1331; Estonia – 258; Finland – 754; Iceland – 85; Latvia – 200; Lithuania - 521; Norway – 2593; Sweden – 1021. Total: 6763.

MAIN JOINT ACTIVITIES OF ZONE 7 NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

1. Annual meetings to discuss the main challenges and events in mental health care in each country;
2. Nordic Congress of Psychiatry every third year (Riga, Latvia, 2024; Upsala, Sweden, 2027);
3. Scientific journal Nordic Journal of Psychiatry: 2 issues/year;
4. Journal Nordic Psychiatrist: 2 issues/year: relevant topics for the members of the zone.

MAIN ACTIVITIES AND CHALLENGES OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Denmark
The budget for Danish psychiatry was increased with 35% in the period from 2020-2030. The association is also deeply involved in developing clinical guidelines for assessment and treatment of different psychiatric conditions.

Estonia
1. Psychiatry Development Plan for 2020–2030.
2. Interest in psychiatry as a specialty has increased.
3. Teamwork within psychiatric care teams has been strengthened, and collaboration with primary care has been enhanced.
4. Clinical guidelines for common psychiatric disorders have been developed and are continuously updated, and quality indicators are currently being further developed.

Latvia
1. New AI (artificial intelligence) generates internet-based questionary for the patients and after completing it prioritizes patients - when the psychiatrist visit is needed.
2. Development of scientific institution as part of the National Mental Health Centre.
3. Early intervention programme for first psychotic episode patients.
4. Home based treatment programme for psychotic and/or forensic patients.

Lithuania
1. Reform of mental health system.
2. Taking part in legislation processes.
3. Post-graduate education: live conferences, virtual conferences, orientation to both practical and scientific issues, international collaboration.

Norway
1. Public and political focus on mental health is high.
2. A substantial part of public health costs is routed to mental health.
3. Number of inpatient beds are being reduced, but at the same time number of enforced community apartments is increasing.
4. Focus on patient / user involvement is high.
5. Clinical psychologists have a strong position with high authority compared to psychiatrists.
6. There is a lack of / resistance to differentiation: what a psychiatrist should do versus psychologists, nurses and other health care professionals as well as teachers etc is not defined or agreed upon. There is a focus on non-hierarchical structures potentially leading to a loss of focus on the patients' needs and those most severely ill.
7. According to WHO atlases Norway has the highest proportion of psychiatrists in public care per inhabitant - still there is a feeling of scarcity…maybe due to how services are organized.

Sweden
The main challenge we have in Swedish psychiatry is the skyrocketing incidence of ADHD consuming vast resources and causing a 'displacement effect' and reducing resources for managing SMI.

The zone 8 engages in scholarly, scientific, and public health activities designed to promote education and training in the field of psychopharmacology and biological psychiatry and to close the gap between research and clinical practice.

There were contacts with associations boards and members and attempts have been made to establish collaboration among national organizations.

The zone took active participation in the following meetings during this three-year period:

- Congress of the Hellenic Psychiatric Association 2024
- 9th International Congress on Neurobiology and Psychopharmacology, March 8th-10th , 2024, Thessaloniki Greece
- Congress of the Hellenic Psychiatric Association 2025
- 10th International Congress on Neurobiology and Psychopharmacology, Feb 27th-March 1st 2025, Thessaloniki Greece
- Congress of the Hellenic Psychiatric Association 2026
- 11th International Congress on Neurobiology and Psychopharmacology, March 6th-8th, 2026, Thessaloniki Greece

INTRODUCTION

Serving as the World Psychiatric Association (WPA) Zonal Representative for Zone 9 (Central Europe) during the 2023–2026 triennium has been both an honour and a responsibility. Representing sixteen national psychiatric societies, the mandate has been guided by a commitment to strengthening professional cooperation, advancing scientific excellence, promoting education, and fostering meaningful international partnerships in accordance with the strategic objectives of the World Psychiatric Association.

Throughout this period, particular emphasis was placed on reinforcing communication among member societies, encouraging their active participation in WPA activities, and creating opportunities for scientific exchange and professional development. Regular dialogue with national psychiatric associations, active engagement with the WPA Executive Committee, and close collaboration with WPA Scientific Sections contributed to a more connected and dynamic regional network capable of addressing both shared challenges and emerging priorities in mental health care.

Education remained one of the central priorities of the mandate. Supporting leadership development, international mobility, mentorship, and the active involvement of early career psychiatrists created new opportunities for professional growth while strengthening the future capacity of psychiatry throughout Central Europe. At the same time, scientific collaboration was promoted through participation in international congresses, educational programmes, and multidisciplinary initiatives that encouraged the dissemination of knowledge and the exchange of clinical experience.

The activities presented in this report reflect a collective commitment to strengthening the role of Zone 9 within the World Psychiatric Association while contributing to the broader mission of improving mental health care through education, research, innovation, and international cooperation. More importantly, they demonstrate how sustained collaboration among member societies can create lasting professional relationships and establish a solid foundation for future joint initiatives across the region.

STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION ACROSS ZONE 9

One of the principal objectives of the mandate was to strengthen Zone 9 as an active and well-connected regional network within the World Psychiatric Association. Achieving this objective required more than maintaining regular communication; it involved creating an environment in which national psychiatric societies could actively exchange experiences, share good practices, and work together towards common professional goals.

Regular meetings of the Zone 9 Board, organised both online and during international congresses, provided an important forum for dialogue among the member societies. These meetings enabled participants to discuss developments within their national psychiatric associations, exchange information on educational and scientific activities, review the implementation of the WPA Action Plan, and identify opportunities for future cooperation. Particular attention was also devoted to welcoming newly elected presidents of national psychiatric societies and facilitating their active involvement in the work of Zone 9.

Throughout the reporting period, continuous efforts were made to encourage the active participation of member societies in WPA activities by promoting involvement in Scientific Sections, educational programmes, committees, and WPA Co-sponsored Meetings. Close communication with national societies helped strengthen professional connections within the region while increasing awareness of opportunities for scientific collaboration and international engagement.

Beyond formal meetings, the mandate sought to cultivate a spirit of openness, mutual support, and shared responsibility among member societies. Strengthening these professional relationships has contributed to a more cohesive regional community capable of responding collectively to contemporary challenges in psychiatry while actively contributing to the global activities of the World Psychiatric Association.

The collaborative network established through these activities provided the foundation for numerous scientific meetings, educational programmes, and international initiatives that characterised the work of Zone 9 throughout the mandate and are presented in the following sections of this report.

SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATION THROUGH INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

International congresses and scientific meetings represented one of the principal mechanisms through which WPA Zone 9 strengthened cooperation among its member societies while actively contributing to the strategic objectives of the World Psychiatric Association. Beyond their scientific importance, these events served as platforms for leadership, professional dialogue, networking, and the exchange of experience, reinforcing the visibility of Central Europe within the global psychiatric community.

The official **WPA Zone 9 Board Meeting**, held during the **23rd WPA World Congress of Psychiatry in Vienna, Austria (2023),** marked the beginning of a particularly active period for the Zone. Representatives of the member societies met to establish the priorities of the new mandate, review the implementation of the WPA Action Plan, discuss developments within their national psychiatric associations, and identify opportunities for future collaboration. The meeting established a framework for continuous dialogue and cooperation that was maintained throughout the reporting period.
This collaborative approach continued during the **24th WPA World Congress of Psychiatry in Mexico City, Mexico (2024),** where Zone 9 representatives once again met to review ongoing activities, discuss future priorities, and strengthen cooperation with the WPA Executive Committee and representatives of other WPA Zones. The Congress also provided an opportunity to present the **World Psychiatry Exchange Program,** demonstrating how an educational initiative actively developed within Zone 9 contributes to the global educational mission of the WPA by promoting international mobility, professional networking, and collaboration among psychiatrists.

The commitment to strengthening regional scientific cooperation extended well beyond the WPA World Congresses. **The International Congress on Mood Disorders (ICOM), held in Belgrade, Serbia (2024), followed by Zagreb, Croatia (2025), and Ljubljana, Slovenia (2026),** has developed into a sustained regional scientific initiative under the auspices of the World Psychiatric Association. As WPA Co-sponsored Meetings, all three congresses brought together distinguished international faculty, clinicians, researchers, and early career psychiatrists, providing an important platform for scientific exchange, discussion of contemporary approaches to mood disorders, and the development of lasting professional partnerships across the region. Their continuity over three consecutive years reflects the strength of regional cooperation and the growing role of Zone 9 in supporting high-quality scientific and educational activities within the WPA.

Another important regional initiative was the **5th Croatian Conference on Schizophrenia with International Participation – Schizophrenia 360°,** which brought together leading experts from several Zone 9 member societies together with internationally recognised authorities in psychiatry. Beyond its high scientific standard, the conference promoted multidisciplinary dialogue, facilitated the exchange of contemporary clinical knowledge, and further strengthened professional relationships among psychiatrists from different countries.

The commitment to supporting regional scientific activities was further demonstrated through the official endorsement of the **WPA Co-sponsored International Conference for Forensic Psychiatry – Forensic Psychiatry and Prison Psychiatry between Medicine and Law, scheduled to take place in Ohrid, North Macedonia, in October 2026.** By providing official support and contributing to the organisation of the conference, Zone 9 reaffirmed its commitment to fostering scientific cooperation and advancing the field of forensic psychiatry within the region.Together, these scientific meetings strengthened professional networks across Central Europe, encouraged the exchange of expertise, and further reinforced the contribution of Zone 9 to the international scientific activities of the World Psychiatric Association.

Education, Leadership and Professional Development

Education has remained one of the defining priorities of the mandate and a cornerstone of the activities of WPA Zone 9. Throughout the reporting period, particular emphasis was placed on creating educational opportunities that extended beyond traditional congress participation by promoting leadership development, international mobility, mentorship, and professional networking among psychiatrists at different stages of their careers. These initiatives reflected the belief that sustainable progress in psychiatry depends not only on scientific advancement but also on investing in people and strengthening the next generation of mental health professionals.

A major educational achievement of the mandate was the organisation of the **Leadership and Professional Skills Course**, held in Zagreb in collaboration with Professor Norman Sartorius, Professor Sir Graham Thornicroft. The course brought together participants from several countries, the course combined academic excellence with practical training in leadership, scientific communication, project development, publication skills, and professional development. Through its highly interactive format, participants were encouraged to develop competencies essential for future leaders in psychiatry while establishing lasting international professional relationships. The international recognition of the programme was further reflected by its promotion through the **WPA Early Career Psychiatrists Section**, highlighting its growing visibility within the WPA educational community.

THE WORLD PSYCHIATRY EXCHANGE PROGRAM – A MODEL OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL COLLABORATION

One of the most significant educational initiatives actively developed and promoted during the mandate has been the **World Psychiatry Exchange Program.** The programme embodies one of the fundamental principles of the World Psychiatric Association—that professional knowledge is strengthened through international cooperation, clinical mobility, and the exchange of experience among colleagues working in different healthcare systems.

The programme has enabled psychiatrists from numerous countries to participate in structured professional exchanges, providing opportunities to observe different models of psychiatric care, share clinical expertise, and establish long-term professional relationships. Beyond its educational value, the initiative has strengthened institutional cooperation and contributed to building an international network of professionals committed to improving mental health care through collaboration and mutual learning.

Its growing international recognition was further demonstrated during the 24th WPA World Congress of Psychiatry in Mexico City, where the programme was presented as an example of successful educational collaboration within the WPA. Its inclusion in the scientific programme illustrated how initiatives originating within Zone 9 can contribute to the broader educational mission of the Association while promoting international mobility, knowledge exchange, and professional development.

Throughout the reporting period, the programme continued to expand its international reach, reflecting the commitment of Zone 9 to promoting education without borders and creating sustainable opportunities for future generations of psychiatrists.

Supporting **Early Career Psychiatrists** remained another important priority throughout the mandate. Young psychiatrists were encouraged to participate actively in international congresses, scientific meetings, educational programmes, and exchange initiatives, enabling them to expand their professional experience while strengthening their involvement within the World Psychiatric Association. Particular attention was devoted to creating opportunities for mentorship, networking, and international collaboration, recognising that investment in young professionals represents one of the most sustainable contributions to the future of psychiatry.

Educational activities were further strengthened through active participation in the **WPA Teaching Programme "Recent Advances in Psychiatry"**, held in Kraków, Poland, as well as through numerous collaborative educational initiatives organised together with WPA Scientific Sections and international partners. These activities promoted the dissemination of contemporary scientific knowledge, encouraged multidisciplinary learning, and facilitated the exchange of clinical experience among psychiatrists from different countries.

Together, these educational initiatives demonstrate that the most valuable investment in the future of psychiatry is the continuous development of professionals, the encouragement of international mobility, and the creation of enduring educational networks that extend well beyond individual courses or congresses.

INNOVATION AND SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENT

Innovation in psychiatry extends beyond the development of new therapeutic approaches; it also encompasses the advancement of scientific knowledge, the promotion of high-quality education, and the continuous improvement of professional standards. Throughout the mandate, active engagement in the scientific activities of the World Psychiatric Association contributed to maintaining these standards while supporting innovation in clinical practice and psychiatric education across Zone 9.

Active participation in the work of the **Scientific Committee** of both the **23rd WPA World Congress of Psychiatry** in Vienna and the **24th WPA World Congress of Psychiatry** in Mexico City included the review of scientific proposals, evaluation of congress abstracts, and contributions to the development of scientifically robust congress programmes. In addition, responsibilities included chairing scientific abstract sessions, facilitating scientific discussion, and supporting the dissemination of contemporary psychiatric research during the congresses. These activities contributed to maintaining the high scientific quality and academic integrity of the WPA scientific programme.

Further contributions were made through support for **Continuous Professional Development (CPD)**, recognising lifelong learning as an essential component of contemporary psychiatric practice. By promoting educational activities aligned with current scientific evidence and clinical needs, these initiatives encouraged continuous professional growth while facilitating the dissemination of best clinical practices across the region.

Particular attention was also devoted to advancing knowledge in the field of **neurostimulation**, with a special emphasis on **transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS)** as one of the most rapidly evolving therapeutic approaches in modern psychiatry. Educational activities, international training initiatives, and scientific collaboration supported the responsible implementation of innovative treatment methods into everyday clinical practice while encouraging the exchange of expertise among professionals working in this field.

Scientific activities in the field of neurostimulation were further strengthened through the organisation of the international symposium Rational Use of Psychopharmacotherapy in the Treatment of Mental Disorders, organised by the University Psychiatric Hospital Sveti Ivan in collaboration with the Faculty of Dental Medicine and Health Osijek and the University of Applied Health Sciences Zagreb.

As part of the symposium, a dedicated dissemination session presented the protocol and preliminary findings of the **Croatian Science Foundation research project Compulsive Gambling: The Effectiveness of Deep Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation Using the H7 Coil (HRZZ IP-2025-02-7016)**. The project session, led by Professor Igor Filipčić and Associate Professor Davor Bodor, promoted scientific discussion on innovative neuromodulation approaches while facilitating knowledge transfer between researchers, clinicians, and mental health professionals.

Together, these activities illustrate a commitment to scientific excellence, innovation, and evidence-based psychiatric practice, reinforcing the contribution of Zone 9 to the broader scientific mission of the World Psychiatric Association.

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

One of the most enduring achievements of the 2023–2026 mandate has been the strengthening of professional relationships among the psychiatric societies of Zone 9 and the creation of a collaborative environment founded on mutual trust, shared responsibility, and common professional values. While scientific meetings, educational programmes, and congresses provided important opportunities for interaction, their greatest value lies in the long-term partnerships and professional networks that continue to develop beyond individual events.

Throughout the reporting period, particular emphasis was placed on expanding international cooperation by encouraging the active participation of member societies in WPA activities, facilitating communication among national psychiatric associations, and supporting cross-border educational and scientific initiatives. These efforts created new opportunities for the exchange of expertise, the development of joint educational programmes, and the establishment of future research collaborations, while enhancing the international visibility of psychiatric professionals from Central Europe.

Close cooperation with the WPA Executive Committee, Scientific Sections, Zone Representatives, and national psychiatric societies further strengthened the integration of Zone 9 within the global activities of the World Psychiatric Association. These relationships not only facilitated the implementation of common initiatives but also encouraged the sharing of experience and best practices across different healthcare systems and cultural environments.

Particular importance was attached to multidisciplinary cooperation, recognising that contemporary mental health care increasingly depends on collaboration among psychiatrists, psychologists, neuroscientists, researchers, nurses, and other mental health professionals. By supporting dialogue across clinical, academic, and research communities, the mandate promoted a broader and more integrated approach to mental health care while encouraging innovation and continuous professional development.

The partnerships established during this period provide a strong foundation for future collaborative initiatives within Zone 9 and beyond. More importantly, they demonstrate that sustainable international cooperation is built not only through formal structures but also through professional engagement, mutual respect, and a shared commitment to improving mental health care through education, research, and scientific exchange.

LOOKING AHEAD

As this mandate comes to an end, it is evident that the achievements of Zone 9 extend far beyond individual meetings, congresses, or projects. They are reflected in stronger connections among psychiatric societies, expanded educational opportunities, the development of international professional networks, and a shared commitment to advancing psychiatry through scientific excellence, innovation, and collaboration.

The progress achieved during the 2023–2026 triennium provides a solid foundation for future initiatives within Zone 9. Continued investment in education, research, innovation, and international partnerships will remain essential for addressing the evolving challenges of contemporary psychiatry while supporting the strategic objectives of the World Psychiatric Association. Equally important will be the continued engagement of national psychiatric societies, the active participation of early career psychiatrists, and the development of new collaborative opportunities that strengthen the role of Central Europe within the global psychiatric community.

The most enduring legacy of this mandate lies in the professional relationships, educational opportunities, and collaborative networks that have been established and will continue to strengthen psychiatry across Central Europe in the years to come. These achievements reflect the collective commitment of the member societies of Zone 9 and demonstrate the value of working together towards shared goals that extend beyond national borders.

It has been a privilege to serve the member societies of Zone 9 and to contribute to the mission of the World Psychiatric Association in promoting mental health, scientific excellence, education, and international cooperation. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Presidents and members of the national psychiatric societies of Zone 9, the WPA Executive Committee, the Chairs and members of the WPA Scientific Sections, and all colleagues whose commitment, support, and collaboration made these achievements possible.

Together, we have strengthened not only professional cooperation within our region but also the role of Zone 9 as an active and engaged contributor to the global mission of the World Psychiatric Association.

Professor Igor Filipčić, MD, PhD
WPA Zonal Representative – Zone 9 (Central Europe)

Document Title : Zone 10 (Eastern Europe) Report of Activities and Leadership as WPA Zonal Representative, 2023–2026
Author: Prof. Nikolay Negay, MD, PhD
Date: April 2026

STRATEGIC OVERVIEW

During 2023–2026, activities as WPA Zonal Representative (Zone 10 — Eastern Europe) focused on strengthening regional cooperation, scientific exchange, and advancing modern mental health system approaches. A key achievement was the transition from fragmented national activities to a coordinated regional collaboration platform involving more than seven countries across Eastern Europe and Central Asia. A strategic initiative was launched to expand the zone to "Eastern Europe and Central Asia," reflecting actual regional collaboration dynamics.

REGIONAL LEADERSHIP AND COORDINATION

Active coordination was maintained with national psychiatric associations across Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Russia, Belarus, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Tajikistan (in the process of joining WPA Zone 10). This resulted in a stable professional network, consolidated regional positions, and coordinated participation in WPA processes, including preparation for the General Assembly 2026.

SCIENTIFIC AND EDUCATIONAL IMPACT

More than 10 national and regional conferences were supported or co-organized across Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Russia.
Two key WPA educational platforms were delivered: the Young Psychiatrists School in Samarkand and the Suzdal School.
Activities included lectures, session moderation, and mentorship. Overall participation exceeded 1000 specialists.

INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION

Key international engagements included the World Congress of Psychiatry 2025 (Prague, October 5–8), where roles included session moderator and panelist; participation in the UNODC Regional Forum (Samarkand, 2026); and contributions to WHO Europe discussions on scaling mental health services in primary care and others.

POLICY AND CONCEPTUAL LEADERSHIP

Promoted core concepts included integration of mental disorders and addictions under a unified model, emphasis on determinants of mental health (including ACEs), system transformation toward patient pathways, and the role of digital technologies in integrated care systems.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

A major initiative includes the proposed WPA Regional Congress in Central Asia (2027), with support from multiple national associations. Additional efforts focused on strengthening regional identity and supporting national reforms aligned with international standards.

IMPACT AND RESULTS

Achievements include engagement of 7+ countries, organization/support of 10+ conferences, involvement of 1000+ professionals, implementation of 2 WPA educational programs, and active representation across WPA, WHO, and UNODC platforms.

CONCLUSION AND VISION

The period 2023–2026 marks the transition to structured regional leadership within WPA. The next phase (2026–2029) will focus on institutionalizing the expanded region, delivering the WPA Regional Congress, and strengthening the region's role in global mental health policy.

I have continued my active engagement within the World Psychiatric Association (WPA) by contributing to several of its committees, including the **EDIT Committee, the Sections Committee, and the Scientific Committee of the World Congress of Psychiatry.** I am also a member of the Educational Volunteering Group, engaged in some new projects in the region that will be shed to light in the near future (an educational project for Gaza Psychiatrits').

In addition to my committee responsibilities, I have actively promoted and disseminated WPA initiatives and activities throughout my region, strengthening the Association's visibility and fostering greater participation among mental health professionals in North Africa and the Mediterranean region.

As part of this commitment, I am currently leading the organization of a regional WPA scientific meeting, the **Mediterranean Congress of Psychiatry,** which will be held in **Hammamet, Tunisia, from 3–5 December 2026.** This congress aims to bring together leading international and regional experts to promote scientific exchange, strengthen professional collaboration, and advance psychiatric practice and research across the Mediterranean region.

When I was elected in October 2020, I was enthusiastic about working with psychiatric societies across West and Central Africa.

However, I found that only three countries in the Zone had societies that were WPA members, all located in West Africa: Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal.

Initially, it was difficult to contact the presidents of these societies because the contact details available to the WPA had not been updated. After several attempts, I was able to establish contact by email or WhatsApp.

Communication remained challenging because the three societies operate in different languages: English in Ghana and Nigeria, and French in Senegal. Moreover, many countries in West and Central Africa have no psychiatrists, or only one or two, and are therefore unable to establish a national psychiatric society. Responses to emails from existing Member Societies were also sometimes limited.

ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

- Together with our colleagues Juliet Nakku and Amine Larnaout, we organised the first African Regional Congress of Psychiatry in Hammamet, Tunisia, in December 2022.
- We collaborated with African colleagues on the development of guidelines adapted to low-income countries.
- We supported Burkina Faso, the Republic of Congo, Togo and Côte d'Ivoire in their efforts to become affiliated with the WPA. The Republic of Congo was accepted, while the other applications remained in progress.
- We also worked with SASM to reach countries without national psychiatric societies. Since March 2023, I have served as President of SASM.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

- Continue working and collaborating with the other African Zones to strengthen mental health across the continent.
- Establish links with the South American Association of Psychiatry, led by our colleague Santiago Levin.
- Work with the other two African Zones to organise the second African Regional Congress of Psychiatry in Senegal in 2024.

Document Title : Zone 14 (East and Southern Africa) WPA Activities Report 2023-2026
Author: Prof. Juliet Nakku
Date: September 2026

INTRODUCTION

The WPA Zone 14 covers the East and Southern African region that includes country psychiatric associations or societies (Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Somaliland, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe). It is one of the 3 Zones on the african continent, the others being Zone 11 and 13. Most of these countries lie in the WHO low and lower-middle income category. Psychiatry in this region is fast-growing although it has quite some way to go.

MEMBER SOCIETIES

There are 9 psychiatry associations that are members of the WPA. However, there are other associations/societies that exist in the region but are not WPA members. Efforts continue to encourage them to become members. Some countries in the zone have very few or no psychiatrists to form an association.

The African Association of Psychiatrists is an umbrella association whose membership is national psychiatry associations on the african continent. The leadership represents all regions of Africa (Eastern, Western, Southern and Northern Africa). The majority of member national societies at the moment are in Zone 14 but over the last triennium more national societies continued to subscribe from the other regions of the continent.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Early Career Psychiatrists in East Africa, in their umbrella body- the East African Association of Young Psychiatrists and Trainees (EAPTA) which covers Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda, were supported to meet in Kenya in order to network, learn from each other and from their mentors and collaborate on projects. This promoted the participation of young Psychiatrists in the activities of the zone with the plan and potential to prepare them to lead the zone in the future.

Zone 14 collaborated with the Tunisian Society of Psychiatry, The African Association of Psychiatrists WPA Zone 13 to organise the WPA regional conference in Tunisia in December 2022. Another collaborative regional meeting was planned for early 2026 but circumstances did not allow it to happen. The meeting in Tunisia particularly garnered a lot of interest in and exposure to the member societies on the african continent and it was internationally attended.

A number of Zone 14 members participated in the WPA congresses in Austria (2023), Mexico (2024) and Czech Republic (2025), which improved their exposure and learning while they carried lessons from the african continent to other members from other continents and improved collaborations in psychiatry around the world.

PANDEMIC RESPONSE

Psychiatrists in Zone 14 were actively involved in the response to the numerous epidemic episodes and their after effects on the African continent including COVID-19, Ebola Virus disease and others. The psychiatrists were very instrumental in the provision of care and support as well as in training care teams in providing mental health support to affected communities and in the development of guidelines for response. This proved that there is substantial expert resource to support the response to the mental health effects of pandemics and other disasters within the WPA Zone 14. This expertise needs to be utilised to support other member countries without such expertise.

CHALLENGES

1. The national societies in Zone 14 had varying calendars over the triennium. This meant that the leadership of every society changed at different times which made tracking of national society activities challenging.
2. Even though some professional conferences were organised online, internet access and band width in some countries or parts of countries remained a challenge
3. Many members of national societies did not have the resources to attend conferences beyond their countries which hampered exposure, and made advanced learning and meaningful collaboration with other countries difficult.

The triennium on the whole was fruitful and productive, a few challenges notwithstanding. The future within the societies in WPA Zone 14 looks brighter as many collaborations and networks have been forged. We are confident that the next leadership will take the zone to an even higher level.

Dr Juliet NAKKU
WPA Zone 14 Representative

Document Title : Triennial Report: Zone 15 (South Asia) Activities during 2023-26
Author: Dr Vinay Kumar, Zonal Representative
Date: 23 March 2026

ESTABLISHMENT OF WPA ZONE 15 COORDINATION COMMITTEE

A WPA Zone 15 Coordination Committee was established as a novel initiative to streamline communication and strengthen collective action among South Asian psychiatric societies. Comprising the Presidents of all member societies, it provides a structured platform for coordination, joint planning, and dissemination of WPA initiatives across the region.

PARTICIPATION IN ANNUAL CONFERENCES OF MEMBER SOCIETIES

The Zonal Representative attended annual conferences of South Asian psychiatric societies as Guest of Honour or Keynote Speaker, using these platforms to present key elements of the WPA Presidential Action Plan and to strengthen alignment between WPA priorities and regional mental health agendas.

A ZONE 15 SYMPOSIUM: SWOT ANALYSIS OF MENTAL HEALTHCARE IN SOUTH ASIA

Held during the 75th ANCIPS 2023. Presidents of four of the six member societies participated, ensuring strong regional representation and shared insight.

Initiatives on Indigenous Mental Health Resources

1. ***Intra-Zonal Meeting, Bodhgaya, Bihar — 20 December 2024***

This meeting brought together South Asian experts to conceptualize the WPA Inter-Zonal Seminar on Indigenous Mental Health Resources. It laid the groundwork for a coordinated regional approach and helped shape the academic and thematic framework for the subsequent global meeting.

2. ***WPA Inter-Zonal Seminar, AIIMS New Delhi — 6–7 September 2025***

With participation from 14 WPA Zones, this seminar showcased diverse indigenous, traditional, spiritual, and community-based healing systems from across the world. Discussions emphasized culturally grounded, holistic approaches and the respectful integration of indigenous knowledge into contemporary psychiatry. The seminar affirmed that indigenous mental health resources are vital, living systems that strengthen resilience, community well-being, and global mental health equity.

ORGANIZATION OF WPA ART & PSYCHIATRY SECTION MEETING: PSYCHARTICA 2025

Psychartica 2025 was an international interdisciplinary conference jointly organized by the WPA Art and Psychiatry Section and WPA Zone 15, held from 4–6 December 2025 in Jaipur, India. The inaugural session featured an inspiring message from WPA President Prof. Danuta Wasserman and was graced by Chief Guest Prof. Thomas G. Schulze. Over three days, more than 25 sessions and workshops engaged over 200 delegates, exploring intersections of psychiatry with music, literature, dance, visual arts, and lived experience. Distinguished faculty included Prof. Femi Oyebode, Prof. Salman Akhtar, Prof. Dinesh Bhugra, Prof. Hans-Otto Thomashoff, Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Prof. Vivek Benegal, Prof. Pratap Sharan, Prof TSS Rao, Prof Subodh Dave, Dr Astha Tomar, Dr. Mrugesh Vaishnav, Dr. Rahul Bhattacharya, and Dr. Tiago Inacio. Leadership sessions for Early Career Psychiatrists, creative workshops, an evening with renowned artists, and an international art gallery enriched the event. The conference was led by Dr. Vinay Kumar and Prof. Jennifer Harrison, supported by a dedicated team comprising of Dr KS Pavitra, Dr Astha, Dr Archna Singh and Dr Manaswi Gautam.



PSYCHOTHERAPY WORKSHOPS FOR EARLY CAREER PSYCHIATRISTS

Two psychotherapy workshops were organized in collaboration with renowned psychiatrist and psychoanalyst Prof. Salman Akhtar:

- Mumbai, India — 28-29 September 2024
- Jaipur, India — 6–7 December 2025

Both workshops were attended by Early Career Psychiatrists from India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, strengthening regional capacity in psychodynamic psychotherapy and fostering cross-border professional networks.



ENGAGEMENT WITH THE AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

Two high-level meetings were held with the Director of Research, American Psychiatric Association, and nosology experts from South Asia to discuss contributions to the upcoming DSM edition. These consultations aimed to ensure that South Asian clinical perspectives are appropriately represented within global diagnostic frameworks.

ON BOARD

- Upcoming book: Indigenous Mental Health Resources: Global Perspectives
- Discussion on upcoming Draft DSM: At AIIMS New Delhi
- Psychotherapy Workshop for Early Career Psychiatrist: 5-6 September 2026, Patna, India
- Art & Psychiatry Section Meeting: 1st week of December 2026, Shimoga, Karnataka, India

Vinay Kumar

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND WORK PLAN

During the 2024–2026 period, Zone 16 has focused on strengthening collaboration, capacity-building, and knowledge exchange across the region. The main priorities include:

- Creating opportunities for psychiatrists in the region to communicate and exchange knowledge, with a particular emphasis on transferring expertise from senior professionals within the WPA and Zone 16 to early career psychiatrists.
- Supporting cooperation among member societies to foster mutual support and shared interest in key mental health issues.
- Raising public awareness of mental disorders by encouraging and supporting member societies to organize activities related to major global mental health events, including World Mental Health Day, World Suicide Prevention Day, and World Bipolar Day.

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

Developing partnership with the Pacific Rim College of Psychiatrists (PRCP)
Zone 16 has actively contributed to strengthening regional and international collaboration through engagement with the Pacific Rim College of Psychiatrists (PRCP).
A key milestone was the PRCP & WACP Joint Congress 2025 held in Tokyo, Japan (25–28 September 2025), at the Hamamatsucho Convention Hall and Hybrid Studio.
The congress highlighted the theme:
"Where the Pacific Rim meets the World; the hope to integrate culture into psychiatry,"
emphasizing the importance of cultural perspectives in contemporary psychiatric practice.



THEMATIC FOCUS AREAS

Mental Health in the Digital Era
Zone 16 has highlighted the growing importance of addressing mental health challenges in the context of a rapidly evolving digital environment.
This includes a focus on adversity and mental health challenges in a dynamic global society, where technological change, social transformation, and global instability increasingly impact mental well-being.



CAPACITY BUILDING AND NATIONAL-LEVEL INITIATIVES

Support to the Psychiatric Association of Thailand (PAT)
Zone 16 has supported the Psychiatric Association of Thailand in organizing initiatives such as the "Mental Health in Workplace Project," aimed at promoting mental well-being in occupational settings.
In addition, Zone 16 has encouraged the Psychiatric Association of Thailand to stand as a candidate for hosting the WPA World Congress of Psychiatry 2026, supporting regional visibility and leadership, even if not ultimately selected.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE WPA TO FURTHER IMPROVE ZONE 16

To further strengthen the development of psychiatry within Zone 16, the following recommendations are proposed:

- Facilitate continuous psychiatric education across the region.
- Encourage networking among psychiatrists within the zone, particularly among early career psychiatrists.
- Promote research conducted by psychiatrists across different countries in the region.
- Provide financial support for early-career psychiatrists to attend World Psychiatric Association congresses.
- Provide guidance to countries within the zone in addressing the impacts of major global changes, including technological advancements, conflicts, and other emerging challenges.

Document Title : Report (2023–2026): Zone 17 – East Asia
Author: Yong Chon Park
Date: March 2026

INTRODUCTION

Zone 17, encompassing East Asian countries including Japan, Taiwan, Korea, Cambodia, Mongolia, China, and Hong Kong, has demonstrated robust activity in psychiatric research, education, and international collaboration over the triennium 2023–2026. Amid post-pandemic recovery and cultural shifts such as declining birth rates, our Zone has prioritized culturally sensitive mental health initiatives. Key events include active participation in the PRCP & WACP 2025 Joint Congress in Tokyo and the hosting of the 18th East Asian Academy of Cultural Psychiatry (EAACP) Symposium in Taiwan.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

1. PRCP & WACP 2025 Tokyo Congress (25–28 September 2025)

The 21st Pacific Rim College of Psychiatrists (PRCP) and 7th World Association of Cultural Psychiatry (WACP) Joint Congress was held at the Hamamatsucho Convention Hall in Tokyo, attracting 1,175 participants from 55 countries. This first-ever joint event integrated Pacific Rim clinical psychiatry with global cultural-psychiatric perspectives.

Scientific program highlights :

- ***Plenary sessions***

The future mental health workforce, cross-cultural promotion and prevention, social perspectives on schizophrenia, and interventions for hikikomori in a digitalized society were presented by internationally recognized experts including Prof. Norman Sartorius, Prof. Helen Herrman, Dr. Kiyoto Kasai, and Prof. Takahiro Kato.

- ***Educational lectures***

Topics included psychotherapy training, cultural variability in depression, historical and contemporary paradigms in cultural psychiatry, and critical perspectives on the globalization of diagnostic categories.

- ***Focus areas***
  - Cultural formulation (DSM-5-TR / ICD-11)
  - Neurodevelopmental disorders
  - Neurodiversity
  - Community-based approaches for autism

- **Zone 17 relevance**

There was strong representation from East Asian countries, showcasing emerging research and service models directly applicable to Zone 17 contexts, particularly in harmonizing classification systems and implementing culturally sensitive services.

The congress also placed explicit emphasis on sustainability and equity in international conferencing, aligning with WPA priorities regarding social responsibility and environmental awareness.

2. 18th East Asian Academy of Cultural Psychiatry (EAACP) Symposium

Taiwan (20–22 November 2025)
Hosted by National Taiwan University Hospital under the presidency of Dr. Susan Shur-Fen Gau, this landmark event brought together more than 50 clinicians and researchers from Korea, Japan, and Taiwan under the theme: "Low Birth Rates in East Asia: Mental Health Perspective."

Program highlights

20 November

- EAACP business meeting
- Korean country report presented by Dr. Yong Chon Park
- Welcome dinner

21 November
Keynote presentations included:

- Prof. Cheng Yen-Hsin Alice – Causes and patterns of low fertility in Taiwan
- Dr. Hidehito Niimura – Psychosocial background of low birth rates in Japan
- Prof. Shu-Sen Chang – Birth and fertility rates, mental health, and youth suicide in Taiwan

New-member research presentations and general discussions were chaired by Korean representatives including Dr. Nami Lee, followed by a conference banquet.

22 November
Presentation by Dr. Jin Yong Jun on the low birth rate problem in Korea from a cultural-psychiatric perspective, followed by a general discussion and closing remarks.

OUTCOMES

The symposium fostered cross-country dialogue on the mental health implications of declining fertility rates, identified research gaps related to youth suicide and psychosocial interventions, and further strengthened EAACP networks. Korea contributed actively to formal discussions and leadership roles.

STRATEGIC IMPACT AND WPA ALIGNMENT

Both events provided important platforms for Zone 17 to strengthen regional and inter-regional networks among academic centers and early-career psychiatrists.
They also advanced key WPA priorities by:
Promoting transcultural competence in diagnostic classification and service delivery
Enhancing social responsibility through more sustainable and inclusive conferencing practices
Advancing equity in global mental health by amplifying East Asian research perspectives and experiences

CHALLENGES AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Challenges

- Adapting to hybrid conference formats
- Language and communication barriers in multilingual and multicultural settings
- Limited participation from under-represented Zone 17 countries, particularly Cambodia, Mongolia, and parts of China

Future Plans

- Provisional venue for the 22nd PRCP (2027): Philippines
- Korea to host the EAACP Symposium in 2027, further strengthening regional collaboration
- Development of joint research grants focusing on ageing societies, declining fertility, and digital mental health in East Asia
- Implementation of strategies to promote broader participation from under-represented Zone 17 countries in regional and global meetings

CONCLUSION

Zone 17 remains strongly committed to the WPA mission of advancing equitable mental health care worldwide. We recommend that the WPA continue to support and partner with regional joint meetings in East Asia and explore co-developed training and capacity-building initiatives that build upon the strong cultural-psychiatric foundation demonstrated by the PRCP & WACP Joint Congress and the EAACP Symposium.

OPHELIA FOUNDATION AND ADVANCED COURSES

Since 2020, the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) has partnered with St Vincent's Postgraduate Overseas Specialist Training (POST) program and Fiji National University to provide a short, 12-week foundation course in child and adolescent mental health. This course is offered annually to mental health workers in Pacific countries and delivered via ZOOM. The primary objective is to enhance the skill and competence of mental health professionals in caring for children and young people, while also expanding their access to multidisciplinary resources.
Due to increasing demand for ongoing education and professional development in mental health, Advanced courses were introduced in 2021 and 2023. The Advanced course spans nine weeks and in 2026, will take place from February to April. It will address advanced topics, including trauma-informed care, family violence and child abuse, developmental disorders in children, and substance use among young people.
In 2025, 245 individuals registered for the Ophelia series, with weekly attendance ranging from 48 to 83 participants. Over 100 organizations were represented throughout the series. The steady growth in participant numbers highlights the sustained demand for further training in child and adolescent mental health.

ICAMH TRAIN THE TRAINER COURSE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH IACAPAP

In January 2025, a funding proposal was submitted to the International Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists and Allied Professionals (IACAPAP) to support the development of a pilot online Train the Trainer (TTT) course. A small grant totaling $8,220 AUD was awarded to facilitate this initiative. The primary aim of the project was to design and implement a TTT course utilizing the iCAMH framework so that it can be flexible to the needs of different professional groups and levels of experience. The broader goal is for iCAMH to support the development of training and education skills in specialist groups including general psychiatrists, mental health doctors, and other health professionals who are engaged in clinical practice in CAMH capacity building in low income countries.
The pilot Train the Trainer course was held over a three-week period in November 2025, utilizing Microsoft Teams as the delivery platform. A total of 27 participants attended the pilot course. Initial evaluation of the program has provided positive feedback and identified areas for future improvement and development.

FIJI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY (FNU) MASTERS IN PSYCHIATRY – MENTORING PROGRAMME

In 2024, the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) established a Memorandum of Understanding to provide support for Fiji National University's Masters in Psychiatry programme. As part of this support, a Mentoring Programme for students and Faculty members has been established. The programme is being coordinated by Dr Allister Bush, with the first cohort of mentoring pairs expected to commence in semester 1 of 2026.

RANZCP 2026 CONGRESS – MELBOURNE (3–7 MAY)

The 2026 RANZCP Congress will be held in Melbourne on 3-7 May. This year's theme is Reform and Renewal: Towards Healing, Equity and Trust challenges us to rethink mental health systems, embrace widened perspectives and drive trustworthy change.

FOURTH VIETNAM-ANZ INTERNATIONAL PSYCHIATRY CONFERENCE 4-6 OCTOBER 2024, HANOI

The Vietnamese Psychiatric Association (VPA) requested College assistance to specifically provide technical input and presentations on "how to develop and sustain comprehensive and relevant systems of mental health care", with a focus on psychotherapy updates, neurostimulation treatment innovations, to balance their current emphasis on psychopharmacology.

In the child and adolescent psychiatry realm, they requested input on "autism spectrum, learning disorders, social media impacts on child and adolescent mental health, AI in diagnostics and management of children and adolescents among specific environments as school, kindergarten and local community." The Conference was supported by the College President who presented a session and Prof Valsa Eapen has also run training courses in developmental and intellectual disability in conjunction with the Vietnamese Psychiatric Association (VPA).

THE CAMBODIAN ONLINE CHILD AND ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY INTRODUCTORY TRAINING (CO-CAPIT) PROGRAM

The Cambodian Online Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Introductory Training (CO-CAPIT) program (11 weeks) is a partnership with St Vincent's Hospital and the Cambodian Ministry of health, which began in May 2024 and provides training for specialist paediatricians and general Psychiatrists and trainees at the National Children's Hospital (Phenom Penh) and other regional hospitals. The program is ongoing and awaiting further information from the Ministry of Health for Cambodia on the next phase of the program. Assistance has also been requested with potential development of the country Mental Health Service.

UKRAINE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

The College received a request to support mental health professionals in Ukraine via webinars and training materials. Meetings have been held with Dr Nataliya Evchenko (Ukraine), Dr Gennadiy Fuzaylov (Harvard Medical School) and Dr Tanya Dus (Director of Psychiatry, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney) to plan the course topics required and program learning deliverables. The initial phase was delivered in 2024 and continued support provided in 2025 and 2026. The ongoing situation in Ukraine makes planning support programs challenging for Ukrainian partners.



Collaboration between WHO and WPA 2024-2025-2026

THE COLLABORATION BETWEEN WHO AND WORLD PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION IN THE CONTEXT OF OFFICIAL RELATIONS

The WHO Executive Board admitted World Psychiatric Association into official relations with WHO. The official relations are governed by the Framework of Engagement with non-State actors, according to which the basis of official relations is a plan for collaboration between WHO and the non-State actor with agreed objectives and outlining activities for a three-year period, structured in accordance with the General Programme of Work and Programme Budget and consistent with the Framework.

ACTIVITIES

- Provide technical support to WHO as appropriate in implementing mhGAP, through the provision of training for health workers in primary and community health settings, which incorporates WHO guidance on mental-health-related subjects.

- Providing support as appropriate to WHO in providing technical input to the reform of mental health policies by Member States according to WHO guidance, by supporting the active engagement of mental health workers in the planning and implementation of policy and practice change.

- Providing support as appropriate to WHO in contributing to the improvement of the access to and quality of mental health care in community and hospital settings, by systematically monitoring quality of care including the minimising of coercion in the care of people living with mental disorders and associated disabilities in line with WHO's rules and policies.

- Providing technical support as appropriate to WHO's work to optimize access to medicines in primary health care.

- Support WHO as and when appropriate in the preparation for emergency responses in Member States through participation in the development of training materials necessary for a useful involvement of mental health.

- Provide support to WHO, as and when appropriate, in its assistance to Member States for the development of mental health programmes, specifically through the provision of technical inputs on mental health in schools or other educational settings.

- Provide support to WHO, as and when appropriate, in its assistance to Member States for the development of mental health programmes, specifically through the provision of technical inputs on mental health promotion and mental illness prevention in vulnerable situations.

- Provide support to WHO, as and when appropriate, in its assistance to Member States for the development of mental health programmes, specifically through the provision of technical inputs on mental health in perinatal health.

WPA supported during this triennium the WHO in the above-mentioned activities.

WPA STATEMENTS BY PROFESSOR DANUTA WASSERMAN, PRESENTED IN 2024, 2025 AND 2026 AT THE WHO WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

WPA statement 2024, presented in Geneva, Switzerland, in 2024 at the WHO 77th World Health Assembly, 27 May - 1 June 2024

Approximately 1 billion people (13% of the global population) live with mental disorders, anxiety and depression being the most common.

Eight percent of children and 14% of adolescents have mental disorders of which 50% begin by age 14, and 75% by age 24, with anxiety, depression, and ADHD being the most prevalent.
Access to population-based preventive and mental health services is inadequate everywhere, especially in low- and middle-income countries with a treatment gap of 90%.

Globally only 2% of health expenditure is directed towards mental health.

Addressing the consequences of poor mental health on the world population and economy requires the permanent allocation of governmental funding in relation to the prevalence and burden of mental disorders in each country.

WPA statement 2025, presented in Geneva, Switzerland in 2025 at the WHO 78th World Health Assembly, 19 – 27 May 2025

One of the greatest health threats in the world is the growing number of brain and mental disorders, commonly called neurological and psychiatric disorders.

They account for 522 and 258 million disabilities adjusted life years (DALYs), respectively. This is more than the burden of cancer (260 million DALYs) and cardiovascular diseases (402 million DALYs).

There is a high comorbidity between neurological conditions and psychiatric disorders, with common psychosocial risk factors, such as lifestyle choices, social isolation, poverty and discrimination.

As the WHO has global brain health and mental health plans, a strategy should be worked out on how to take advantage of existing services, working under a unifying goal of integral brain health.

WPA statement 2026, presented in Geneva, Switzerland, in 2026 at the WHO 79th World Health Assembly, 18–23 May 2026

Economic Strategy needed in Mental Health investment

WPA's Prague agreement 2025 co -signed by mental health charities and organizations from across world regions is calling on global financiers – including the capital markets, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund – to urge for national investment in mental health as a marker of sustainable economic development.
Mental illness is the leading cause of disability worldwide and disproportionately affects young people, undermining workforce participation, productivity, and long-term economic growth.
An estimated 1.1 billion people – nearly one in seven globally – are living with a mental illness. Mental ill health accounts for approximately 15% of the global burden of disease, yet on average only around 2% of government health budgets are allocated to mental healthcare.
The cost of inaction is already visible. The opportunity for change is firmly within reach.

Thanks from the President

Heartfelt thanks from the President to all colleagues across the WPA's components and to the administrative staff for their dedication and tireless efforts throughout the triennium in advancing the WPA's mission to improve mental health and well-being for all.

Prof. Danuta Wasserman
President, WPA, 2023-2026

President’s triennium conclusion

President’s triennium conclusion

The WPA Action Plan 2023–2026 serves as a dynamic roadmap, evolving in response to emerging scientific evidence, stakeholder input, and changing global realities. Its success hinges on strong partnerships between clinicians, researchers, patients, family members, policymakers, and communites members. As part of this effort, the WPA remains resolute in its commitment to scientific integrity by using evidence-based methods, ethical conduct, and respect for human rights, values that resonate in every dimension of the organization’s work. Through consistent advocacy, groundbreaking research, and collaborative engagement, WPA stands poised to guide global psychiatry into an era defined by innovation, inclusivity, and holistic physical and mental well-being.



Obituaries

WPA OBITUARIES

During the 2023–2026 triennium, the World Psychiatric Association honours the memory of the distinguished colleagues whose remarkable contributions have profoundly enriched psychiatry, mental health policy, education, research, and the promotion of human rights.

We remember them with deep gratitude for their leadership, scholarship, compassion, and unwavering commitment to improving the lives of people living with mental disorders. Through their dedication and service, they have left an enduring legacy for our profession and for the World Psychiatric Association.

On behalf of the World Psychiatric Association, we pay tribute to their lives and achievements, extend our heartfelt condolences to their families, friends, and colleagues, and acknowledge the many lives they have touched. Their wisdom, vision, and commitment will continue to inspire generations of psychiatrists and advance the pursuit of better mental health worldwide.



Prof. Eliot Sorel (1940-2024)

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Prof. Eliot Sorel, an extraordinary leader in global mental health, on 13th of October 2024, at the age of 84. Prof. Sorel was not only a pioneer in health systems performance and psychiatry but also a visionary whose dedication transformed the lives of countless individuals worldwide. His contributions to psychiatry and his steadfast commitment to public health will leave an indelible legacy for future generations.

As the founder and inspirational leader of the WPA Section on Conflict Resolution, Prof. Sorel championed the role of dialogue and peacebuilding in psychiatry.

Through this initiative, he emphasised the critical role that mental health professionals play in mitigating the impacts of violence, trauma, and conflict, ensuring that these vital issues are at the forefront of global mental health discussions. His leadership in this section was pivotal, highlighting conflict resolution as not just a technical or therapeutic task, but as a necessary path to collective healing and societal progress. Under his guidance, psychiatrists—both seasoned and emerging—found opportunities for profound personal and professional growth, as they were inspired to tackle the mental health challenges brought on by conflict.

Prof. Sorel's love for his native Romania was unwavering, and he worked tirelessly to build bridges between Romania and the global psychiatric community. Over the years, he spearheaded the organisation of several WPA meetings in Romania, showcasing his commitment to promoting bidirectional collaboration between the country's mental health professionals and their global counterparts. Through these efforts, Prof. Sorel not only brought Romania into the international psychiatric conversation but also enriched global psychiatry with the cultural and intellectual contributions of Romanian experts. His passion for connecting global psychiatry with his homeland reflected his deep belief in the power of international cooperation.

In addition to his role with the WPA, Prof. Sorel was an esteemed academic, serving as a Clinical Professor of Global Health, Health Policy & Management, and Psychiatry at The George Washington University. His innovative TOTAL Health model, integrating primary care, mental health, and public health, has been adopted as a groundbreaking template for collaborative care worldwide. He also served as President of the World Association for Social Psychiatry and collaborated with global institutions like the World Health Organization, World Bank, and the Pan American Health Organization.

Prof. Sorel's dedication earned him numerous accolades, including Romania's Star of Romania Order of Commander, Doctor Honoris Causa from two Romanian universities, and the Ronald A. Shellow Award from the American Psychiatric Association. His passing is a profound loss to the field of psychiatry, but his legacy will continue to inspire those who strive for a more integrated, just, and mentally healthy world.

On behalf of the World Psychiatric Association, we extend our deepest condolences to his family, friends and colleagues around the world. Prof. Sorel's remarkable contributions will be remembered with deep admiration and gratitude. May his memory be a blessing to all who knew him and were touched by his work.



Dr. Gabriela Cruz Ares (2025)

In memory of Gabriela Cruz Ares passed away on the 18th of July 2025 in Hamburg, Germany.

Gabriela Cruz Ares was chair of the Section Public Policy and Psychiatry from 2022 until 2025. She joined the section in 2019 as co-chair. She was too young to leave us, just 49 years old. Gabriela was foremost a lovely human being, a very dedicated psychiatrist and a creative, inspiring and supportive member of the Section. She initiated and took part in all the symposia we submitted and presented at the different WPA meetings.

The last presentation our section had with Gabriela was at the WPA World congress in Vienna in 2023 with the title: "Ecosystems, Nature and Mental Health – can public policy make a positive contribution?", which was an intersectional symposium between the Section for Public Policy and Psychiatry and the Section for Evolutionary Psychiatry.

Gabriela was born in Mexico where she studied medicine, with a post degree in forensic psychiatry. She met her husband Jan in Berlin during a vacation in 2009. He moved first to Mexico to be with her, where their first daughter was born. They then moved to Germany in 2011, where Gabriela got to work as a doctor in a day clinic in psychiatry. Her second daughter was born in 2015. She then started the long road for acceptance as a German psychiatrist which was achieved in 2020. Since then, she worked in the department of psychiatry and psychotherapy in Asklepios Westklinikum in Hamburg, Germany.

Her passing away is so very, very sad, mostly for her two daughters and husband, but for us in the Public Policy section, there is also an empty space after her. We miss her, with her characteristic smile, positivity, her way of saying "super", her engagement, her professionalism, new ideas for the field and always eager to support public policy in psychiatry. We will try to do our best without her.

Members of the Public policy and Psychiatry section.



Prof. M Parameshvara Deva (2025)

It is with great sadness that we share the news that Prof. M Parameshvara Deva (Malaysia) passed away on 7th August 2022. He was a senior leader of World Psychiatric Association (WPA) and has been active in WPA activities for several years. He called the first meeting to discuss the formation of the Malaysian Psychiatric Association in November 1976. Being a WPA Zonal representative, he highlighted the vision of WPA not only in his region but also played a vital role in promotion of psychiatry globally.

His contributions as chair of WPA Scientific Section on Education and pioneering role in establishing Section on Psychiatry in Developing countries will be remembered by the WPA leadership.

He had a special interest in psychosocial rehabilitation and served as past president of the World Association of Psychosocial Rehabilitation (WAPR). He was at the forefront for establishing Asian Federation for Psychiatric Associations (AFPA) & South Asian Forum on Mental health & Psychiatry and was considered as a dedicated leader in Asia. He was also instrumental in developing collaboration among Southeast Asian countries and starting professional associations in many regions. He played an important role for raising support and help during 2015 Tsunami and took a lead role in several humanitarian activities.

His career in the field saw him as a Professor of Psychiatry & Head Department of Psychiatry at the University of Malaya, Mental Health Consultant at the World Health Organization and adviser to Health Ministries in the Pacific Island countries. He believed in sustainable development of services using often limited resources available locally. This would include training families and community mental health workers in setting up clinics & starting psychosocial rehabilitation in the remote areas in countries with low resources.

Prof. Deva had enormous influence on the international community of psychiatrists with his unique ability to bring together Psychiatrists & mental health professionals from all corners of the world to serve a common cause.

Professor M. Parameshvara Deva, or simply 'Deva' to most of us, lived his to the fullest. WPA joins thousands of his admirers and students in conveying our sincere condolences not only to his colleagues, but especially to his family and friends who feel this great loss. We wish his loving wife, Dr Jenny Deva, their son Dr Djeevan and other family members courage and strength during this incredibly difficult time.

Document Title : Obituary: Carlos Augusto de Mendonça Lima
Author: Prof. Danuta Wasserman, President, WPA



Prof. Carlos Augusto de Mendonça Lima (28 March 1958 - 8 June 2025)

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Professor Carlos Augusto de Mendonça Lima, MD, who left us on the 8th of June 2025, in Lausanne, Switzerland, at the age of 67. Dr. Mendonça Lima was chair of the WPA Section of Old Age Psychiatry and a renowned Psychiatrist, teacher, and advocate for a better mental health for the elderly around the world. Dr. Mendonça Lima was also an Epidemiologist, Clinical Pharmacologist and Doctor in Science of Life and Health, active professionally in Brazil, France, Portugal, and Switzerland.

Recently, he was Chair of the Unit of Old Age Psychiatry at the Centre Psychiatrique Les Toises in Lausanne, Switzerland. Former Consultant to Mental Health Division WHO, President of the European Association of Geriatric Psychiatry, Member of the Board of Directors of the International Psychogeriatric Association, Vice-Chair of the European Psychiatric Association Section of Old Age Psychiatry.

Born in Brazil, Professor Carlos Augusto de Mendonça Lima completed his medical degree at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1982. He continued his studies at the University of Franche-Comté, Besançon, France, where he specialized in Psychiatry in 1989, and completed a master's degree in Pharmacology, Epidemiology and Statistics, from the University of Nancy in 1989. In 1994, he completed his PhD (Doctorat de Sciences de la Vie et de la Santé) at the University of Franche-Comté in 1994.

Dr. Mendonça Lima was also a lecturer at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Visiting Professor at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Civil Servant of the Canton de Vaud at the University of Lausanne, UNIL's Chair of the WHO Collaborating Center for the Psychiatry of the Elderly, at the University of Porto, at the University of Santiago de Compostela, and at the Autonomous University of Barcelona.

Below are a few inspiring articles about UN regulations to which Dr. Mendonça Lima contributed:

- S1: Crossing Oceans and Connecting People to Promote the Human Rights of Older People
- Our role and impact with the Open-Ended Working Group on Aging (OEWGA), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and the World Health Organization (WHO)

On behalf of myself and the WPA Section of Old Age Psychiatry, we would like to offer our sincere condolences, not only to his colleagues, but especially to his family and friends for whom we recognise this great loss. His contributions to the field of psychiatry will be remembered and celebrated for years to come.



Prof. Dan Joseph Stein (1962 - 2025)

It is with deep sadness that we share the news of the death of Professor Dan Joseph Stein, MD, PhD, who passed away on Saturday, 6 December 2025, at the age of 63. His loss is felt profoundly as we remember an exceptional psychiatrist — both clinically and scientifically — as well as a remarkable colleague and friend.

Professor Stein was Full Professor and Chair of the Dept of Psychiatry and Mental Health at the University of Cape Town (UCT), Director of the South African MRC Unit on Risk & Resilience in Mental Disorders, and Scientific Director of the UCT Neuroscience Institute.

Additionally, he was a Visiting Professor at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York and at Aarhus University in Denmark. Within the World Psychiatric Association (WPA), he served as Chair of the Section "Anxiety and Obsessive-Compulsive Disorders" and represented one of the 10 WPA Collaborating Centres.

Professor Stein was a global leader whose influence spanned clinical practice, rigorous research, and intellectual philosophy. His legacy is one of expansive knowledge, deep compassion, and unwavering collaborative spirit. Professor Stein's scientific contributions focused on the psychobiology and treatment of anxiety-related conditions, obsessive-compulsive disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder. Foundational work on Obsessive-Compulsive and Related Disorders (OCRDs) stands as an enduring contribution to clinical psychiatry. He championed the OCRD category in modern nosology, chairing the workgroups for both the DSM-5 and ICD-11 on these disorders. This leadership ensured the evidence-based separation of OCRDs from anxiety, fundamentally reshaping our diagnostic and research paradigms.

With doctoral degrees in both clinical neuroscience and philosophy, Professor Stein's intellectual breadth was remarkable, influencing volumes like The Philosophy of Psychopharmacology. His body of work—more than 1,600 peer-reviewed papers and over 25 authored or edited books—places him among the most widely cited researchers across the globe. His clinical and neurobiological investigations included: Co-leading the ENIGMA-OCD and ENIGMA-Anxiety workgroups, which pooled global data to identify structural and functional brain correlates of these conditions; Leading and contributing to numerous trials and Cochrane systematic reviews on pharmacotherapy and psychotherapy for OCD, PTSD, trichotillomania and social anxiety disorder; Serving as a Director of the International College of Obsessive-Compulsive Spectrum Disorders (ICOCS), a commitment honoured by the dedication of the recent CANMAT-ICOCS International Guidelines for the Management of Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder to his memory.

Professor Stein was deeply committed to advancing research and care in low- and middle-income settings. He returned to South Africa from a fellowship in psychopharmacology at Columbia University to dedicate his career to this mission. At UCT, he was the Director of the early Brain and Behaviour Initiative and the inaugural Scientific Director of the Neuroscience Institute, the first of its kind on the African continent. He initiated the South African MRC Unit on Anxiety & Stress Disorders, which undertook the first nationally representative community survey of mental disorders on the African continent, as part of the World Mental Health Surveys. He founded and served as the first President of the African College of Neuropsychopharmacology. He led initiatives, like the Neuro-GAP study, which focused on the genetics of schizophrenia and bipolar disorder in African populations, promoting crucial diversity in psychiatric genetics research. As Chair of the World Psychiatric Association Scientific Section for Anxiety and Obsessive-Compulsive and Related Disorders, he promoted science of the highest quality to tackle contemporary global mental health challenges and inequalities. He chaired the Lancet Psychiatry Commission Global Action on Problematic Usage of the Internet and edited the textbook Mental Health in a Digital World.

Over the course of his career, Professor Stein received numerous honours, among them the Lifetime Achievement Award from the World Federation of Societies of Biological Psychiatry, the Max Hamilton Memorial Award from the International College of Neuropsychopharmacology, the John F. Herschel Medal from the Royal Society of South Africa and the SAMRC Platinum Award for research excellence.

Yet, for those who knew him, his scientific achievements were rivalled by the warmth of his friendship and the depth of his character. Dan was a sensitive, thoughtful, kind clinician and an exceptional leader who nurtured staff and scientists from all backgrounds. His greatest love was for his wife Heather, his children and a first grandchild, of whom he was exceptionally proud. He fostered a vibrant, human connection within the research community that transcended the data and the papers.

Dan Joseph Stein's friendship, quiet determination, curiosity, and boundless brilliance will be profoundly missed. We remember him not only as a giant in psychiatric research, but as a wonderful friend who left us too soon. We join the global community in being deeply shaken by his death and in extending our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, colleagues, students and all who had the privilege of knowing or collaborating with him.

Document Title : Obituary: Prof. Jules Angst
Authors: Prof. Danuta Wasserman, President WPA



Prof. Jules Angst (1926-2026)

The World Psychiatric Association is deeply saddened by the passing of Professor Jules Angst on 15 May 2026.

Professor Jules Angst, a pioneering Swiss psychiatrist and one of the most influential figures in the modern understanding of mood disorders, died at the age of 99. His work fundamentally shaped contemporary concepts of depression and bipolar disorder and left a lasting impact on psychiatric research and clinical practice worldwide.

Born in Zurich on 11 December 1926, Angst trained in the Zurich psychiatric tradition at Burghölzli Hospital, within an academic environment shaped by figures such as Eugen Bleuler and Manfred Bleuler. This foundation in clinical observation and long-term psychiatric follow-up informed his lifelong scientific approach.

He served as Professor of Clinical Psychiatry at the University of Zurich and led research at the Psychiatric University Hospital Zurich. Over several decades, he developed and directed major longitudinal and epidemiological studies of mood disorders, most notably the Zurich cohort studies. These workstreams provided some of the most extensive long-term data available on affective illness, clarifying patterns of course, recurrence, and outcome across the lifespan.

His research was central to the evolving understanding of mood disorders, contributing both to the consolidation of the distinction between unipolar and bipolar conditions and to later frameworks that emphasized spectrum-based conceptualisations. More broadly, his work helped establish longitudinal epidemiology as a cornerstone of modern psychiatric research and influenced the way diagnostic boundaries in mood disorders are studied and debated.

Professor Angst authored and co-authored hundreds of scientific publications and became one of the most cited researchers in psychiatry. His scientific contributions extended across psychiatric epidemiology and treatment research, including work on pharmacological interventions for mood disorders, as well as population-based studies of psychiatric illness.

He received numerous international honors in recognition of his contributions, including the Jean Delay Prize in 2017. He also held prominent leadership roles within European psychiatry, serving as Chair of the Section of Epidemiology and Social Psychiatry of the European Psychiatric Association from 1992 to 1996 and as President of the Association from 1997 to 1998.

Professor Angst remained intellectually active well into later life, continuing to engage with research and academic discourse over many decades. His work helped define a more empirically grounded and nuanced understanding of mood disorders that continues to inform psychiatric research and clinical practice.
He leaves behind a scientific legacy defined by rigorous longitudinal investigation and a sustained commitment to understanding the complexity of affective illness.

Our thoughts are with his family and friends.



Semyon Gluzman
(10 September 1946 – 16 February 2026)

President of the Association of Psychiatrists of Ukraine (1991–2023), Director of the Ukrainian-American Human Rights Bureau (since 1990), member of the American Psychiatric Association (since 1979), the Royal College of Psychiatrists (since 1980), the Canadian Psychiatric Association (since 1981), and the German Society of Psychiatry and Neurology, Co-chair of the Babyn Yar Committee together with Myroslav Popovych and Ivan Dziuba.

In 1977, a psychiatric clinic in Saint-Denis (CAC Saint-Denis "Sémion Gluzman") was named in his honor. In 1978, Amnesty International declared the Year of Semen Gluzman. In 1998–1999, he served as a United Nations human rights expert.

Co-author of the Law of Ukraine "On Psychiatric Care." Laureate of the "Person of the Year – 1999" award as "Human Rights Defender of the Year." During Ukraine's independence, he became one of the country's moral authorities in psychiatry and human rights advocacy. He consistently advocated for reform of psychiatric care, protection of patients' rights, and overcoming stigma related to mental health. His "uncomfortable truth" was always a voice of conscience — direct, reasoned, and uncompromising toward injustice. He will remain a model of professional integrity and civic responsibility. For Ukrainian society, he symbolizes resistance to abuse and proof that even in the darkest times one can preserve inner freedom.

May his memory live on in his work, books, public speeches, and in the lives of thousands for whom he was a teacher, friend, and moral guide. Our sincere condolences to his family, colleagues, and all who knew and respected him.
Forever in our hearts.

The obituary has been translated into several languages and can be found here.

Irina Pinchuk, Professor, MD, PhD,
Director, Institute of Psychiatry of Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv,
President of the Ukrainian Psychiatric Association,
Director, International Technology Transfer Center - Ukraine
Head of ISSUP Ukraine National Chapter



Prof. Donald M. Hilty (1964-2026)

In Memoriam: Professor Donald M. Hilty (1964-2026)

The World Psychiatric Association (WPA) and the WPA Digital Mental Health Section mourns the passing of Professor Donald M. Hilty (born 21st October 1964 – died 4 July 2026, United States), an outstanding psychiatrist, internationally recognised pioneer in telepsychiatry, and one of the world's leading experts in collaborative care and digital mental health.

Don spent the majority of his professional career on faculty at the University of California, Davis where he became known nationally as a pioneer in telepsychiatry.

His other later leadership positions included Chief Medical Officer of United Health Services and Heritage Oaks Hospital and Associate Chief of Mental Health, Northern California VA Health Care System. His academic interests concerned all areas of telemedicine, mobile health, artificial intelligence and other digital health-related academic activities. In these areas, he made an outstanding contribution of global importance. He also played a defining role in developing the Journal of Technology in Behavioral Science, transforming it from a small start-up into an influential international and interprofessional journal serving clinicians, researchers, educators, and healthcare leaders worldwide.

Throughout his distinguished career, Don dedicated himself to improving access to mental health care through innovation, education, research, and international collaboration. He authored hundreds of scientific publications, mentored generations of clinicians, and was admired for his scientific excellence, kindness, generosity, and unwavering commitment to patients and colleagues.

Don was a founding and highly valued member of the WPA Digital Mental Health Section and was expected to take on a leading role in the Section following the upcoming elections. He had already contributed profoundly to its scientific, educational, and international activities since its inception.

We collaborated closely on numerous international initiatives, including co-editing two books, developing the WPA Telepsychiatry Global Guidelines, and organising many symposia and educational activities. Most recently, under Don's leadership, we collaborated on the development of the WPA AI & mHealth Guidelines, bringing together experts from several WPA Scientific Sections to formulate comprehensive recommendations for the responsible use of artificial intelligence, mobile health, and digital technologies in psychiatry.

Beyond his remarkable professional achievements, Don will be remembered as an exceptional mentor, trusted colleague, and dear friend. His wisdom, humility, and generosity touched everyone who had the privilege of working with him.

The global psychiatric community has lost an extraordinary leader whose legacy will continue to inspire future generations.

On behalf of the WPA Digital Mental Health Section, we extend our deepest condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues.

Document Title : Obituary : Professor Donald M. Hilty
Author: Specialist Corner Expert Group on the Impact of Digitalization on Mental Health. Prof. Wolfgang Gaebel, Chair, Prof. Umberto Volpe, Co-Chair and Dr. Rodrigo Ramalho, Secretary



Prof. Donald M. Hilty (1964-2026)

It is with profound sadness that the WPA Specialist Corner Expert Group on the Impact of Digitalization on Mental Health has learned of the passing of Dr. Donald M. Hilty, an internationally respected psychiatrist, pioneer in digital mental health, and a highly valued member of our Expert Group.

The WPA Specialist Corner on Advances of Sciences and their Application in Care for People with Mental Disorders brings together experts from different Scientific Sections to address emerging cross-cutting topics of strategic importance for psychiatry. Within this framework, our Expert Group focuses on the impact of digitalization on mental health and the responsible integration of digital technologies into psychiatric practice, research, education, and policy.

Dr. Hilty was an outstanding contributor to this collaborative effort. Dr. Hilty was internationally recognized for his pioneering work in telepsychiatry, collaborative care, and technology-enabled mental health services. Through his visionary scholarship, scientific leadership, and unwavering commitment to innovation, he helped shape the development of digital psychiatry worldwide. Equally remarkable was his generosity as a mentor and colleague. He fostered collaboration across disciplines, professions, and countries, inspiring and supporting countless colleagues throughout their careers.

Within our Expert Group, Don was admired not only for his exceptional expertise but also for his kindness, intellectual openness, and collegial spirit. His thoughtful contributions, constructive dialogue, and dedication to advancing the field significantly enriched our work and strengthened our international collaboration.

On behalf of the WPA Specialist Corner Expert Group on the Impact of Digitalization on Mental Health, we extend our deepest condolences to Dr. Hilty's family, friends, colleagues, and the many professionals around the world whose lives and careers he touched.Dr. Donald M. Hilty's scientific achievements, leadership, and humanity have left an enduring legacy. His vision will continue to inspire our work and the future development of digital mental health. He will be remembered with profound respect, gratitude, and admiration.

Administrative Director report

The 2023–2026 triennium has been a period of continued development and strengthening of the WPA Secretariat, with a focus on efficient administration, digital development and effective support to the WPA leadership, member societies, Sections and Zones.

During this period, Atina Ivanovski was appointed Director of WPA Administration, overseeing the day-to-day administration of the WPA and coordinating the Secretariat team to ensure the smooth implementation of activities and priorities. This includes administrative and financial matters, coordination with the fiduciary/accounting firm, as well as close collaboration with the team on communications, digital activities and other Secretariat responsibilities.

One of the major achievements of the triennium was the launch of the new WPA website and education portal, providing a modern, accessible and user-friendly platform with improved access to information, educational resources and WPA activities. The project was successfully delivered through the close collaboration of the WPA Secretariat and IT team, with the valued support and vision of President Danuta Wasserman, whose commitment to digital development greatly contributed to its success.

The triennium has also seen continued progress in the WPA's communication and digital activities, supporting stronger connections with members and stakeholders and ensuring access to relevant and up-to-date information.

Particular appreciation goes to Yarie Kaba, Website Administrator & Administrative Assistant; Kerry Jackson Fowler, Communications Consultant; and Nathalie Lewkowicz, Digital Marketing & Administrative Assistant, for their valuable contributions to the Secretariat's daily work, digital development and communications.

A special word of appreciation goes to President Danuta Wasserman for her trust, support and commitment throughout the triennium, and her assistants working on the Action Plan 2023 to 2026 , Nuhamin Gebrewold Hammar and Amy Gordon. Sincere thanks are also extended to all members of the WPA Executive Committee for their guidance and collaboration.

Finally, sincere appreciation is extended to the entire Secretariat team for their dedication, professionalism, hard work and continued commitment. Their contribution has been essential to maintaining the continuity of WPA operations and supporting the continued development of the WPA.



Honorary Memberships

Document Title : Honorary Memberships

Recipient	Affiliation / Contribution
Adler, Mats	WCP 2026 Stockholm – Local Swedish Scientific Committee
Alcala-Duenas, Alberto	WCP 2024 Mexico – Local Organizing Committee
Anders, Martin	WCP 2025 Prague – Local Representatives
Arellano-Cano, Ramon	WCP 2024 Mexico – Local Organizing Committee
Arnaud-Gil, Carlos	WCP 2024 Mexico – Local Organizing Committee
Arroyo-Rodriguez, Saul	WCP 2024 Mexico – Local Organizing Committee
Asselus, Peter	Swedish Psychiatric Association
Atwoli, Lukoye	Specialist Corner / Speakers – WCP 2025 Prague
Bankovská Motlová, Lucie	WCP 2025 Prague – Local Representatives
Bartečková, Eliška	WCP 2025 Prague – Local Czech and Slovak Scientific Committee / WCP 2024 Mexico Scientific Committee
Bražinová, Alexandra	WCP 2025 Prague – Local Representatives
Breznoščáková, Dagmar	WCP 2025 Prague – Local Czech and Slovak Scientific Committee / WCP 2024 Mexico Scientific Committee
Camarena-Robles, Enrique	WCP 2024 Mexico – Local Organizing Committee
Campos-Gonzalez, Sergio	WCP 2024 Mexico – Local Organizing Committee
Carriedo-GarciaMorato, Pilar	WCP 2024 Mexico – Local Organizing Committee
Casados-Bazan, Oscar	WCP 2024 Mexico – Local Organizing Committee
Castellanos-Martin, Hugo	WCP 2024 Mexico – Local Organizing Committee
Cipriani, Maddalena	Specialist Corner / Speakers – WCP 2025 Prague
Cirulli, Francesca	Specialist Corner / Speakers – WCP 2025 Prague
Colimon, Nancy	WCP 2024 Mexico – Local Organizing Committee
De la Peña, Francisco	WCP 2024 Mexico – Local Organizing Committee
Della Rocca, Bianca	Specialist Corner / Speakers – WCP 2025 Prague
Di Vincenzo, Matteo	Specialist Corner / Speakers – WCP 2025 Prague
Dom, Geert	Specialist Corner / Speakers – WCP 2026 Stockholm
Elkholy, Hussein	Specialist Corner / Speakers – WCP 2025 Prague
Faerden, Ann	Women Mental Health Section
Firth, Joe	Specialist Corner / Speakers – WCP 2026 Stockholm
Franck, Johan	WCP 2026 Stockholm – Local Swedish Scientific Committee
Gallego, Juan	WCP 2024 Mexico – Local Organizing Committee
Garcia-Almendariz, Eva	WCP 2024 Mexico – Local Organizing Committee
Guizar-Sanchez, Diana	WCP 2024 Mexico – Local Organizing Committee
Gunnarsson, Tove	WCP 2026 Stockholm – Local Swedish Scientific Committee
Halstead, Sean	Specialist Corner / Speakers – WCP 2025 Prague
Hanna, Fahmy	Advisory Committee on Response to Emergencies (ACRE)
Hedquist, Daniel	USA
Herrera-Jimenez, Ivan	WCP 2024 Mexico – Local Organizing Committee
Hlavacova, Natasa	WCP 2025 Prague – Local Czech and Slovak Scientific Committee
Holly, Martin	WCP 2025 Prague – Local Representatives
Iosue, Miriam	Specialist Corner / Speakers – WCP 2026 Stockholm
Izakova, Lubomira	WCP 2025 Prague – Local Czech and Slovak Scientific Committee
Jocelyne	Organiser Webinar
Jouini, Lamia	Specialist Corner / Speakers – WCP 2025 Prague
Kališová, Lucie	WCP 2025 Prague – Local Czech and Slovak Scientific Committee

Kariis, Tarmo	WCP 2026 Stockholm – Local Swedish Scientific Committee
Karmani, Sneha	Specialist Corner / Speakers – WCP 2025 Prague
Kastrup, Marianne	Specialist Corner / Speakers – WCP 2026 Stockholm
Kishimoto, Taishiro	Specialist Corner / Speakers – WCP 2025 Prague
Leon-Rojas, Daniela	WCP 2024 Mexico – Local Organizing Committee
Lundblad, Karl-Axel	WCP 2026 Stockholm – Local Swedish Scientific Committee
Madi-Skaff, Josyan	Women Mental Health Section
Madrigal-Zamora, Leticia	WCP 2024 Mexico – Local Organizing Committee
Mannikko, Miia	Specialist Corner / Speakers – WCP 2025 Prague
Martinez-Gonzalez, Marcela	WCP 2024 Mexico – Local Organizing Committee
Martinsson, Lina	WCP 2026 Stockholm – Local Swedish Scientific Committee
Medina-Davalos, Rafael	WCP 2024 Mexico – Local Organizing Committee
Medina-Rodriguez, Jose C.	WCP 2024 Mexico – Local Organizing Committee
Melillo, Antonio	Specialist Corner / Speakers – WCP 2025 Prague
Mogren, Tove	WCP 2026 Stockholm – Local Swedish Scientific Committee
Morales Cano, Guadalupe	Specialist Corner / Speakers – WCP 2025 Prague
Moya-Palazuelos, Maria Luisa	WCP 2024 Mexico – Local Organizing Committee
Naesström, Matilda	WCP 2026 Stockholm – Local Swedish Scientific Committee
Nilsson, Johan	WCP 2026 Stockholm – Local Swedish Scientific Committee
O'Dea, Bridianne	Specialist Corner / Speakers – WCP 2025 Prague
Orsolini, Laura	Specialist Corner / Speakers – WCP 2026 Stockholm
Ouliaris, Calina	Specialist Corner / Speakers – WCP 2025 Prague
Peña de Leon, Edilberto	WCP 2024 Mexico – Local Organizing Committee
Pezoa-Jares, Rodolfo	WCP 2024 Mexico – Local Organizing Committee
Pillutla, Ramya	Specialist Corner / Speakers – WCP 2026 Stockholm
Pizzagalli, Diego	Jean Delay
Ramklint, Mia	WCP 2026 Stockholm – Local Swedish Scientific Committee
Riečanský, Igor	WCP 2025 Prague – Local Czech and Slovak Scientific Comm. / WCP 2024 Mexico Scientific Comm.
Riper, Heleen	Specialist Corner / Speakers – WCP 2025 Prague
Rodriguez-Bores, Lorena	WCP 2024 Mexico – Local Organizing Committee
Salinas-Villalobos, Margus	WCP 2024 Mexico – Local Organizing Committee
Sampogna, Gaia	Specialist Corner / Speakers – WCP 2026 Stockholm
Sanchez-Lopez, Sophia	WCP 2024 Mexico – Local Organizing Committee/Nomination Committee
Saucedo-Martinez, David	WCP 2024 Mexico – Local Organizing Committee
Šimunović Filipčić, Ivona	Specialist Corner / Speakers – WCP 2025 Prague
Sinai, Cave	WCP 2026 Stockholm – Local Swedish Scientific Committee
Solmi, Marco	Specialist Corner / Speakers – WCP 2026 Stockholm
Stavert, Jill	Specialist Corner / Speakers – WCP 2026 Stockholm
Steingrimsson, Steinn	WCP 2026 Stockholm – Local Swedish Scientific Committee
Torous, John	From W. Gaebel
Valkučáková, Dr. Vanda	WCP 2025 Prague – Local Representatives
Vinacour, Carlos	Specialist Corner / Speakers – WCP 2025 Prague
Volpe, Umberto	Specialist Corner / Speakers – WCP 2025 Prague



Honorary Fellowships

Recipient	Affiliation / Contribution
Alarcón, Renato D.	WCP 2024 Mexico – State-of-the-Art Lecturers
Alfonso, César A.	Education in Psychiatry Section
Allan, John	Ethics Committee
Amering, Michaela	Specialist Corner / Expert Group Chairs
Appelbaum, Paul	Ethics Committee
Arango, Celso	Planning Committee
Azeem, Muhammad Waqar	Medical Essay Students
Bach, Bo	WCP 2025 Prague – State-of-the-Art Lecturers
Basar, Koray	EDIT Committee
Becker, Anna	WCP 2025 Prague – State-of-the-Art Lecturers
Bertelli, Marco	Specialist Corner / Expert Group Chairs
Bhui, Kam	WPA Collaborating Centres
Bowden-Jones, Henrietta	WCP 2025 Prague – State-of-the-Art Lecturers
Brakoulias, Vlasios	WCP 2026 Stockholm – State-of-the-Art Lecturers
Brendel, Rebecca	Standing Committee for Ethics & Review
Campion, Jonathan	Specialist Corner / Expert Group Chairs
Carli, Vladimir	WCP 2026 Committee – Local Swedish Scientific Committee / WCP 2025 Prague – State-of-the-Art Lecturers
Castilla Puentes, Ruby	WCP 2026 Stockholm – State-of-the-Art Lecturers
Chaimowitz, Gary	Zonal Representatives / WCP 2025 Prague – State-of-the-Art Lecturers
Charnsil, Chawanun	WCP 2024 Committee – Scientific Committee / Zone 16 Representative
Chkonia, Eka	Standing Committee for Scientific Sections
Christodoulou, Nikos	WCP 2024 Mexico – State-of-the-Art Lecturers
Córdoba Rojas, Rodrigo Nel	Standing Committee for Planning / WCP 2024 Scientific Committee / Zone 4 Representative
Cortés Morelos, Jacqueline	Mexican Psychiatric Association
Della, Constantine	WCP 2024 Mexico – State-of-the-Art Lecturers
Dragašek, Jozef	Slovak Psychiatric Association
Eapen, Valsamma	Standing Committee for Scientific Meetings / Zone 18 Representative / WCP 2024 Mexico – State-of-the-Art Lecturers
Eberhard, Jonas	Swedish Psychiatric Association
Eisenbruch, Maurice	WCP 2026 Stockholm – State-of-the-Art Lecturers
Ekhtiari, Hamed	WCP 2026 Stockholm – State-of-the-Art Lecturers
Elfeqi, Radwa Said Abdelazim	Standing Committee for Accreditation / WCP 2025 Prague – State-of-the-Art Lecturers
Elnahas, Gihan	WCP 2026 Stockholm – State-of-the-Art Lecturers
Elsabbahy, Medhat	WCP 2026 Stockholm – State-of-the-Art Lecturers
Falkai, Peter	Specialist Corner / Expert Group Chairs / Member of Planning Committee
Filipcic, Igor	WCP 2024 Committee – Scientific Committee / Zone 9 Representative
Fiorillo, Andrea	Specialist Corner / Expert Group Chairs / Member of Education & Scientific Publications Committee
Fountoulakis, Konstantinos	WCP 2025 Prague – State-of-the-Art Lecturers
Gaebel, Wolfgang	Specialist Corner / Expert Group Chairs
Galderisi, Silvana	Ethics Committee
Gill, Neeraj	Specialist Corner / Expert Group Chairs
Goes, Fernando	WCP 2025 Prague – State-of-the-Art Lecturers
Gustaw Rothenberg, Kasia	WCP 2026 Stockholm – State-of-the-Art Lecturers
Hadlaczky, Gergö	WCP 2026 Committee – Local Swedish Scientific Committee
Haroon, Ebrahim	WCP 2026 Stockholm – State-of-the-Art Lecturers
Holt, Richard	WCP 2024 Mexico – State-of-the-Art Lecturers
Isaac, Mohan	Specialist Corner / Expert Group Chairs
Janiri, Luigi	WCP 2026 Stockholm – State-of-the-Art Lecturers
Jardon, Vincent	WCP 2025 Prague – State-of-the-Art Lecturers

Jatchavala, Chonnakarn	Planning Committee
Jeste, Dilip	WCP 2024 Mexico – State-of-the-Art Lecturers / WCP 2025 Prague – State-of-the-Art Lecturers
Karaliuniene, Ruta	WCP 2026 Stockholm – State-of-the-Art Lecturers
Kašpárek, Tomáš	Slovak Psychiatric Association
Kato, Takahiro	Asian Federation of Psychiatric Associations
Katz, Gregorio	WCP 2024 Mexico – State-of-the-Art Lecturers
Keren, Miri	WCP 2026 Stockholm – State-of-the-Art Lecturers
Kim, Youl-Ri	WCP 2025 Prague – State-of-the-Art Lecturers
Kirmayer, Laurence	WCP 2026 Stockholm – State-of-the-Art Lecturers
Koh, Eugene	WCP 2026 Stockholm – State-of-the-Art Lecturers
Lakra, Vinay	Standing Committee for Finances & Fundraising
Larnaout, Amine	WCP 2024 Committee – Scientific Committee / Zone 11 Representative
Larsson, Maria	Swedish Psychiatric Association
Letica Crepulja, Marina	WCP 2025 Prague – State-of-the-Art Lecturers
Leventhal, Bennett	Standing Committee for Education & Scientific Publications
Levin, Santiago	WCP 2025 Advisory Committee
Liu, Howard	Medical Essay Students
Marín-Navarrete, Rodrigo	WCP 2024 Mexico – State-of-the-Art Lecturers
Mazaliauskene, Ramune	Zonal Representatives
McInnis, Melvin	WCP 2024 Mexico – State-of-the-Art Lecturers
Mimura, Masaru	Planning Committee
Miskimen, Theresa	American Psychiatric Association
Mohr, Pavel	Czech Psychiatric Association
Molina Lopez, Alejandro	Mexican Psychiatric Association
Moussaoui, Driss	EDIT Committee
Mucic, Davor	WCP 2024 Mexico – State-of-the-Art Lecturers / WCP 2025 Prague – State-of-the-Art Lecturers
Munir, Kerim	WCP 2024 Mexico – State-of-the-Art Lecturers / WCP 2026 Stockholm – State-of-the-Art Lecturers
Murthy, Pratima	Specialist Corner / Expert Group Chairs
Nakku, Juliet	Standing Committee for Finances & Fundraising / Zone 14 Representative
Nicolini, Humberto	WCP 2024 Mexico – State-of-the-Art Lecturers
NG, Bernardo	WCP 2024 Organizing Committee / Zone 2 Representative
Okasha, Tarek A.	Standing Committee for Scientific Meetings / WCP 2024 Organizing Committee
Oladeji, Bibilola	Planning Committee
Patarák, Michal	Slovak Psychiatric Association
Pica, Jolanda	Mexican Psychiatric Association
Pinchuk, Irina	Ukrainian Psychiatric Association
Pinto da Costa, Mariana	EDIT Committee
Ramalho, Rodrigo	WCP 2025 Prague – State-of-the-Art Lecturers
Rao, Prasad	Planning Committee
Rapaport, Mark	American Psychiatric Association
Riba, Michelle	Section on PsychOncology and Palliative Care
Ruiz, Roxanna	Ethics Committee
Sachdev, Perminder	Planning Committee
Saha, Gautam	Planning Committee
Samochowiec, Jerzy	EDIT Committee
Sanchez-Villanueva, Thelma	Zonal Representatives / Member of EDIT Committee
Schmidt, Ulrike	WCP 2025 Prague – State-of-the-Art Lecturers
Schouler-Ocak, Meryam	EDIT Committee
Siddiqi, Najma	WCP 2025 Prague – State-of-the-Art Lecturers
Siskind, Dan	Specialist Corner / Expert Group Chairs

Skugarevsky, Oleg	Standing Committee for Scientific Meetings
Stefanis, Nikos	WCP 2025 Organizing Committee
Summergrad, Paul	Executive Committee
Sylla, Aida	Planning Committee / EDIT Committee
Szerman, Nestor	Pedro Ruiz Award / SOTA Lecturer 2026
Tafet, Gustavo	WCP 2024 Mexico – State-of-the-Art Lecturers
Tanra, Andi	Standing Committee for Scientific Meetings / WCP 2024 Scientific Committee
Thibaut, Florence	Women Mental Health Section
Tyano, Sam	Ethics Committee
Tyrer, Peter	WCP 2025 Prague – State-of-the-Art Lecturers
Vega, Pablo	WCP 2024 Mexico – State-of-the-Art Lecturers
Verhagen, Peter	WCP 2025 Prague – State-of-the-Art Lecturers
Vijayakumar, Lakshmi	WPA BIC Program on Suicide Prevention
Villaseñor-Bayardo, Sergio	WCP 2025 Prague – State-of-the-Art Lecturers
Wenzel, Thomas	WCP 2025 Prague – State-of-the-Art Lecturers
Young, Allan	Specialist Corner / Expert Group Chairs
Zarate, Carlos	WCP 2024 Mexico – State-of-the-Art Lecturers
Zemishlany, Zvi	Standing Committee for Finances & Fundraising



Presidential Commendations

With profound respect and heartfelt appreciation, I honour my distinguished predecessors—Helen Herrman, Afzal Javed, Mario Maj, Juan E. Mezzich, and Norman Sartorius—and offer each of them my sincere gratitude and deepest admiration for the dedication and distinction with which they have served the WPA during my triennium.

Thank you

Danuta Wasserman

Recipient	Affiliation / Contribution
Allan, John	Ethics Committee — Member
Amering, Michaela	Specialist Corner / Expert Group Chairs — Chair
Arango, Celso	Planning Committee — Member
Bertelli, M.	Specialist Corner / Expert Group Chairs — Chair
Campion, Jonathan	Specialist Corner / Expert Group Chairs — Chair
Cortés Morelos, Jacqueline	Mexican Psychiatric Association — Previous President (2022–2023)
Eberhard, Jonas	Swedish Psychiatric Association — President
Falkai, Peter	Specialist Corner / Expert Group Chairs — Chair; Member of the Standing Committee for Planning
Ferrero, François	Geneva Prize — Founder
Fiorillo, Andrea	Specialist Corner / Expert Group Chairs — Chair; Member of the Education & Scientific Publications Committee
Gaebel, Wolfgang	Specialist Corner / Expert Group Chairs — Chair
Galderisi, Silvana	Ethics Committee — Chair / Speaker
Gill, Neeraj	Specialist Corner / Expert Group Chairs — Chair
Isaac, Mohan	Specialist Corner / Expert Group Chairs — Chair
Kato, Takahiro	Asian Federation of Psychiatric Associations — Incoming President
Larsson, Maria	Swedish Psychiatric Association — Past President
Mazaliauskene, Ramune	Zonal Representatives — Zone 7
Mohr, Pavel	Czech Psychiatric Association — Past Chairman
Molina Lopez, Alejandro	Mexican Psychiatric Association — Previous President (2024–2025)
Murthy, Pratima	Specialist Corner / Expert Group Chairs — Chair
Ng, Bernardo	WCP 2024 Organizing Committee — Member; Zone 2 Representative (USA)
Pica, Jolanda	Mexican Psychiatric Association
Pinto da Costa, Mariana	EDIT Committee — Member
Rao, Prasad	Planning Committee — Member
Riba, Michelle	Section on Psycho-Oncology and Palliative Care — Co-Chair
Sanchez-Villanueva, Thelma	Zonal Representatives — Zone 3; Member of the EDIT Committee
Siskind, Dan	Specialist Corner / Expert Group Chairs — Chair
Soghoyan, Armen	EC Members — Member
Summergrad, Paul	EC Members — Member
Sylla, Aida	Planning Committee / EDIT Committee — Member
Tanra, Andi	Standing Committee for Scientific Meetings — Member; WCP 2024 Organizing Committee
Tyano, Sam	Ethics Committee — Chair / Speaker
Young, Allan	Specialist Corner / Expert Group Chairs — Chair

WORLD PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

Mental health conditions, particularly anxiety and depression, are among the most prevalent disorders worldwide, affecting people of all ages and socioeconomic groups, with a greater burden on women. They impose an immense human, social, and economic burden, while major disparities in care persist across countries.

Suicide remains one of the leading causes of death among young people worldwide and is markedly more common among males.

Yet, despite this burden, median government spending on mental health has remained at just 2% of total health budgets since 2017—an unacceptable and persistent stagnation.

Prof. Danuta Wasserman
President, WPA, 2023-2026