



EPA ADDICTIVE BEHAVIOURS SECTION REPORT 2025

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Councillor: Prof. Dr. Bernd LENZ
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LAST SECTION COMMITTEE ELECTIONS HELD:

Date: 06-09-2022



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Venue: Online

ACTIVITIES OF THE SECTION IN 2025:

Meetings/events

An in-person Section business meeting was organized on April 6th, 2025, during the 33rd EPA Congress which was held in Madrid from April 5th-8th, 2025.

Description:

An in-person Section business meeting was organized on April 6th, 2025, during the 33rd EPA Congress which was held in Madrid from April 5th-8th, 2025. Minutes of the Section business meeting have been then disseminated by email to all members on April 9, 2025. The main points are summarized here:

- Section Chair (AS) welcomed attendees and listed apologies received by other Section members. AS read out the agenda, which was unanimously adopted.
- Section Secretary (MFF) mentioned the activities carried out by Section officers and members during the past year (listed in the 2024 EPA Section Annual Report which will have been attached and sent out by email together with the current minutes, to all section members) and those within the current 33rd European Congress of Psychiatry. FT asked to add the information of the webinar held on 10th March 2025 entitled "Women Alcohol and Substance Use Disorder". 2024 EPA DP Annual Report was approved unanimously by all EPA DP Section members.
- Section Chair (AS) communicated to all attendees the applications officially received for the 2025-2027 Elections of the Section. As all attendees unanimously accepted the candidacies and no objection was received, SA was appointed as the new Section Chair together with FT as new Section Co-Chair, new Section Secretary (LO), while MFF was appointed as first councilor and LB as second councilor. The members of the new elected board respectively presented their main interests and plans for the mandate: a) SA (multicultural perspective; gender-sensitive approach; publishing opinion and position papers on hot topics of addictions); b) FT (increasing visibility on sex/gender and increase access of women to treatments for substance and/or alcohol use disorders as well as addiction disorders); LO (digital treatments in SUD/AUD/behavioural addictions; digital wellbeing and the balance between pathology and healthy habits in the field of digital addictions; implementing collaboration and cooperation with other societies/networking such as ISAM, being ISAM-NeXT co-chair, WPA Section on Addictions as well as EPA section on Digital Psychiatry); LB (dynamics of addiction; alcohol treatment guidelines; pharmacotherapies with sexgender perspective; VR for smokers).
- Other initiatives/ideas/proposals for the upcoming 34th EPA Congress, as collected during the business meeting were the following: a) symposium on stimulant use disorder and treatment; b) papers on good practices in MPH and amphetamine treatment in addictions and comorbid conditions (B); c) webinar on patient perspective with addictions (LB); d) incentivizing the use of InterACT newsletter (SA); e) proposal to collaborate with other disciplines (such as criminology, hepatologists, pediatricians). Further initiatives proposed by the Section committee during the business meeting included: a) add a new counsellor position for young psychiatrists. All attendees unanimously agreed and SA asked the proposers to send an official draft for such initiatives to be properly followed-up.

Location: 33rd EPA Congress 2025, Madrid (April 5-8th, 2025)

Start date: 07/04/2025

End date: 07/04/2025

Attendance: 15



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Joint Section Symposium in collaboration with the EUFAS entitled “Addictive behaviours in ICD-11”

Description:

The Section Symposium was chaired by Section Chair (SA), with a talk by Section Chair (SA) entitled “The inclusion of Gambling and other behavioural addictions in the addictions chapter of ICD-11”.

Location: 33rd European Congress of Psychiatry, Madrid

Start date: 05/04/2025

End date: 08/04/2025

Joint Section Symposium in collaboration with the Spanish NPA entitled “Hot topics in Psychiatry in Europe-Facts and Challenges”

Description:

Join Section Symposium with a talk by previous Section Chair (AS) entitled “Drug use and abuse in Europe: Mental health consequences”

Location: 33rd European Congress of Psychiatry, Madrid

Start date: 05/04/2025

End date: 08/04/2025

Section Symposium entitled “Pain and dependence: the downside of opioids”

Description:

The Section Symposium was chaired by previous Section Chair (AS), with a talk by AS entitled “Tapering in patients with chronic pain and prescription opioid use” and a talk by section councilor (MFF) entitled “Prevention of prescription opioid use disorder”

Location: 33rd European Congress of Psychiatry, Madrid

Start date: 05/04/2025

End date: 08/04/2025

Section Workshop entitled “The patient presenting with addictions and multiple comorbidities: approach to diagnostic and therapeutic challenges”

Description:

The Section Workshop was chaired by previous Section Chair (AS), with a talk by AS entitled “Neurodevelopmental Challenges: dealing with ADHD and Addictions” and a talk by previous section councilor



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(AB) entitled "The Enigma: Psychosis and Addiction"

Location: 33rd European Congress of Psychiatry, Madrid

Start date: 05/04/2025

End date: 08/04/2025

ECPC Debate entitled "Should Cannabis be legalised?"

Description:

ECPC Debate was chaired by Section Chair (SA) and Asilay Seker (ECPC EPA)

Location: 33rd European Congress of Psychiatry, Madrid

Start date: 05/04/2025

End date: 08/04/2025

Section Symposium entitled "Progress in gender-sensitive addiction care"

Description:

The Section Symposium was chaired by current Section Councillor (BL) and Roberta Agabio, with a talk by BL entitled "Menstrual Cycle and Progesterone as Future treatment targets of Alcohol Use Disorder"

Location: 33rd European Congress of Psychiatry, Madrid

Start date: 05/04/2025

End date: 08/04/2025

Symposium entitled "Comorbid complexities in psychosis: An integrative symposium on interdisciplinary approaches"

Description:

In Symposium there was a talk by previous section councillor (AB) entitled "Mind altered, or calmed down: the enigma of substance use and psychosis"

Location: 33rd European Congress of Psychiatry, Madrid

Start date: 05/04/2025

End date: 08/04/2025



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Section State-of-the-Art Lecture entitled “Online Behavioural Addictions”

Description:

Section State-of-the-Art Lecture was chaired by Section Chair (SA), with a talk by Marc Potenza

Location: 33rd European Congress of Psychiatry, Madrid

Start date: 05/04/2025

End date: 08/04/2025

Plenary Lecture entitled “Women’s Mental Health: a global perspective”

Description:

In the Plenary Lecture was provided a talk by Section Co-Chair (FT)

Location: 33rd European Congress of Psychiatry, Madrid

Start date: 05/04/2025

End date: 08/04/2025

EPA Educational activity supported by the EPA Addictive Behaviours Section, entitled “Clinical management in addiction”

Description:

EPA Educational activity supported by the EPA Addictive Behaviours Section, entitled “Clinical management in addiction” was chaired by Section Secretary (LO), with a talk by Section Chair (SA) entitled “Clinical management of non-substance addictive disorders, including gaming and gambling disorders” and Section Councillor (MFF) entitled “Clinical management of addictive disorders due to substances, including opioids”

Location: 38th European College of Neuropsychopharmacology Congress, Amsterdam

Start date: 11/10/2025

End date: 14/10/2025

EPA Webinar “Gaming Disorder (GD) in ICD-11: Training clinicians”

Description:

A Webinar of the EPA Addictive Behaviours Section, in collaboration with the EPA Digital Psychiatry



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Section, and the International Society of Addiction Medicine (ISAM) and WPA Section on Addictions entitled "Gaming Disorder (GD) in ICD-11: Training clinicians" was virtually presented on November 19th, 2025 with a talk by Section Chair (SA), Section Secretary (LO), Professor Alexander Baldacchino (WPA Section Chair of WPA Addictions) and Professor Marc N. Potenza (Elect-President of the ISAM).

Location: Online

Start date: 19/11/2025

End date: 19/11/2025

CME Course entitled "Psychopharmacology for addiction psychiatry: Recommendations, clinical guidelines and case scenarios"

Description:

A CME Course entitled "Psychopharmacology for addiction psychiatry: Recommendations, clinical guidelines and case scenarios" was organized by WPA Section on Addictions, with a talk by Section Chair (SA), a talk by Section Secretary (LO) and a talk by Section Councilor (MFF)

Location: 25th World Congress of Psychiatry, Prague

Start date: 05/10/2025

End date: 08/10/2025

Symposium "WOMEN AND ADDICTIVE BEHAVIORS: UNDERSTANDING EXPERIENCES AND OPTIMIZING CLINICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS"

Description:

The symposium was chaired by Section Co-chair (FT) with a talk by Section Chair (SA) entitled "DESIGNING CARE SERVICES FOR ADDICTIVE BEHAVIORS THAT ADDRESS WOMEN SPECIFIC NEEDS" and a talk by Section co-chair (FT) entitled "SEXUAL ADDICTION AND GENDER SPECIFICITIES"

Location: 25th World Congress of Psychiatry, Prague

Start date: 05/10/2025

End date: 08/10/2025

CME Course entitled "Pharmacology in pregnancy (medications used in case of substance use)"

Description:

In the course there was a talk by Section Co-Chair (FB)



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Location: 25th World Congress of Psychiatry, Prague

Start date: 05/10/2025

End date: 08/10/2025

EPA webinar entitled "Women Alcohol and Substance Use Disorder"

Description:

A Webinar of the EPA Addictive Behaviours Section entitled "Women Alcohol and Substance Use Disorder" was virtually presented on March 10th, 2025 with a talk by Section Co-Chair (FB) entitled "Alcohol use disorders during pregnancy and peripartum" and previous Section Chair (AS) as chair/moderator

Location: online

Start date: 10/03/2025

End date: 10/03/2025

Publications

What all physicians should know about women's health: a Delphi study

Journal:

BMJ Public Health

Authors:

de Heer-Koster MH, Benedetto C, Bjegović-Mikanović V, Banaitytė-Baleišienė I, Perdiou M, Gerds E, Kautzky-Willer A, Mazières J, McGregor A, Newman C, Price S, Roeters van Lennep J, Stankevičiūtė S, Sommer IE, Stadler G, Thibaut F, van 't Land K, Wermer M, Wilbur K, Scheele F.

(Expected) Publication date: 25/01/2025

Acknowledged as official Section publication? No

Other Section activities

Description:

- In 2025, the Section Chair (SA) represented our section at EPA Sections meeting in Madrid preparing joint efforts for EPA 2026 and training activities.
- In 2025, the Section Chair (SA) represented EPA with Geert Dom at the recently established WHO European Health Alliance on Alcohol founding meetings in Copenhagen (WHO EURO HQ) and regular online meetings during 2025. EPA is a member society of this alliance.
- In 2025, development and publication of tips and guides for parents about use of technology in several languages online, partnership between WHOCC Geneva, ISAM and EPA section: WHOCC director, ISAM BOD & EPA chair section (SA); WHOCC team member & ISAM communication office secretary & EPA section member (Catia Castro) and ISAM Next CoChair & EPA section secretary (LO)



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- In 2025, the Section councilor (MFF) provided a talk within the online webinar "Addiction Research Reflections" organized by the Training and Education Sub-committee of ISAM NExT in collaboration with WPA-ECP, with a talk entitled "Sex and Gender issues in Addiction" (December 17th, 2025)
- In 2025, the Section co-chair (FB) provided a talk within the symposium entitled "Scoping perinatal psychotropics: case-based insights for safe prescriptions" Prof. El Nahas Egypt and Prof. Thibaut France at the WPA regional congress Alexandria Egypt April 2025
- In 2025, the Section Co-Chair (FB) provided a talk entitled "Psychotropic drug use and pregnancy" F THIBAUT and G EL NAHAS (Egypt) at the CMEW workshop during the 10th World Congress of Women's Mental Health Bangalore India March 2025
- In 2025, the Section Co-Chair (FB) provided a talk entitled "Benzodiazepine use and pregnancy" (Cochair: G El Nahas Egypt) at the CME Course during the 10th World Congress on Women's Mental Health, Bangalore India, March 2025
- In 2025, the Section Co-Chair (FB) provided a talk entitled "Updates on the new types of sexual violence (chemical submission)" (symposium Chair: Prof. Weinstein Israël) THIBAUT during the 10th World Congress on Women's Mental Health, Bangalore India, March 2025
- In 2025, Section councillor (BL) provided the following talks: a) Gender Medicine Network Heidelberg, Germany, April 2025; Talk: Do we need a sex- and gender-specific perspective on alcohol use disorder?; b) Women's Health Seminar Series, Women's Health Research Cluster, Toronto, Canada, June 2025; Talk: Progressing Towards Sex- and Gender-Informed Care in Alcohol Use Disorder: Status Quo and Future Directions; c) 48th Annual RSA Scientific Meeting/ISBRA Congress, New Orleans, USA, June 2025; Talk: Dihydrotestosterone-to-testosterone ratio and addictive alcohol consumption

Event Start date: 01/01/2025

Event End date: 31/12/2025

Description:

- The section will stimulate education and debate on substance and/or alcohol use disorders as well as new addictions (including online addictions, gaming disorder) and the management of comorbid conditions (i.e., dual diagnoses) within the next Virtual European Congress of Psychiatry.
- The section will also stimulate debate, education and study on sex- and gender-sensitive approaches in the assessment, management and treatment of addictions.
- Section officers aim to pursue the goals and the mission of the Section on Addictive Disorders, by developing educational and training programs in addictions, by implementing collaboration with other societies and organizations (including WPA Section on Addictions, ISAM, etc.)
- EPA Section on Addictive Disorders will continue to collaborate with the WPA Section on Addictions and ISAM, to implement and build strategies to increase knowledge, education, training and interest of addictions across the globe, including European countries.
- A specific aim of the Section remains to encourage a more active involvement of ECPs within the Section activities and organizing more joint educational activities with other EPA Sections.

Event Start date: 01/01/2025

Event End date: 31/12/2025



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FUTURE ACTIVITIES:

FUNDING IN 2025

Income: none

Source(s) of funding:

NA

Expenditure: NA

Balance: NA

EPA Treasurer audit: No

Confirmation that income / expenditure is via EPA: No