



EPA SCHIZOPHRENIA SECTION REPORT 2023

SECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Chairperson: Prof. Merete NORDENTOFT

Co-chairperson: Prof. Antonio VITA

Secretary: Prof. Dr. Gabriele SACHS

LIST OF SECTION MEMBERS:

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Herta AGAJ, Lezhe, Albania

Süreyya AKYILDIRIM COR, Ankara, Türkiye

Luis ALAMEDA, London, United Kingdom

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Massimo BALLERINI, Florence, Italy

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István BITTER, Budapest, Hungary

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Paola BUCCI, Napoli, Italy

Elena Daniela BUHAŞ RAMOCEA, Oradea, Romania

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Abraham GOLDRING, new york, United States
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Josep Maria HARO, Barcelona, Spain
Shahzain HASAN, Karachi, Pakistan
Sofiya HRECHUKH, Lviv, Ukraine
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Stefan KAISER, Chêne-Bourg, Switzerland
Dalibor KARLOVIC, Zagreb, Croatia
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Haresh KUMAR, Khairpur Mirs, Pakistan
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Jona LEWIN, London, United Kingdom
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Michel NAWFAL, Beirut, Lebanon
Merete NORDENTOFT, Hellerup, Denmark
Oskar OKUNIEWSKI, Swiecie, Poland
Boglarka ORBAN-SZIGETI



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Andrea RABALLO, Lugano, Switzerland
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Adrien RENSON, Mons, Belgium
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Raluca STICLOSU, Bucharest, Romania
Attila SZABO, Oslo, Norway
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Sarah TOSATO, Verona, Italy
Alp Üçok, Türkiye
Octavian VASILIU, Bucharest, Romania
Petar VIDOVIĆ
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Umberto VOLPE, Ancona, Italy
Damla YILDIRIM
Eren YILDIZHAN, Istanbul, Türkiye
Nikola ŽAJA, Zagreb



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LAST SECTION COMMITTEE ELECTIONS HELD:

Date: 27/03/2023

Venue: Following the procedure, the election will be notified 2 months before the next business meeting and names of candidates will be notified 1 month before the meeting

ACTIVITIES OF THE SECTION IN 2023:

Meetings/events

Schizophrenia Section business meeting

Description: Agenda Chairpersons: Prof. M. Nordentoft, Prof. A.Vita 01. Introduction and Welcome 02. Adoption of the agenda 03. Officers Reports 04. Election of the Committee members 05. Future activities planning 05. Proposals for section symposia, workshops, and courses for the next EPA Congress 2024 06. Other business

Location: Paris

Start date: 27/03/2023

End date: 27/03/2023

Attendance: Present: Merete Nordentoft (chair), Antonio Vita (co-chair), Gabriele Sachs (secretary) and in alphabetical order: István Bitter, Giorgio di Lorenzo, Andreas Erfurth, Giulia Maria Giordano, Pasquale Pezzella, Umberto Volpe

Pharmacological treatment of schizophrenia: an update on efficacy and safety

Description: Chairpersons: Istvan Bitter (Hungary), Merete Nordentoft (Denmark): This is a joint symposium of two Sections: Schizophrenia and Psychopharmacology. The objective of the symposium is to summarize current knowledge in major areas of pharmacological treatment of schizophrenia as addressed in the following presentations: 1. Do antipsychotics shrink the brain in schizophrenia? An update - Rene S. Kahn, USA Brain tissue volume decrement has been associated with both the disease process and antipsychotic treatment in schizophrenia. However, brain protective effect of appropriate doses of antipsychotics has also been described. This topic was reviewed by Professor Kahn at a previous EPA Congress with great success. Research in the field is intensive, it is time for an update. 2. Antipsychotic treatment and outcomes in first episode schizophrenia; Merete Nordentoft, Denmark Adequate antipsychotic treatment of the first episode of schizophrenia is of utmost importance for the course of the disease. Continuation, discontinuation or non-sustained discontinuation of antipsychotic treatment in first episode schizophrenia are associated with complex outcomes regarding psychopathology, treatment needs (e.g. hospitalisation) and functioning. Current data will be presented, which could help clinicians in the planning and evaluation of antipsychotic treatment in first episode schizophrenia. 3. Do antipsychotics reduce excess mortality in schizophrenia? Istvan Bitter, Hungary Schizophrenia is associated with an excess mortality and there is a large mortality gap between the general population and people diagnosed with schizophrenia. Antipsychotics have side effects, which may contribute to an increased prevalence of



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life shortening diseases. However real-life data show a decrease of mortality in schizophrenia in the subgroup of people who receive antipsychotic treatment as compared to those who do not receive it. 4. Personalisation of the management of schizophrenia and other primary psychoses ;Silvana Galderisi, Italy Moving towards personalized or precision medicine in psychiatry has faced many issues. However personalisation of the management of schizophrenia has proven to be effective. The complexity and the costs of such treatments may demotivate health care teams facing budget and staff constrains. Prof. Galderisi will address how we can move faster towards personalisation of the management of schizophrenia and other primary psychoses.

Location: Paris

Start date: 26/03/2023

End date: 26/03/2023

Early Intervention in Psychosis: Working as a Team and Involving Families

Description: Chair: Merete Nordentoft: Organised by the EPA Section on Schizophrenia. There is strong scientific evidence for the effectiveness a range of outcomes of early intervention services in first episode psychosis in schizophrenia spectrum disorders. Early Intervention Services are characterized by comprehensive, multi-modal and phase-specific treatment of first-episode psychosis, modified to suit the needs of this patient population, including intensive/assertive case management and family involvement. In this course, the evidence for Early Intervention Services will be presented together with the principles and rationale for involving families. The format of psychoeducational multifamily groups will be explained in detail. Participants will be involved actively with polls, and in a physical course, participants will train the problem solving live.

Location: Paris

Start date: 26/03/2023

End date: 26/03/2023

EPA schizophrenia guidelines, rationale and perspectives

Description: Merete Nordentoft, Peter Falkai: EPA schizophrenia guidelines, rationale and perspectives

Location: Paris

Start date: 26/03/2023

End date: 26/03/2023

Psychosocial and non-pharmacological interventions in schizophrenia

Description: A mild to severe functional impairment is present in the large majority of subjects with schizophrenia, is frequent in subjects with other psychotic disorders and has a negative impact on quality of life across the disorders. Clinical, personal and contextual factors significantly affect directly or indirectly subjects' psychosocial functioning and its improvement and clinical recovery is a major goal of long-term treatment of schizophrenia. In this Symposium, promoted by the EPA Section on Schizophrenia,



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updated evidence on non-pharmacological and psychosocial treatments for subjects suffering from schizophrenia will be presented. In particular, will be presented: the EPA guidance paper on treatment of cognitive impairment in schizophrenia developed by the Section; the recommendations on evidence-based psychosocial interventions developed by the Italian Society of Psychosocial Rehabilitation; the role of physical exercise in improving cognition and functioning; and the application of virtual reality to the rehabilitation programs for people living with schizophrenia. A discussion on these state-of-the-art presentations and on open and unresolved issues will be facilitated.

Location: Paris

Start date: 28/03/2023

End date: 28/03/2023

Attendance: Chair: Antonio Vita (Italy) , Merete Nordentoft (Denmark) Speaker: Antonio Vita, Armida Mucci, Sonia Dollfus, Louise Glenthøj

FUTURE ACTIVITIES:

FUNDING IN 2023

Income: None

Source(s) of funding: None

Expenditure: None

Balance: None

EPA Treasurer audit: No

Confirmation that income / expenditure is via EPA: No