



EPA SCHIZOPHRENIA SECTION REPORT 2025

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Co-chairperson: Prof. Antonio VITA

Secretary: Prof. Dr. Gabriele SACHS

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EPA SCHIZOPHRENIA SECTION REPORT 2025

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LAST SECTION COMMITTEE ELECTIONS HELD:

Date: 07/04/2025
Venue: Madrid, Conference Center

ACTIVITIES OF THE SECTION IN 2025:

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 06. Proposals for section symposia, workshops, and courses for the next EPA Congress 2026 Other business Nordentoft's report: The following proposals were accepted: family involvement in psychosis, long-term outcomes, virtual reality, and a workshop on cognition assessment and treatment. The section was very successful; the EPA guidance papers on negative and cognitive symptoms form the basis of many national guidelines. Proposals for future workshops and symposia: How do meta-analyses, network meta-analyses and randomised studies translate into the real world? (workshop) Risk of transition/prevention (either in collaboration with the Prevention Section or independently; Nordentoft) Drug-induced psychoses (Nordentoft) Patients' perspectives, self-reporting and goal attainment (Vita) Cognition – primary and secondary impairment (Vita/Sachs) Erfurth encourages the section to publish recommendations (for example, on the use of electroconvulsive therapy for schizophrenia). Elections: All three offices are up for re-election. Nordentoft, Vita and Sachs are standing for re-election. It is unanimously decided that the three positions will be voted on together. The election proposal (Nordentoft, Vita, Sachs) is unanimously accepted. In collaboration with EPA, European Brain Council has initiated a project with description of treatment of schizophrenia in three European countries: Poland, Denmark and Germany. There will be country reports from each of the three countries and a paper, based on the three reports will be published later in the process. EPA board member, Pavel Mohr is chairing the work, and as the chair of the schizophrenia section Merete Nordentoft has led the work with preparing the Danish country report.

Location: Madrid

Start date: 07/04/2025

End date: 07/04/2025

Attendance: Present: Merete Nordentoft (chair), A. Vita (co-chair), Gabriele Sachs (secretary) and in



EPA SCHIZOPHRENIA SECTION REPORT 2025

alphabetical order: István Bitter, Andreas Erfurth, Sinan Goloksuz, Jan Hubanek, Jesper Noergaard Kjaer

How to work with psychoeducational multifamily groups

Description:

organised Section on Schizophrenia. Director: Merete Nordentoft (Denmark), Co-Director: Tina Iversen (Denmark) There is strong scientific evidence for the effectiveness involving families in treatment of schizophrenia and related disorders and for early intervention services in first episode psychosis. 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 participants will train the problem solving live. We have very good experiences with this format.

Location: Madrid

Start date: 05/04/2025

End date: 05/04/2025

Screening and monitoring of cognitive impairments in psychosis using the cognitive assessment

interview (CAI) Description:

The aim of this interactive course is to train participants through the presentation of didactic material and live demonstration, in conducting a brief, interview-based assessment of cognitive functioning using the Cognitive Assessment Interview (CAI). The CAI was designed for use in routine clinical settings or as a co-primary measure in clinical trials to obtain baseline severity levels of cognitive deficits, determine their impact on daily functioning, and to screen and assess change in cognitive functioning over time. Course methods and materials will involve small group discussion; power point slides; use of the CAI Manual and CAI Rating Form; video-taped interviews of patients being assessed with the CAI. The course content will involve: 1) a review cognitive deficits such as problems with working memory, reasoning and problem-solving in psychotic disorders; 2) a review of the functional impact of cognitive deficits; 3) interactive training in the use of the CAI using video-taped interviews and discussion compared to consensus ratings; and 4) how the CAI can be used in screening of cognitive functioning, treatment planning, and the ongoing assessment of change in cognition. Director: Joseph Ventura (United States).

Location: Madrid

Start date: 07/04/2025

End date: 07/04/2025

Assessing and treating cognitive impairment associated with schizophrenia (CIAS)

Description:



EPA SCHIZOPHRENIA SECTION REPORT 2025

Schizophrenia is one of the central challenges in clinical psychiatry. In addition to positive and negative symptoms, cognitive impairment has become a focus of attention in recent years, not least in the hope of finding new treatment options. In our workshop, clinically relevant aspects will be highlighted and discussed. Antonio Vita (Brescia) will introduce the state of the art in; neurocognition and present the EPA guidance publications and their results. Armida Mucci (Naples) will discuss the complex relationships between cognitive impairment, negative symptoms and real life functioning. Andreas Erfurth (Vienna) will look at how cognitive function can be assessed in the everyday clinical routine of a psychiatric hospital. Istvan Bitter; (Budapest) will show how the choice of antipsychotic medication is important for cognition and that second-generation antipsychotics are preferable to first-generation antipsychotics in this respect; Gabriele Sachs (Vienna) addresses the question of which add-on strategies are available in addition to basic antipsychotic treatment. These include cognitive remediation and the development of monoaminergic pharmacological adjunctive strategies.

Chair: Antonio Vita (Italy); Gabriele Sachs (Austria).

The EPA guidance publications on neurocognition in schizophrenia. Speaker: Antonio Vita (Italy). Negative symptoms and social cognition as mediators of the relationship between neurocognition and functional outcome in schizophrenia. Speaker: Armida Mucci (Italy). Assessing CIAS in clinical routine.

Speaker: Andreas Erfurth (Austria). Choosing an adequate antipsychotic - why SGAs are better than FGAs to minimise cognitive impairment. Speaker: Istvan Bitter (Hungary). The role of add-on strategies (cognitive enhancers, cognitive remediation). Speaker: Gabriele Sachs (Austria).

Location: Madrid

Start date: 08/04/2025

End date: 08/04/2025

Long-term follow-up of European schizophrenia cohorts

Description:

In this symposium we will present data from four European cohorts of patients with first episode schizophrenia which have all been followed for 20 years or more. These four cohorts represent some of the longest duration of follow-up in the world, with incidence patients included after the introduction of neuroleptics. The presenters will focus on the long term course of illness, real world outcomes and recovery. We will present results of four different European cohort studies. From Ireland, professor Mary Clarke will present What can long-term studies tell us about recovery in psychosis; From Spain, Javier Vazquez Bourgon will present Early development of physical co-morbidity and premature death in long-term first-episode psychosis cohort; From Denmark, post doc Helene Gjervig Hansen will present 20 year follow-up of the OPUS cohort- long-term outcome and course of illness; and from Norway associate professor Wenche Ten Velden will present: The 20-year outcomes in the TIPS early detection and intervention study: Focus on recovery; Craig Morgan (Aesob Study UK) will be discussing, Nikolai Albert and Marie Starzer from Denmark will be chair and co-chair. Chair; Marie Starzer (Denmark); Nikolai Albert; (Denmark) What can long-term studies tell us about recovery in psychosis Speaker: Mary Clarke (Ireland) Early development of physical co-morbidity and premature death in long-term first-episode psychosis cohorts Speaker: Javier Vazquez-Bourgon (Spain) 20 year follow-up of the OPUS cohort long-term outcome and course of illness Speaker: Helene Gjervig Hansen (Denmark) The 20-year outcomes in the TIPS early detection and intervention study: Focus on recovery Speaker: Wenche Hegelstad (Norway).



EUROPEAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION



EPA SCHIZOPHRENIA SECTION REPORT 2025

Location: Madrid

Start date: 07/04/2025

End date: 07/04/2025

FUTURE ACTIVITIES:

FUNDING IN 2025

Income: None

Source(s) of funding:

None

Expenditure: None

Balance: None

EPA Treasurer audit: No

Confirmation that income / expenditure is via EPA: No