



## EPA SCHIZOPHRENIA SECTION REPORT 2021

### SECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Chairperson: Prof. Merete NORDENTOFT

Co-chairperson: Prof. Antonio VITA

Secretary: Prof. Dr. Gabriele SACHS

Councillor:

### LIST OF SECTION MEMBERS:

Joseph ADO-IMOISILI, ANTRIM, United Kingdom, adotosh@aol.com  
Luis ALAMEDA, London, United Kingdom, laluisalameda@gmail.com  
Köksal ALPTEKIN, Izmir, Turkey, koksal.alptekin@deu.edu.tr  
Mario Amore, n/a, Italy, Mario.Amore@unige.it  
Celso ARANGO LOPEZ, Madrid, Spain, carango@hggm.es  
Massimo BALLERINI, florence, Italy, baller@virgilio.it  
Anzhela BAZZAEVA, г. Санкт-Петербург, Russian Federation, anzhela\_bazzaeva@mail.ru  
Samrat Singh BHANDARI, Gangtok, India, samrat.bhandari@yahoo.co.in  
István BITTER, Budapest, Hungary, bitter.istvan@med.semmelweis-univ.hu  
Julio BOBES, Oviedo, Spain, bobes@uniovi.es  
Paola BUCCI, Napoli, Italy, paolabucci456@gmail.com  
Elena Daniela BUHAŞ RAMOCEA, Oradea, Romania, elenabuhass@yahoo.com  
Pritam CHANDAK, NAGPUR, India, drpritamchandak@gmail.com  
Alexander CHOMSKY, Санкт-Петербург, Russian Federation, alexander.chomsky@gmail.com  
Egor CHUMAKOV, Saint-Petersburg, Russian Federation, chumakovegor@gmail.com  
Michael DAVIDSON, n/a, ,  
Marc DE HERT, n/a, ,  
Giorgio DI LORENZO, Rome, Italy, di.lorenzo@med.uniroma2.it  
Sonia DOLLFUS, Caen Cedex, France, dollfus-s@chu-caen.fr  
Luiz DRATCU, London, United Kingdom, ldratcu@aol.com  
Ceylan ERGUL, Diyarbakır, Turkey, ceylanergul@gmail.com  
Orkhan FARAJLI, Baku, Azerbaijan, ferecliornan@gmail.com  
André FERREIRA, Lisboa, Portugal, andrebonitoferreira@gmail.com  
Andrea FIORILLO, Naples, Italy, andrea.fiorillo@unicampania.it  
Ehsan FOTOUHI ARDEKANI, Bad Zwischenahn, Germany, Dr.ehsanfotouhi@gmail.com  
Wolfgang GAEBEL, Düsseldorf, Germany, wolfgang.gaebel@uni-duesseldorf.de  
Silvana GALDERISI, Naples, Italy, silvana.galderisi@gmail.com  
Jairo Santiago GARCIA ESLAVA, Vic, Spain, garjairo@gmail.com  
Maria Paz GARCIA-PORTILLA GONZALEZ, Oviedo, Spain, albert@uniovi.es  
Sherif GOHAR, , Norway, sherif.gohar@kasralainy.edu.eg  
Abraham GOLDRING, new york, United States, Abraham.Goldring@omh.ny.gov  
Sinan GULOXSUZ, Maastricht, Netherlands, sinan.guloksuz@maastrichtuniversity.nl  
Josep Maria HARO, Barcelona, Spain, jmharo@comb.cat  
Shahzain HASAN, Karachi, Pakistan, dr.shahzainhasan@outlook.com



## EPA SCHIZOPHRENIA SECTION REPORT 2021

Martina HUMMER, n/a, ,  
Robert HUNTER, Glasgow, United Kingdom, Robert.hunter@ggc.scot.nhs.uk  
Guillermo Nicolas JEMAR, CABA, Argentina, guillermojemar@hotmail.com  
René Sylvian KAHN, Utrecht, Netherlands, r.kahn@umcutrecht.nl  
Stefan KAISER, Chêne-Bourg, Switzerland, stefan.kaiser@hcuge.ch  
Dalibor KARLOVIC, Zagreb, Croatia, dalibor.karlovic@gmail.com  
Sameer KULKARNI, Pune, India, drsameerkulkarni@yahoo.com  
Haresh KUMAR, Khairpur Mirs, Pakistan, hareshmakhija@gmail.com  
Hans KURT, Solothurn, Switzerland, kurt@solnet.ch  
Jona LEWIN, London, United Kingdom, lewinjona@gmail.com  
Jan LIBIGER, Hradec Kralove, Czech Republic, libigerj@lfhk.cuni.cz  
Mario LUCIANO, Naples, Italy, mario-luciano@hotmail.it  
Marilena-petruta MAIDAN, , , marilena.pm@yahoo.com  
Aram MAMIKONYAN, Yerevan, Armenia, mamikonyanaram@yahoo.com  
Nadja P. MARIC, Belgrade, Serbia, nadjamaric@yahoo.com  
Mireia MARTÍNEZ CORTÉS, San Juan de Alicante, Spain, mireia.martinez.cortes@gmail.com  
Haque MD. RASHIDUL, Dhaka, Bangladesh, rana.dmc@gmail.com  
João MENDES COELHO, Ponta Delgada, Portugal, jdmcoelho@gmail.com  
Antonio METASTASIO, London, United Kingdom, antonio.metastasio@gmail.com  
Armida MUCCI, Naples, Italy, armida.mucci@gmail.com  
Alessandra MUGNOLO, Acerra, Italy, ale\_m90@msn.com  
Fergus MURPHY, Dublin, Ireland, murphyf5@tcd.ie  
Beomwoo NAM, Chungju-si, Korea, Republic of (South Korea), nempty@korea.com  
Michel NAWFAL, Beirut, Lebanon, michel\_nawfal@nawfalclinics.com  
Merete NORDENTOFT, Hellerup, Denmark, mn@dadlnet.dk  
Oskar OKUNIEWSKI, Swiecie, Poland, oskar.okuniewski@gmail.com  
Laura ORSOLINI, Ancona, Italy, laura.orsolini01@gmail.com  
Urban Ösby, n/a, Sweden, Urban.Osby@ki.se  
Raul Felipe PALMA ALVAREZ, Barcelona, Spain, rpalma@vhebron.net  
Kollarova PATRICIE, , , patricie.kollarova@icloud.com  
Alexey PAVLICHENKO, Moscow, Russian Federation, apavlichenko76@gmail.com  
Diego QUATTRONE, London, United Kingdom, diego.quattrone@kcl.ac.uk  
Andrea RABALLO, Perugia, Italy, andrea.raballo@unipg.it  
Goran RACETOVIC, Prijedor, Bosnia and Herzegovina, gracetovic@yahoo.com  
Adrien RENSON, Mons, Belgium, adrien.renson@outlook.com  
Romain REY, BRON CEDEX, France, rom.rey@hotmail.fr  
Anita RIECHER-RÖSSLER, Basel, Switzerland, anita.riecher@unibas.ch  
Joshua RODRIGUEZ, , , joshuaamed@gmail.com  
Janusz K. RYBAKOWSKI, Poznan, Poland, janusz.rybakowski@gmail.com  
Gabriele SACHS, Vienna, Austria, gabriele.sachs@meduniwien.ac.at  
Farzaneh SAEEDZADEH SARDAHAEE, Trondheim, Norway, farzaneh.sardahaee@googlemail.com  
Norman SARTORIUS, Geneva, Switzerland, sartorius@normansartorius.com  
Aleksandar SAVIC, Zagreb, Croatia, aleks.bos@gmail.com



## **EPA SCHIZOPHRENIA SECTION REPORT 2021**

Göran SEDVALL, Stockholm, Sweden, goran.sedvall@ki.se  
Sarfaraz Aslam SHORA, Bradford, United Kingdom, sarfaraz.shora@gmail.com  
Anthony SOARES, Greater Manchester, United Kingdom, soares.anthony@gmail.com  
Marco SOLMI, Padova, Italy, marco.solmi83@gmail.com  
Raluca STICLOSU, Bucharest, Romania, Raluca.Sguroiu@gmail.com  
Attila SZABO, Oslo, Norway, attila.szabo@medisin.uio.no  
Andreea TATAR, Hamburg, Germany, andreea\_ivan23@yahoo.com  
Florence THIBAUT, n/a, France,  
Sarah TOSATO, Verona, Italy, sarah.tosato@univr.it  
Alp Üçok, n/a, Turkey, alpucok@gmail.com  
Jim VAN OS, Maastricht, Netherlands, j.vanos@sp.unimaas.nl  
Octavian VASILIU, Bucharest, Romania, octavvasiliu@yahoo.com  
Antonio VITA, Brescia, Italy, vita@med.unibs.it  
Umberto VOLPE, Ancona, Italy, u.volpe@staff.univpm.it  
Damla YILDIRIM, , , damla.yildirim@e-campus.uab.cat  
Eren YILDIZHAN, Istanbul, Turkey, erenyildizhan@hotmail.com  
Nikola ŽAJA, Zagreb, , nikola.zaja@bolnica-vrapce.hr

### **LAST SECTION COMMITTEE ELECTIONS HELD:**

Date: The election was planned during the 2019 business

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 2021:**

#### **Meetings/events**

##### **Schizophrenia Section business meeting**

##### **Description:**

EPA SCHIZOPHRENIA SECTION Business Meeting 2021

Chairpersons: Prof. S. Galderisi – Prof. W. Gaebel

01. Introduction and Welcome

02. Adoption of the agenda

03. Officers' Reports

04. Election of the Committee members



## **EPA SCHIZOPHRENIA SECTION REPORT 2021**

### 05. Other business

**Location:** Virtual meeting on Zoom platform

**Start date:** 12/05/2021

**End date:** 12/05/2021

**Attendance:** Present: Silvana Galderisi, Wolfgang Gaebel, Paola Bucci, Giorgio Di Lorenzo, Sonia Dollfus, Stefan Kaiser, Mario Luciano, Armida Mucci, Merete Nordentoft, Goran Racetovic, Anita Riecher-Rössler, Gabriele Sachs, Anthony Soares, Antonio Vita, Umberto Volpe.

### **Improving real-life functioning in people with schizophrenia: from assessment to integrated treatment plans**

#### **Description:**

The goal of schizophrenia treatment has shifted from symptom reduction and prevention of relapses to functional recovery. However, recovery rates remain very low. Early intervention and identification of predictors of clinical and functional outcome is essential to implement personalized and integrated treatment programs to prevent disability and promote recovery. Stratification of subjects with high-risk status, first-episode and chronic schizophrenia using several predictors of clinical and functional outcome might contribute to early recognition, treatment, rehabilitation and personalized care, promoting prevention of disability, independent living, social inclusion and user satisfaction. The symposium will present data in chronic and first-episode patients on predictors of clinical and functional outcome, along with perspectives on personalized and integrated management programs in subjects with schizophrenia and high-risk status.

**Location:** Virtual meeting on zoom platform

**Start date:** 13/04/2021

**End date:** 13/04/2021

### **Early intervention in psychoses: Assessment and treatment to improve functional outcome**

#### **Description:**

Proposed by the EPA section on Schizophrenia and Prevention of Mental Disorders -Psychotic disorders and particularly schizophrenia are severe mental illnesses which typically emerge during adolescence and young adulthood. This symposium will address two important components of early intervention aiming at improving functional outcomes in schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders, namely timely assessment and treatment. Briefly, Prof. Mucci (Italy) will discuss functional impairment in recent-onset schizophrenia



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spectrum disorders, Prof. Glenthøj (Denmark) will focus on early assessment of negative symptoms and related treatment strategies. Then Prof. Thorup (Denmark) will illuminate the often neglected aspect of Family high risk populations and their value for the purpose of early intervention. Finally, Prof. Rancans (Latvia) will present a critical overview of the treatment of schizophrenia from a real world perspective.

**Location:** virtual platform

**Start date:** 11/04/2021

**End date:** 11/04/2021

### **Recently proposed trans-diagnostic criteria for Apathy: Commonalities and differences with the avolition/apathy domain of schizophrenia**

#### **Description:**

Apathy as a negative symptom of schizophrenia is conceptualized in terms of reduction of goal directed behavior due to a lack of interest and motivation for goal-directed behavior initiation and persistence. The revised diagnostic criteria for apathy (DCA) have been proposed for trans-diagnostic use to better identify apathy across a number of neuropsychiatric disorders. The Section workshop aims to illustrate and discuss the overlap and specificity of apathy in schizophrenia with the trans-diagnostic construct identified by using the DCA. A European study on apathy in schizophrenia will be illustrated and preliminary findings reviewed to highlight the limitations of apathy as defined by the DCA in the context of schizophrenia. The relationships of apathy defined using DCA with the negative symptom domain of Avolition in schizophrenia and its overlap with functional impairment due to cognitive deficits/ depression/ extrapyramidal side effects will be discussed. Data in first-episode patients with schizophrenia will be reviewed to illustrate how the negative symptom domains and cognitive impairment are key factors in the prediction of long-term impairment in real-life functioning. Finally, the therapeutic perspectives for the treatment of apathy in schizophrenia, both when primary to the disorder process or secondary to other dimensions of schizophrenia will be reviewed and discussed.

**Location:** virtual platform

**Start date:** 11/04/2021

**End date:** 11/04/2021

## **Publications**



## **EPA SCHIZOPHRENIA SECTION REPORT 2021**

### **Guidance papers:**

#### **"EPA Guidance on Assessment of Negative Symptoms in Schizophrenia"**

#### **Journal:**

European Psychiatry

#### **Authors:**

S. Galderisi, A. Mucci, S. Dollfus, M. Nordentoft, P. Falkai, S. Kaiser, G. M. Giordano, A. Vandeveldel, M. Ø. Nielsen, L. B. Glenthøj, M. Sabé, P. Pezzella, I. Bitter, W. Gaebel

**(Expected) Publication date:** 31/03/2021

**Acknowledged as official Section publication?** Yes

### **EPA Guidance on Treatment of Negative Symptoms**

#### **Journal:**

European Psychiatry

#### **Authors:**

S. Galderisi, S. Kaiser, I. Bitter, M. Nordentoft, A. Mucci, M. Sabé, G. M. Giordano, M. Ø. Nielsen, L. B. Glenthøj, P. Pezzella, P. Falkai, S. Dollfus, W. Gaebel

**(Expected) Publication date:** 30/04/2021

**Acknowledged as official Section publication?** Yes

### **FUTURE ACTIVITIES:**

#### **Meetings/events**

#### **Assessment and Treatment of Cognitive Impairment in Schizophrenia**

#### **Description:**

Organised by the EPA Section on Schizophrenia. Cognitive dysfunctions represent a core feature of schizophrenia, are present at any stage of the disease and in subjects at high risk for psychosis (UHR), and have a significant impact on patient psychosocial functioning. Pharmacological treatment is modestly effective on cognitive dimension while there is considerable evidence of the efficacy of cognitive remediation interventions on cognition and functioning. The Workshop, proposed within the activities of the Section on Schizophrenia, has the aim of updating knowledge and discussing about the definition of cognitive impairment in schizophrenia, the impact of cognitive dysfunctions on the patients' real life functioning and quality of life, the available assessment instruments, the detection of impairment in early intervention settings, and the possible treatments, both pharmacological and non-pharmacological, with a special focus on cognitive remediation techniques. All these topics will be debated by the panel of experts involved in the preparation of the EPA guidance paper on the assessment and treatment of cognitive



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impairment in schizophrenia.

**Location:** Budapest & Online

**Start date:** 05/06/2022

**End date:** 05/06/2022

### FUNDING IN 2021

Income: None

Source(s) of funding:

None

Expenditure: None

Balance: None

EPA Treasurer audit: No

Confirmation that income / expenditure is via EPA: No