

EPA TELEMENTAL HEALTH SECTION REPORT 2018

SECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair: U. Volpe (Italy)

Co-chair: J.M. Wise (UK)

Secretary: V.J.A. Buwalda (The Netherlands)

Councilors: H. Schwager (USA), G. Lydall (UK), A. Fontaine (France)

Section Activities

- In 2018, during the last Section Business meeting held in Nice, the former Chair of the section (D. Mucic) stepped down and a new board was elected [Umberto Volpe (Chair), Jan Wise (Co-chair), Victor Buwalda (Secretary), Herbert Schwager, Greg Lydall and A. Fontaine (Counsellors)].
- In 2018, the Section Board submitted two Symposia proposals (one on “Current issues in telemental health” and one in cooperation with the EPA Section on Forensic Psychiatry) and one CME course on Telemental Health at the 27th European Congress of Psychiatry, to be held in Warsaw in 2019.
- The Section Chair (UV) was included in the Editorial Advisory Board of the Book “Virtual and Augmented Reality in Mental Health Treatment”, published by IGI Global, Hershey (PA) in November 2018.
- Vice-Chair (IMW) lead-authored a WPA Position Statement on e-mental Health in 2018 (available at http://www.wpanet.org/uploads/Position_Statement/WPA%20Position%20statement%20on%20eMental%20Health.pdf).
- Secretary (VJAB) participated as speaker in a symposium about “Virtual reality in addiction treatment” at the International Congress Internet of Health - Internet of things (Amsterdam, September, 2018).
- Secretary (VJAB) participated as speaker in a symposium about “The Bridge Between Administrative Psychiatry and Research on Outcome Measurement and New Technology”, at the 171th APA Annual Meeting (New York, May 2018).
- Secretary (VJAB) participated as speaker in a symposium about “Virtual Clinics in Mental Health Care”, at the 171th APA Annual Meeting (New York, May 2018).
- Councillor (GL) participated as speaker in a symposium about “Using Social media to enhance resilience in Psychiatrists”, at the European Congress of Psychiatry (Nice, March 2018).
- Former Chair (DM) participated as speaker in a symposium on “Telepsychiatry in assessment and/or treatment of refugees in EU”, at the WPA Thematic Congress (Melbourne, 25-28 February 2018).
- Former Chair (DM) chaired the Symposium “Internet, smart phones and mental health apps - what is their role in Psychiatry?”, organized in collaboration with EPA European Early Career Psychiatrists Committee (ECPC), at the European Congress of Psychiatry (Nice, March 2018).
- Former Chair (DM) participated as speaker in a Section Symposium on “Using Technology to Respond to the Mental Health Needs For the Mentally Ill Worldwide: Mobile Devices, Telemedicine, Outcomes Management and Virtual Reality” at the European Congress of Psychiatry (Nice, March 2018).
- Former Chair (DM) participated as speaker in a Symposium on “Telepsychiatry in assessment and/or treatment of ethnic minorities in EU”, at the 26th Panhellenic Congress of Psychiatry (Kos, May 2018).

SECTIONS

- Former Chair (DM) participated as speaker in a Symposium on “E-Mental Health: The Future is Now”, at the Triennial Conference of the Israel Psychiatric Association (Tel Aviv, May 2018).
- Former Chair (DM) participated as speaker in a Symposium on “E-Mental Health – Closing the Gaps”, at the 2nd Eastern European Conference of Mental Health (Sibiu, September 2018).
- Former Chair (DM) participated as speaker in a Symposium on “The Use of a Telemedicine Model and Its Logistics to Reach as Many Refugees as Possible” at the Abu Dhabi International Mental Health Conference (Abu Dhabi, October, 2018).
- Former Chair (DM) authored a chapter on “Training in Telepsychiatry” in the book “*Mental Health and Illness Worldwide. Education about Mental Health and Illness*” edited by Pi E.H., Chay Hoon T. and Hermans M.H.M., published by Springer (2018).

Future Activities

- Section officers aim to pursue the goals and the mission of the Task Force on E-Mental Health (TFEMH), chaired by EPA President (Prof. S. Galderisi); in particular Section officers will offer their collaboration and technical advice in preparing guidance and/or position papers on e-MH applications and research; in particular, the Section former chair (DM) and the current Section officers (UV, IMW, VJAB) will collaborate to help to produce a position paper on the use of “apps” in mental health settings.
- Section officers aim to stimulate and coordinate scientific and educational activities in collaboration with the EPA TFEMH, the EPA Education Committee and the EPA ECPC; in particular, the Section Chair (UV) will chair a Symposium on “Digital Mental Health: Hot Topics”, organized by ECPC at the 27th European Congress of Psychiatry, to be held in Warsaw, on April 2019. A specific aim of the Section will be to encourage ECP to join the section and become active members/officers.
- Section officers aim also to foster the collaboration with the WPA Section on Informatics and Telecommunications in Psychiatry (Chair: Prof. M. Krausz) and possibly organize joint Symposia, both at WPA and EPA 2020 Congresses.
- Section Secretary (VJAB) will organize an international Conference on “Disruptive psychiatry: what a psychiatrist should know to survive” which will deal with administrative, organizational and e-mental health issues; the conference will be held in Amsterdam in late 2019 or early 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Victor JA Buwalda,
EPA Section on Telemental Health, Secretary