



EPA MENTAL HEALTH AND INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES (MHID) SECTION REPORT 2025

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Co-chairperson: Prof. Krzysztof KRYSTA
Secretary: Dr. Jacopo SANTAMBROGIO

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Kotchuthressia MATHEW, Manjeri, India
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Kollarova PATRICIE
Bhathika PERERA, n/a, United Kingdom
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Axel ROPOHL, Baar, Switzerland
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Jaydeokar Sujeet
Hina TAHSEEN, Knutsford, United Kingdom
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Michael - Mark THEIL, Helmstedt, Germany
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LAST SECTION COMMITTEE ELECTIONS HELD:

Date: 09th May 2022

Venue: EPA MHID section meeting - Virtual

ACTIVITIES OF THE SECTION IN 2025:

Meetings/events

EPA MHID Section meeting

Description:

The meeting of the EPA Section on Mental Health in Intellectual Disabilities was held on April 6, 2025, during the European Psychiatry Congress in Madrid, in a hybrid format with both on-site and online participation.

The meeting was chaired by Krzysztof Krysta (Poland), Chair of the Section, who presided over the meeting for the final time in this role, marking the conclusion of his term of office.

The meeting opened with brief introductions of participants, including founding members of the Section, current Executive Committee members, and newly joined members.

Participants were reminded of the joint inter-sectional symposium entitled "Crossing thresholds: shaping autism care from childhood to adulthood", organized by the EPA Section on Mental Health in Intellectual Disabilities in collaboration with the EPA Section on Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

The symposium was co-chaired by Dr hab. Krzysztof Krysta and Professor Judit Balazs, Chair of the EPA Section on Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and scheduled for the same day during the Congress.

Organizational matters related to the completion of the current Executive Committee's term of office were discussed, including the need to conduct elections for the new Section leadership.

It was proposed that the elections of the new Section Executive Committee be held in an online format on May 12, 2025, at 6:00 PM CET, subject to confirmation of availability of key candidates and compliance with EPA membership requirements.

Candidatures for positions within the new Executive Committee, including Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary, were presented. It was emphasized that all candidates must hold active EPA membership at the time of election.

The Section's activities during the previous year were reviewed. These included the organization of three scientific sessions at earlier EPA congresses, comprising symposia and case-based sessions, several of which were conducted in collaboration with other EPA Sections.

The current status of work on the Section's Guidance Paper was discussed. It was noted that, despite ongoing efforts, the document has not yet been finalized. The need for a broad international expert consensus, involving representatives from multiple EPA member countries, was highlighted as a key requirement for progressing toward an official EPA guideline.

Members agreed that work on the Guidance Paper should be continued in the next term of office, with increased involvement of Section members and the establishment of a more structured, collaborative approach.



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Potential topics for future symposia, workshops, and webinars were discussed. Particular emphasis was placed on:

autism spectrum disorders and intellectual disability,
transition from child and adolescent services to adult psychiatric care,
management of challenging and maladaptive behaviors,
and the integration of developmental perspectives into adult psychiatry.

The importance and effectiveness of inter-sectional collaboration were emphasized, particularly cooperation with the Sections of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Forensic Psychiatry, and Digital Mental Health, as a strategy to enhance the scientific and educational impact of Section activities.

Communication within the Section was discussed. While official communication will continue via email in accordance with EPA regulations, the potential use of smaller working groups for specific projects was considered to facilitate more efficient collaboration.

The meeting concluded with the understanding that further informal discussions would take place following the joint symposium later that day and that organizational matters would be carried forward after the election of the new Section Executive Committee.

Location: Madrid
Start date: 06/04/2025
End date: 06/04/2025

“Crossing thresholds: shaping autism care from childhood to adulthood”

Description:

joint inter-sectional symposium entitled “Crossing thresholds: shaping autism care from childhood to adulthood”, organized by the EPA Section on Mental Health in Intellectual Disabilities in collaboration with the EPA Section on Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

The symposium was co-chaired by Dr hab. Krzysztof Krysta and Professor Judit Balazs, Chair of the EPA Section on Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

Location: Madrid
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Election of the new committee

Description:

Ken Courtney is the section chair

Krzysztof Krysta is the co-chair

Jacopo Santambrogio is the secretary

Location: online

Start date: 12/05/2025

End date: 12/05/2025

FUTURE ACTIVITIES:

FUNDING IN 2025

Income: Nil

Source(s) of funding:

Nil

Expenditure: Nil

Balance: Nil

EPA Treasurer audit: No

Confirmation that income / expenditure is via EPA: No