President’s Editorial

Dear colleagues,

Two years ago I introduced you to my strategic action plan for 2013-2014 with my Presidential Motto: Creativity - Involvement - Openness - Inclusion. Creativity: to build the future on new ideas, excellence in science, and solid scientific and clinical knowledge - Involvement: of all committees and members of the EPA in reciprocal activities - Openness: to National Psychiatric Associations, different clinical psychiatric traditions, cultural differences and diversities - Inclusion: regardless of gender, age, geography and local traditions. Throughout my mandate as EPA President, I have strived to keep this motto central for EPA’s strategy and activities.

Creativity and Excellence

Two successful European Congresses of Psychiatry with scientific programmes of the highest quality were held under my presidency. During the 21st Congress in 2013 in Nice, France, which brought together 3700 participants from 90 countries, we celebrated the 30th Anniversary of the EPA and produced numerous information materials about the past, future and present activities of the EPA. The 22nd Congress in Munich, Germany in 2014 brought in over 3100 participants from 93 countries. The 30th Anniversary Symposium in 2013 “Are people with mental illness truly citizens of Europe” taking place in the Council of Europe in Strasbourg within the framework of “European Year of Citizens” drew attention of participants from 17 countries.

The committees on Ethical Issues, Education, Guidance, as well as Sections and the Council of National Psychiatric Associations show thriving activities.

The new initiative under my Presidency is the foundation of five EPA Section Symposia Awards for the highest quality Symposia in collaboration with EPA Sections and National Psychiatric Associations, presented during EPA annual congresses.

Openness

In 2013, a key achievement was the creation of the Ambassador Committee in order to open membership of the EPA to collaborations and patronage of events in the field of psychiatry in Europe and on other continents. A notable result is ongoing collaboration with the EU, Council of Europe, WHO, WPA, EBC, ECNP, APA, GAMIAN, EUFAMI, EFPT, UEMS, ECSR and other relevant organisations.

Upon the initiative of the Ambassador Committee, EPA was one of the 11 signing organisations of the 2014 World Mental Health Day Athens Declaration on “Living with Schizophrenia.”

The first EPA Forum will be organised at EPA 2015 Vienna under the theme “Improving Mental Health and Mental Health Care across Europe.” It will bring together important leaders, bodies and organisations in the field of mental health and care to present and discuss matters of European importance from the perspective of the EPA. All presidents of the National Psychiatric Associations in Europe and others will be invited in order to acquaint them with the goals and activities of the EPA.

Involvement and Inclusion

In April 2013, the current composition of the Council of NPAs met for the first time in Nice. At the moment, 36 NPAs are members of the EPA and through this channel, over 77,000 psychiatrists in Europe can be reached. In order to involve NPAs, I stimulated and supported the organisation of two symposia alongside the national congresses. On 13 November in Antalya (Turkey), the symposium “Cultural, Educational and Economic Issues in Mental Health Care - Current challenges and future perspectives” took place. On 11-12 December 2014 in Wroclaw (Poland), the symposium “Optimisation of Treatment in Psychiatry” was held.

To promote further collaboration with National Psychiatric Associations, I stimulated the Board to increase the number of Itinerant Academia CME Courses: 12 courses were given in 2014, the same number is proposed for 2015. This is due to positive feedback received and increasing demand. These courses are organised in collaboration with NPAs offering updates on new scientific data that are essential for daily practice.

I would like to thank the Board, Executive Committee, Council of NPAs and the administrative staff in Strasbourg for your support throughout my mandate and offer all my best wishes to President Elect Professor Wolfgang Gaebel to his start of the mandate with the new branch office in Brussels in January 2015.

Danuta Wasserman, EPA President

Summary

Scientific Programme
EPA Forum
Early Career Psychiatrists (ECPs)
EPA Activities
Registration

P 3 - News from our Committees
Executive Committee and Board Education
Sections
Council of NPAs
Early Career Psychiatrists Guidance Committee

P 4 - News from our Committees, continued
Ambassador Committee
Ethics
Collaborative Activities
15th European Symposium on Suicide and Suicidal Behaviour (ESSSB15)
27th European College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ECNP)
DGPPN Congress Berlin
French Congress of Psychiatry
DG SANC Governmental Experts Meeting
Youth Mental Health Meeting: From Continuity of Psychopathology to Continuity of Care (StratMeHS)

www.europsy.net
EPA warmly invites you to attend the 23rd European Congress of Psychiatry (EPA 2015), taking place 28-31 March 2015 in Vienna, Austria. EPA 2015 will be a major meeting of international psychiatrists dedicated to promoting European psychiatry and to improving mental health around the globe.

**Scientific Programme**

The motto of EPA 2015 is Excellence in Psychiatry across Europe: Practice, Education, Research; this topic will be covered by a variety of session types, including the following Plenary Lectures:

- **Excellence in Training - What Makes a Good Psychiatrist?**
  Dinesh Bhugra, United Kingdom

- **Precision Medicine for Psychiatry: The NIMH Research Domain Criteria (RDoC) Project**
  Bruce Cuthbert, USA

- **Opportunities and Risks of Social Media in Relation to Mental Health**
  Marc Potenza, USA.

Other examples of excellence in psychiatry across Europe are the 5 Section symposia that won the EPA Section Symposia Awards. We invite you to attend these top-notch sessions from the EPA Sections:

- **Can Psychiatric Disorders be Predicted and Prevented?**
  Section: Prevention of Mental Disorders

- **Psychopharmacotherapy at the Interface of Psychiatric and Medical Diseases**
  - Sections: Consultation Liaison Psychiatry & Psychosomatics; Psychopharmacology

- **Prevention of Mental Disorders in Children of Mentally Ill Parents**
  - Sections: Prevention of Mental Disorders; Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

- **The “Mad Axman”: the Relationship between Psychosis and Violence**
  - Sections: Forensic Psychiatry; Schizophrenia

- **Nature and Narratives of Depression**
  - Sections: Psychopathology; Philosophy and Psychiatry

**EPA Forum**

EPA is pleased to announce that the 1st EPA Forum, entitled “Improving Mental Health and Mental Health Care across Europe” will take place from 9:00-13:00 on Saturday 28 March 2015 in Vienna, Austria.

EPA members interested in attending the EPA Forum must pre-register; more information will be sent to you in a dedicated mailshot.

**Early Career Psychiatrists (ECPs)**

EPA invites recent graduates to its specialist programme at EPA 2015. Tailored to the needs of ECPs, a dedicated European Early Career Psychiatrists Programme has been put in place. A special networking area is available for ECPs, as well as a networking evening open to all those young at heart. To help ECPs attend EPA 2015 Vienna, EPA is offering 4 Research Prizes, 5 Scholarships and 30 travel grants.

**EPA Activities**

EPA Members, mark your agendas for the 2015 General Assembly and Member Round Table which will take place on Sunday 29 March in Vienna, Austria. Additionally, all of EPA’s committees will meet during the EPA 2015 Congress. The scheduling information will be available on the Congress website.

**Registration**

Register before 27 January 2015 to save over 100€ through the early bird registration fee. Furthermore, EPA Members and Early Career Psychiatrists benefit from additional reductions. Register now at www.epa-congress.org.
Executive Committee and Board

Following the EC, Board and General Assembly’s decision from earlier years to open an **EPA Office in Brussels** in order to facilitate work with the EU and other European bodies, several concrete actions were taken during Prof. Wasserman’s Presidency in 2013-2014.

EPA’s auditors Prof. Karl Mann and Prof. Sam Tyano, as well as lawyers from France (Desflilis) and Brussels (Curia) addressed the organisational, legal and economic issues. The opening of the EPA branch office in Brussels is planned for January 2015. One full-time staff member will be based in the Brussels office. The administrative office in Strasbourg will continue its previous activities.

The President and Secretary General supported the President Elect in the development of the EPA Action Plan 2015-2016, which is approved by the Board.

The new Tasks Forces on further consolidation of the EPA membership (Council of Individual Members and Council of NPAs), on models of financing, as well as on the organisation of administrative support for the office in Strasbourg and in Brussels, have been formed and started to embark upon their missions during the autumn of 2014.

In January 2015, the EPA Board will vote in elections for the President Elect, Treasurer, Secretary General, Secretary for Sections and Secretary for Education.

**Guidance Committee**

There will be a Special Issue of *European Psychiatry* published at the upcoming EPA Congress in Vienna in March 2015, including a new series of EPA Guidance Papers.

**Guidance Committee**

The Committee met on 17 October in Paris to discuss the EPA Summer School, an e-learning platform project, Academia Educational (CME) Courses and relations with other organisations and EPA committees.

The **5th EPA Academia Summer School** on Comorbidity between Mental and Physical Disorders will take place 10-13 July 2015 in Strasbourg, France. Applications are now being accepted and should be submitted by 10 March 2015.

**Sections**

The Section Committee and the Council of NPAs organised a joint meeting on 26 November in Berlin in order to exchange ideas and develop proposals for collaboration between EPA Sections and NPA Sections.

**November 2014**

The Council of NPAs met on 26 November in Berlin to discuss the current and future Council activities and also have an update from the working groups. 22 NPAs were present.

The DGPPN kindly hosted the meeting during its annual congress.

**Early Career Psychiatrists Committee**

The Committee met on 22-23 November in Strasbourg to review its 2014 programme of activities and plan for its 2015 activities, including the EECP Programme at EPA 2015 Vienna. Relations with other organisations and with EPA committees were also discussed.

The launch of the **Gaining Experience Programme** has been a success. Some placements have already started in 2014 while others will be done in 2015. More information on the outcomes of this programme will be published once available.

EPA warmly welcomes its 36th National Society/Association Member - the Scientific Society of Neurologists, Psychiatrists and Narcologists of Ukraine. The Swedish National Psychiatric Association will join the EPA on 1 January 2015.
NEWS FROM OUR COMMITTEES (continued)

Ambassador Committee
Following its meeting in March 2014 in Munich and in June 2014 in Stockholm, the Committee refined its criteria for collaboration with other organisations in Europe and organisations on other continents and prepared the 1st Forum event to be launched in Vienna on 28 March 2015. Six events took place under EPA Patronage between July-December 2014 and already five events are foreseen in 2015. The ties were strengthened with GAMIAN, EUFAMI, as well as WHO, EU and WPA.

COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES

15th European Symposium on Suicide and Suicidal Behaviour (ESSSB15)
The 15th European Symposium on Suicide and Suicidal Behaviour (ESSSB15) was organised in Tallinn, Estonia from 27-30 August, under EPA Patronage. Several members of EPA’s Section on Suicidology and Suicide Prevention were speakers at ESSSB15, including EPA President Prof. Wasserman who gave a plenary lecture on “Mental health of European youth and scientific evidence for suicide treatment and prevention.”

27th European College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ECNP)
EPA organised an educational update session entitled “EPA educational update - Alcohol and suicidal risk” during the 27th ECNP Congress on 20 October in Berlin. The session was moderated by Prof. Danuta Wasserman and Prof. Wim van den Brink. The session composition was as follows:

Alcohol and internet misuse and suicidal behaviours in European adolescents
Danuta Wasserman, Sweden

Factors explaining suicidal behaviour and mortality in alcohol dependence
Philip Gorwood, France

Alcohol and suicidal risk: the epigenetic insight
Gustavo Turecki, Canada

EPA was present in the exhibition with a booth promoting EPA 2015 Vienna.

Youth Mental Health Meeting: From Continuity of Psychopathology to Continuity of Care (STraMeHS)
Funded by the European Commission, the Youth Mental Health: From Continuity of Psychopathology to Continuity of Care (STraMeHS) Conference took place 16-18 December in Venice under EPA Patronage.

EPA President Elect Prof. Wolfgang Gaebel was present at the event and gave a presentation on the EPA and the role of EPA in Youth Mental Health.

DGPPN Congress Berlin
The 6th edition of the French Congress of Psychiatry took place 26-29 November in Nantes, France. An mPIVAS cascade course took place during this event. Also, Prof. Marco Sarchiopone and Prof. Jean-Pierre Kahn from the Section on Suicidology and Suicide Prevention gave an EPA Itinerant Academy CME Course entitled “Treatment of suicidal patients.” EPA was present in the exhibition with a booth promoting EPA 2015 Vienna.

French Congress of Psychiatry
The 2014 DGPPN Congress took place in Berlin on 26-29 November. An mPIVAS symposium entitled “mHealth in Psychiatry: a novel tool for patients treated with antipsychotics?” took place during this event. Several EPA meetings were also held at this occasion, including the EPA Council of NPAs, the Section Committee and the Committee on Ethical Issues. EPA was present in the exhibition with a booth promoting EPA 2015 Vienna.

European Psychiatric Association
15, Avenue de la Liberté
67000 Strasbourg (France)
Tel. (+ 33) 3 88 23 99 30
Fax (+ 33) 3 88 35 29 73
hq@europsy.net www.europsy.net

The Administrative Office is composed of:
Caroline Martin (Administrator),
Zhanna Zhussupova (Project Manager - Education, Ethics, ECPC),
Katie Luck (Project Manager - Events & Communication),
Cindie Tudorache (Administrative Assistant),
Aurélie Laurent (Executive Assistant),
and Raluca Vladarean (Apprentice)
EPA wishes farewell to a valuable colleague: Julia Kaiser (Trainee)