



European Parliament Interest Group on Mental Health, Well-being and Brain Disorders

New horizons for person-centred mental health research and care

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European Parliament Brussels

Jointly organised by the European Psychiatric Association (EPA) and GAMIAN-Europe

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

In order of appearance:



Marian Harkin - MEP

Marian Harkin is an Independent MEP representing the Midlands-North-West Constituency of Ireland in the European Parliament since 2004. Her constituency encompasses 15 counties, which includes the border counties.

Marian is a member of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee, a substitute member on the Economic and Monetary Affairs and substitute member of the Petitions Committees.

Her legislative work has included the EU Globalisation Fund, rapporteurship of the Employment Committee's Opinion on Recommendations on the negotiations for the TTIP as well as following files on the Accessibility Act, the Disability Strategy and the framework agreement on parental leave. Currently

Marian's EMPL dossiers include the Regulation 2004/883 on Social Security, the creation of a European Labour Authority and the next EU Globalisation Fund, among others. As well as her legislative work, Marian has a deep interest in Social and Public Health issues. She is Chair and founding member of both the Carers Interest Group and the Volunteering Interest Group and is Vice Chair of the Mental Health Group and the Brain, Mind and Pain Group. Marian is co-chair of the Credit Union Interest Group and is also a member of the MEP Heart Group and the MEPs against Cancer Group.



Prof. Silvana Galderisi - President, European Psychiatric Association (EPA)

Silvana Galderisi, MD, PhD, is full professor of Psychiatry, Chair of the Department of Mental and Physical Health and Preventive Medicine of the University of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli.

She is President of the European Psychiatric Association (EPA), Chairperson of the EPA Schizophrenia Section, of the European College of NeuroPsychopharmacology (ECNP) Schizophrenia Network, and of the World Psychiatric Association (WPA) Neuroimaging Section. She is founding member and member of the Board of Directors of the European Group for Research in Schizophrenia; board member of the Schizophrenia International Research Society (SIRS). She is Honorary Member of the World Psychiatric Association-WPA, International Distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association-APA, International Advisor of the Japanese Society of Psychiatry and Neurology (JSPN), and Honorary Fellow of the European Society of Social Psychiatry (ESSP).

Her research activity focuses on Schizophrenia pathophysiology, treatment and outcome, with particular reference to the domains of negative symptoms and cognition and their impact on psychosocial outcome. She is author/coauthor of more than 200 publications, in national and international journals and books, and member of the Editorial Boards of several international psychiatric journals.



Nessa Childers - MEP

Nessa Childers MEP is an Irish politician who has served as a Member of the European Parliament since 2009. She is an Independent politician representing Dublin, and a member the Socialists and Democrats Group. She obtained an Arts and Psychology degree from Trinity College, Dublin and a postgraduate diploma from University College Dublin. During her time at Trinity she served as Registrar of the University Philosophical Society. She has previously worked as a psychoanalyst in private practice. In the European Parliament Nessa Childers is an active member in the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) and a substitute on the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) and the Delegation for relations with Switzerland and Norway and to the EU-Iceland Joint Parliamentary Committee and the European Economic Area (EEA) Joint Parliamentary Committee (DEFA). Nessa Childers MEP is one of the leading champions in the field of mental health and brain disorders in the current Parliament. She is a founder member of the European Parliament Interest Group on Mental Health, Well-being and Brain Disorders (launched in 2009) and active in many others, such as the Brain, Mind and Pain Interest Group and the European Alzheimer Alliance.



Tomas Zdechovsky - MEP

Tomáš Zdechovský is an expert on media communication; he has rich work experiences as a crisis media advisor and media consultant, analyst and journalist. He obtained two Master degrees from the Theological Faculty at South Bohemian University in České Budějovice, acquired a Bachelor degree from Salesian Pontifical University in Rome and a Master degree in Media Studies and Journalism from Faculty of Social Studies of Masaryk University in Brno. Between 2004 and June 2014, Tomáš Zdechovský worked as a Director and Managing Partner of Commservis.com, a communication and PR agency in the Czech Republic. Between 2011 and June 2014, he was a Director of an educational agency WIFI Czech Republic. In June 2014, Tomáš Zdechovský was appointed as a new Member of the European Parliament for KDÚ-ČSL (Czech Christian Democratic Party) and is now working as a Member of Committees on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs and Budgetary Control and is a substitute in the Committee on Budget. Tomáš Zdechovský speaks German, English, Italian and understands French and Spanish. He is married and has four children.



Wolfgang Burtscher - European Commission, DG Research

Wolfgang Burtscher is Deputy Director-General of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation. An Austrian national, Wolfgang Burtscher acted before joining DG Research and Innovation as a Director in DG Agriculture of the European Commission since 2000. Before his Commission career Mr Burtscher was representative of the Länder at the Austrian Permanent Representation to the EU. From 1992 to 1996 he was Director of European Affairs in the Vorarlberg administration. Previously, from 1990 to 1992, he was a legal advisor at the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) in Geneva, at the time of negotiations on the European Economic Area (EEA). He focused particularly on the free circulation of goods and capital and on competition issues. Between 1983-1990 he was a lecturer in International and European Law at the University of Innsbruck. Wolfgang Burtscher holds a doctorate in law and also has a qualification from the Institut Européen des Hautes Etudes Internationales in Nice.

Hilkka Kärkkäinen - President, GAMIAN-Europe



Social worker by profession and expert by experience. Suffered reactive depression in 2002. Has worked both for the City of Helsinki and the City of Espoo in Child Welfare for many years. Worked as a Senior Social Worker in Probation and After Care Association in Helsinki for several years. Was Executive Director of Finnish Central Association for Mental Health and has been President and Vice President of Mieli Maasta, which is a patient association for those suffering from depression. Worked for the City of Järvenpää as a Planner of Regional Mental Health Care. Retired from her job as Social Ombudsman in Sosiaalitalo in 2014. Was President of GAMIAN-Europe once before in 1999.



Miia Männikkö - President, EUFAMI

Miia Männikkö is EUFAMI President since May 2016 and has been member of the Board of Directors since 2012. She is a teacher and researcher in the field of social psychology. Her research interests and expertise lie in peer training and empowerment programmes in mental health. Miia served as Executive Manager, Development manager and Project manager in Finnish family associations, both on national and regional levels for more than a decade.



Frédéric Destrebecq - Executive Director, European Brain Council (EBC)

Frédéric Destrebecq is the Executive Director of the European Brain Council since October 2014. In this capacity, he is responsible for providing strategic direction and leadership while managing the day to day operations of EBC and its ongoing relationships with its member associations and other stakeholders, as well as representing the organisation in various European and national forums. Prior to this position, Fred served the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS) as Chief Executive Officer, and previously as Director for European Affairs. Fred holds a Master Degree in Political Science and International Relations from the Université Catholique de Louvain (Belgium). He also studied at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Paris) and University of Wales College (Cardiff), in the framework of the former EU Socrates exchange programme.



Prof. Philip Gorwood - President-elect, European Psychiatric Association (EPA)

Professor Gorwood studied medicine from 1982-1988, and specialised in psychiatry in 1988. He is currently full Professor of Psychiatry at Sainte-Anne Hospital, and Head of the CMME department [60 beds], teaching at the Paris-Descartes University. He is also Head of one team research at INSERM (the national organisation of medical research), in research unit 894 (institute of Psychiatry and Neurosciences of Paris) devoted to genetic vulnerability of psychiatric and addictive disorders.

Professor Gorwood has published over 240 scientific articles (h-index=50) and 24 book chapters. He has served on 16 editorial boards for journals in psychiatry, neuroscience and genetics, and was editor-in-chief of the journal *European Psychiatry* (IF=3.9), from 2005 to 2017.

He is president-elect (2017-2018) of the European Psychiatric Association, becoming president in 2019-2020. He joined the scientific advisory (SAB) board of the ECNP for addictive disorders in 2009. Philip Gorwood is the president of the national associations on alcoholism (FRA) and eating disorders (AFDAS-TCA).



Dr. Michela Tinelli - London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)

Dr Michela Tinelli's research is primarily concerned with the socioeconomic burden of chronic diseases (including mental health), the development (and investigation of the benefits of) person centered approaches in social and health care. She is also interested in developing person-relevant outcome measures and their use to inform policy and practice decision making. She collaborated with GAMIAN and EPA on the Value of Treatment Project, a project led by the EBC to look at the economic case of closing treatment gaps in brain disorders (including mental health). She has, with other appointments within LSE and elsewhere, conducted research on various social and health care issues relating to cross-border care in Europe and person-centered care services for chronic disease management in UK and internationally. A quantitative researcher, she has specialist skills in discrete choice experiments and other benefit evaluations in health policy developments, including clinical outcomes, health related quality of life, and patient satisfaction, which she has applied in benefit and economic evaluations. She has also expertise in survey development and design. Michela is Assistant Professorial Research Fellow at LSE, Department of Health Policy, Personal Social Services Research Unit and Senior Associate Researcher at the LSE Consulting. She acts also as academic expert for EBC and she is member of the Scientific Committee of the International Institute for Compassionate Care where she leads the health economics and cost-effectiveness research stream.



Prof. Tamas Kurimay - Chair of the Council of National Psychiatric Associations (NPAs)

Prof. Tamás Kurimay, M.D., Ph.D, graduated at Semmelweis University Budapest. As a clinician, has got postgraduate specialty in psychiatry, psychotherapy (including family and cognitive therapy), addictionology, and rehabilitation also in supervision.

He works in one of the largest regional hospital in Budapest, (Teaching Department of Semmelweis University) as the head and director of Buda Family Centred Health Centre. He initiated a family-oriented psychiatric approach, as well as the first Hungarian Baby-Mother - Father Unit into the hospital setting. The hospital and the Centre are affiliated to several universities. He is a professor at Eötvös Lóránt University and Semmelweis University, Budapest.

He is a past-president of the Hungarian Psychiatric Association (HPA), currently chair of HPA Committee of Foreign Affairs, Co-chair of the Sports Psychology and Exercise Section of HPA.

Board member of the European Psychiatric Association (EPA), and chair of the EPA Council of National Psychiatric Association.

He is the Governmental Expert on Mental Health of Hungary, WHO counterpart on Mental Health.

In psychiatry and addiction research, his main interests are how to utilize and influence the bio-psycho-social systems, sports-related topics, including exercise addiction, and perinatal psychiatry, networks including families.



Dr. Heleen Riper - University of Amsterdam

Dr. Heleen Riper is Professor of eMental-Health at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (Department Clinical, Developmental and Neuro Psychology, section Clinical Psychology) and works as well at GGZ inGeest a large mental health service organization in the Amsterdam region (Research Department), Amsterdam, the Netherlands. She is honorary professor Telepsychiatry at the University of Southern Denmark (Faculty of Health Sciences, Odense). See www.heleenriper.nl

Over the past 15 years her research focus has been on the development, evaluation and implementation of innovative eMental-Health interventions for common mental disorders from prevention to treatment. The scope of her current research activities includes the use of mobile health, and combined online and face to face ('blended') treatments for depression, anxiety and substance use related disorders. New methodological challenges include the development and evaluation of mobile ecological momentary assessments and interventions (EMA/EMI), patient-centered design and research and predictive modeling. She has opted for an international perspective and collaboration throughout her academic career and acted as Principal Investigator of over 15 large scale European Union projects and reviewer for Research Funding Organizations globally. She was Principal Investigator/coordinator of the European Comparative Effectiveness study on Internet Interventions for Depression (www.e-compared.eu), this project has been conducted successfully. GAMIAN was a key partner within this Consortium. She has published over 170 international peer reviewed papers and book chapters within the eMental-health domain. In 2013 Heleen Riper (co) founded the Journal of Internet Interventions (published by Elsevier) and in 2014 she became President of the International Society for Research on Internet Interventions (ISRII) for which she acts now as Past-President. She is chair of the DIFFER EU-Consortium (Digital Framework For E-health Research) which develops, evaluate and implement the digital MoodBuster 2.0 platform for mental disorders.



Eric van der Eycken - GAMIAN-Europe

Erik Van der Eycken graduated as Master in Electro-Mechanical Engineering in 1984 at the Catholic University Leuven (K.U.L.). Before he became active in the area of mental health he was project leader of many international research projects in cooperation with industry as well as with academic institutes in Europe.

Erik Van der Eycken started to work with GAMIAN-Europe in 2014. As an expert-by-experience, he is actively involved in different activities and projects in the field of Mental Health care. He has expertise in various EU funded Research projects with GAMIAN-Europe as one of the consortium partners. Being active in GAMIAN-Europe's activities, such as conferences, seminars and the meetings of the European Parliament Interest Group on Mental Health, Well-being and Brain Disorders, Erik is in touch with member patient organisations. On national level he is Board member of Ups & Downs vzw, a Belgian patient association for people with bipolar disorder and chronic depression. Further, Erik contributes to the implementation of new regulations concerning community mental health care and employment training programmes for experts by experience in mental health care in Flanders.



Milan Popovic - European Commission, DG CONNECT

Milan is a Programme Officer at the Unit for E-Health, Well-Being and Ageing in DG CONNECT. He is monitoring a portfolio of projects on the use of digital and e-health technologies for diabetes, psychiatric and neurodegenerative diseases and contributes to policy initiatives in genomics. He previously worked in the Unit for Data Policy and Innovation (DG CONNECT), the Innovative Medicines Initiative Joint Undertaking, the Unit for Innovative and Personalised Medicine (DG RTD) and the pharmaceutical company Roche. His educational background includes a Master of Science in Human Evolution and Behaviour and a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry. As part of his thesis, he examined the development, current status and future challenges of personalised antidepressant therapies, discussing successes and limitations with regards to the development of valid biomarkers and identifying some of the issues that need to be resolved for the effective translation of pharmacogenomics into mental health care practice.