



International Geneva
Directory of Geneva Global Health Actors

World Psychiatric Association | WPA

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BACKGROUND AND MISSION

WPA is an association of national psychiatric societies aimed to increase the knowledge and skills necessary for working in the field of mental health and the care for the mentally ill. It has currently 140 member societies, spanning 120 different countries and representing more than 200,000 psychiatrists. WPA works in promoting the advancement of psychiatry and mental health for all people. It organises the World Congress of Psychiatry every three years, as well as regional and international meetings and conferences.

AREAS OF INTEREST

- Encouraging the highest possible standards of clinical practice
- Increasing knowledge and skills about mental disorders and how they can be prevented and treated
- Promoting mental health
- Promoting the highest possible ethical standards in psychiatric work
- Disseminating knowledge about evidence-based therapy and values based practice
- Acting as a voice for the dignity and human rights of the patients and their families, and upholding the rights of psychiatrists
- Facilitating communication and assistance especially to societies who are isolated or whose members work in impoverished circumstances

HEALTH-RELATED ACTIVITIES

The work of WPA is divided into 72 scientific sections, each focusing on a particular area of psychiatry and mental health research, such as biological psychiatry, women's mental health, addiction psychiatry and perinatal psychiatry. This allows WPA as a whole to have a comprehensive understanding of the different aspects and areas of psychiatry, which also covers all population groups, such as children and adolescents, rural populations and various minorities. The sections organise events, training and symposia targeted for psychiatrists in order to improve the quality of care and disseminate new knowledge and research to those working for the improvement of mental health for all. WPA also provides guidelines and assistance for the development of university-level education on psychiatry. Furthermore, it advocates for better understanding of the mental health components among patients with physical illnesses or disabilities.

GOVERNANCE AND STAFF

WPA is governed by a General Assembly taking place every three years. The secretariat

located in Geneva coordinates the activities along with operational committees and section chairs. The current president of WPA is Professor Helen Herrman and the Secretary General is Professor Roy Abraham Kallivayalil.

FUNDING SOURCES AND BUDGET

National and member societies pay membership fees based on their per capita membership. Regional and specialty member societies pay fixed member fees. Total income varies by year due to income from the congress, which is only held every three years. Total income in 2015 was USD 45'641.

PUBLICATIONS

To view the official journal of WPA, World Psychiatry, see:

http://www.wpanet.org/detail.php?section_id=10&content_id=421

For all WPA publications see: http://www.wpanet.org/subIndex.php?section_id=10

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