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# InterACT

Newsletter of EPA Council of National Psychiatric Associations

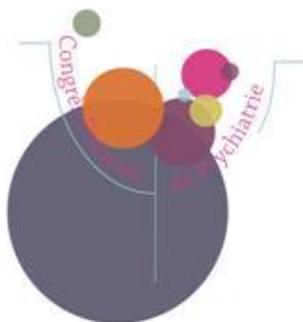
Issue no: 13/ March 2021

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[Special File: "Current Hot Topics & Agendas of NPAs in 2021"](#)

## A New French Law on Confinement and Restraint in Psychiatric Care



The Constitutional Council recently modified the French law about confinement and restraint in psychiatric care. The isolation measure is taken for a maximum of twelve hours. It may be renewed within the limit of a total duration of 48 hours. Restraint decision is taken for a maximum of six hours. It may be renewed for maximum periods of six hours, up to a total limit of 24 hours. Exceptionally, the physician may further renew isolation or restraint measures, but immediately informing the liberty and detention judge, who may take action on his initiative to terminate the measure.

Prof. Philip Gorwood, *President*  
French Congress of Psychiatry

## Position of the Polish Psychiatric Association on vaccination against COVID-19 in persons with severe mental disorders



As patients at increased risk of severe COVID-19 illness who require chronic treatment and repeated or continuous contact with health care facilities, persons with severe mental disorders (including bipolar and schizophrenia spectrum disorders) meet the criteria for stage 2 of vaccination against COVID-19.

Since individuals with severe mental disorders experience frequent discrimination, structural exclusion and stigmatization, also in contacts with health care institutions, the Plenum of the Main Board of the Polish Psychiatric Association call for uttermost care in removing barriers and prioritizing vaccinations in this group.

[Read more...](#)

Dr Tomasz Szafranski  
Polish Psychiatric Association

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## Anniversary in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic



November is the month when we gather our thoughts about our roots and future steps. On November 29, 1959, the Neuropsychiatric Ward of the General Hospital in Kragujevac started working with 50 inpatient beds and outpatient care that was in development. In the early 1960s, the Dispensary for Treatment of Alcoholism was formed while the Psychiatric Daily Hospital was established in the 1980s. During the following decade, the research activities intensified allowing the Centre to grow into University Psychiatric Clinic, in accordance with the modern concepts of the best worldwide mental health practice.

[Read more...](#)

Dr. Milica M. Borovcanin  
Dr. Mirjana Jovanovic  
Dr. Goran Mihajlovic  
Serbian Psychiatric Association

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## Searching for a model to improve mental health care services for psychiatrists

Burnout, depression, and suicidality are known to be



prevalent in health care professionals in general, also in psychiatrists. Speciality may be a disadvantage as well as an advantage in access to health care. For psychiatrists, the issue of confidentiality, stigmatization, and the difficulty experienced in interventions by colleagues and the administrators can be considered as major obstacles. A model of prevention and treatment that is accessible and acceptable to the mental health care needs of psychiatrists appears to be necessary. The Task Force launched by the Psychiatric Association of Turkey is organizing an online workshop to develop such a model.

[Read more...](#)

İrem Yıldız, *Enhancement of Access to Mental Health Services by Psychiatrists Task Force*  
Dr. Koray Başar, *President,*  
**Psychiatric Association of Turkey**

## Towards “Gender Inequality and Sexual Harassment Policy Statement” by the Psychiatric Association of Turkey



Sexual harassment persists to be perceived as a taboo topic in society, but also among psychiatrists. The situation gets more complicated when it occurs in our workplaces, involving mental health professionals. Lack of well-defined, accessible, acceptable complaint/investigation procedures prioritizing the affected person’s well-being is a significant issue. Recently, ‘Gender Inequality, Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence Policy Task Force’ was launched by the Psychiatric Association of Turkey aiming to prepare a policy statement, followed by recommendations to install an effective complaint/investigation procedure related to sexual harassment and violence experienced by our colleagues.

[Read more...](#)

*Image from <https://unsplash.com/>*

İmran Gökçen Yılmaz Karaman, *Coordinator of the Women’s Mental Health Section*  
Dr. Koray Başar, *President,*  
**Psychiatric Association of Turkey**

## Struggling with the deaf ears turned to patients with severe mental illness (SMI)

Vaccination should be a universal, unconditional and public right. During the pandemic, distancing, isolation, stigma, socioeconomic



worsening had negative consequences on patients with severe mental illness (SMI), who has been shown to have higher mortality and COVID-19-related morbidity compared to the general population. Given such increased risks, one would expect more resources to be allocated to those who are in greater need, and priority in vaccination should include patients with (SMI). Since this has not been the case in the mass vaccination plan advocacy in collaboration with patients' and caregivers' organizations had to be employed by the Psychiatric Association of Turkey.

[Read more...](#)

*Image from <https://unsplash.com/>*

Ekin Sönmez, Editor-in-chief of the Bulletin of the **Psychiatric Association of Turkey**

## News and Reports from NPAs Events

### RCPsych 2021 International Congress



[Register now](#) for our first ever virtual International Congress!. The Congress will be hosted on a new virtual platform, one that provides an immersive and interactive experience.

[Read more...](#)

Royal College of Psychiatrists

## [Time for Action!](#)

### EPA e-Learning 2021: Exciting New Features!



The EPA takes to heart to provide its members with the best training opportunities. As such, because we know our learners are not all English native speakers, we have added **English subtitles on all our online courses** (and more languages are coming, stay tuned!).

You can now click on the “CC” at the bottom to turn on subtitles on each lesson.

And in 2021, keep an eye out on EPA social media and newsletters for more information **on the launch of our new online course** on the topic of **Suicidal Behaviours**.

In the meantime, make the most of your free time and [consult our e-Learning platform](#) to check out the online courses we already have available. From “[Introduction to Motivational Interviewing](#)” to “[Understanding and Treating Major Depressive Disorder](#)”, make the most of our training programmes!

[Visit the EPA e-Learning Platform!](#)

**Remember:** Paid-up EPA members receive free access to the full catalogue of EPA online courses, so [join us](#) now for this great benefit, and many more.

*Photo by Hannah Busing on Unsplash*

EPA Administrative Office

## Brussels Digest

### Join us for the EPA Forum on 10 April 2021!



The 7th EPA Forum will be held virtually on Saturday 10 April (from 9:00 to 11:30 CEST), ahead of the [29th European Congress of Psychiatry](#).

The Forum’s programme this year will be centred around the importance of collecting and assessing data and developing consistent indicators for mental health, as a key tool to improve the health system performance and care throughout Europe. The agenda is available [here](#).

As in previous years, the EPA Forum will welcome EPA members and Congress delegates together with EU-level organisations, relevant stakeholders and policy makers in the field of mental health care. The 2021 EPA Forum will be both broadcasted through the virtual EPA Congress platform and through the EPA Congress website, accessible to all.

Make sure you don’t miss the EPA Forum and see you “virtually” on 10 April!

## EPA Sections in the spotlight

### A French National Suicide Prevention Telephone Helpline



After a call launched by the French Ministry of Health, the team of the Lille University Hospital (Pr Pierre Thomas, Pr Guillaume Vaiva) is in charge of setting up a National Suicide Prevention Telephone Helpline.

This will ensure that anyone in a suicidal crisis can be reached quickly throughout the country, a 24/7/365 service that offers guidance and intervention with care resources the closest as possible to the person.

After building a network of 7 regional branches to cover the national dropouts, the objective is to open the national number next September 10th, World Suicide Prevention Day.

*The Section of Suicidology plans to launch the creation of a task force of National Suicide Prevention Telephone Helplines existing in different countries in order to share experiences and to build research in this field.*

*Image from <https://unsplash.com/>*

Prof. Philippe Courtet, *Chair of the Section*  
**EPA Scientific Section: Suicidology & Suicide prevention Section**

### EPA guidance papers on negative symptoms and cognitive impairment in schizophrenia



One of the main goals of The EPA Section on Schizophrenia is to identify the unmet needs of people suffering from this disorder and to promote the dissemination of updated knowledge relevant to these aspects. Negative symptoms and cognitive impairment represent major therapeutic challenges in the care of people with schizophrenia, since they interfere severely with functioning and do not respond to available pharmacological treatments.

Within this frame, the Section has developed two **EPA guidance papers** focusing on negative symptoms and providing several recommendations for the assessment and treatment of these symptoms. In addition, another EPA guidance paper is under

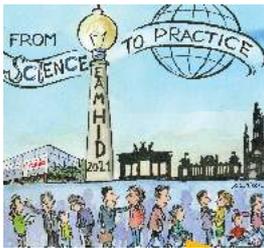
preparation and will be focused on the assessment and treatment of cognitive impairment in schizophrenia.

[Read more...](#)

Prof. Silvana Galderisi, *Chair of the Section*  
EPA Scientific Section: Schizophrenia

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## 13<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Mental Health in Intellectual Disability – Call for Abstracts



The scientific committee of EAMHID invites you to contribute to the 2021 EAMHID Congress »From Science to Practice: Improving mental health in persons with ID« in Berlin. The congress takes place on the 23rd – 25th September 2021 in a hybrid format – online participation is also possible.

The congress invites scientists and practitioners, as well as persons with disabilities and their families to participate in an exciting program in the form of keynotes, meet-the-expert and state-of-the-art lectures, co-productive symposia, interactive workshops and discussion panels.

Deadline for abstract submission: 31st March 2021 – For more information on the program and important dates, visit: <https://www.eamhid2021.eu>

Dr. Mareike Bayer, Dr. Tanja Sappok *EAMHID president*  
EPA Scientific Section: Mental Health and Intellectual Disabilities  
(MHID)

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## Calendar

10 - 13 April 2021

(Virtual)

[29th EPA Virtual 2021](#)

2 - 6 June 2021

(Virtual)

[24th Annual Meeting & Clinical Education Symposia of Psychiatric Association Turkey](#)

21 - 24 June 2021

(Virtual)

[RCPsych 2021 International Congress](#)

24 - 26 June 2021

[46th Congress of Polish Psychiatrists \(HYBRID\)](#)

(Szczecin, Poland)

1 - 5 September 2021

[XII ISPS International Conference: Co-constructing healing spaces for psychoses](#)

(Perugia, Italy)

23 - 25 September 2021

[13th European Congress of Mental Health in Intellectual Disability](#)

(Berlin, Germany)

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*This quarterly e-Newsletter is sent to the Presidents and Official Representatives of the EPA National Society Members (NPAs).*

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