

# The 2021-2024 Work Plan of WPA Collaborating Centres

The network of WPA Collaborating Centres was established in 2016 with the aim to provide practical advice on teaching, policy, research and clinical activities in psychiatry worldwide<sup>1</sup>. In 2021, the network has been renewed for three years in order to support the implementation of the WPA Presidential Strategic Plan<sup>2</sup> and to build a global alliance for better mental health.

The network now includes eight sites: the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), Bangalore, India; the Department of Psychiatry of the Chinese University of Hong Kong; the Africa Mental Health Research and Training Foundation (AMHRTF) in Nairobi, Kenya; the Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health, University of Cape Town, South Africa; the Okasha Institute of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt; the Department of Psychiatry and Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences, University of Oxford, UK; the Department of Psychiatry, University of Campania "L. Vanvitelli", Naples, Italy; and the Department of Psychiatry at Sidra Medicine in Doha, Qatar. This last site has been included among the Collaborating Centres in 2021 with a special focus on women and children's mental health.

The WPA Collaborating Centres have developed a Work Plan for the period 2021-2024 focusing on the following topics: a) multi-morbidities in patients with severe mental disorders, in collaboration with the WPA Working Group on Physical Comorbidities led by N. Sartorius; b) implementation of the ICD-11, with the dissemination of training materials, bearing

in mind local contexts; c) policy, legislation and protection of human rights, in order to develop a WPA policy position paper and a campaign on protecting human rights of patients with mental disorders worldwide; d) adolescent mental health, focusing on the development and dissemination of innovative prevention and intervention programmes in youth; e) community mental health in low- and middle-income countries; f) COVID-19 and mental health response; g) development of high-quality WPA Global Seminars, which will be made available to the WPA Member Societies and posted on the WPA website; and h) development and/or update of WPA Position Statements, with the active involvement of trainees and early career researchers.

Given the current pandemic situation, the network has included in its Work Plan a special focus on COVID-19, in particular on challenges and difficulties to manage the psychosocial consequences of the pandemic, and the responses from the mental health sector worldwide<sup>3-6</sup>. Moreover, the Centres will share and disseminate policy papers, clinical guidelines and research documents in order to improve patient care and public mental health.

The network actively collaborates with many WPA Scientific Sections<sup>7-9</sup>, including the Section on Education in Psychiatry<sup>10</sup> and the Section of Early Career Psychiatrists<sup>11,12</sup>, in order to identify the unmet educational needs for early career psychiatrists and to provide scholarship opportunities for medical students and psychiatric trainees across the different WPA Member Societies.

The work of the Collaborating Centres will be presented at major WPA Conferences and through policy papers and educational materials<sup>13</sup>, which will be made available to the entire WPA community.

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DOI:10.1002/wps.20917

## ICD-11-related educational activities

The chapter on mental, behavioural and neurodevelopmental disorders of the 11th revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11), developed by the Department of Mental Health and Substance Use of the World Health Organization (WHO), has been formally adopted by the 72nd World Health Assembly in Geneva on May 25, 2019.

The most significant innovations and changes in this chapter with respect to the ICD-10, and the most important differences from the DSM-5, have been presented in detail in a paper published in this journal<sup>1</sup>, while more specific differences concerning individual diagnostic groupings have been recently discussed elsewhere<sup>2,3</sup>. The in-

volvement of the WPA in the development of the chapter has been also described in previous reports<sup>4-6</sup>. Several issues debated in the process of the development of the chapter – including the role of a dimensional approach as complementary to the categorical one, and the need for a further clinical characterization of the individual