Press release

Psychiatry of the 21st Century: World congress in Berlin

In October 2017 experts from science and care will meet in Germany for a top international gathering in psychiatry and psychotherapy. Abstract submission is already open.

The WPA World Congress of Psychiatry is one of the most important scientific congresses. This outstanding event will take place from 8–12 October 2017 in Germany’s capital, Berlin. What are the most pressing global challenges in the care of mentally ill people? What is the current state of the art in diagnostics and treatment? And what impulses can be expected from medical research? Under the overall theme “Psychiatry of the 21st Century: Context, Controversies and Commitment” international experts will consider these complex issues and examine them from various perspectives.

Mental illness is one of the most relevant health problems in today’s world. Globally almost 50 percent of the population are affected in the course of their lives. This statistic not only reflects great individual suffering but also has considerable socioeconomic consequences: in many countries this disease group is now one of the most frequent causes of incapacity to work and early retirement. As a result the field now faces greater challenges than almost any other medical discipline. At the same time it is at a scientific turning point: advances in basic biological research are opening up new preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic approaches for the treatment of the various disease patterns.

The WPA World Congress of Psychiatry 2017 will address these complex developments and take a comprehensive look at psychiatry in the 21st century. Approximately 12,000 participants are expected. The high-quality English-language scientific and educational programme is tailored to the interests of the international specialist community and will provide an ideal platform for networking within the field. The focus is on interdisciplinary, international and trialogical event formats.

Renowned experts from all over the world will speak and discuss trends in the prevention, diagnosis and therapy of mental illnesses. These experts include:

- Dinesh Bhugra, WPA President, King's College London, United Kingdom
- Helen Herrman, WPA President Elect, University of Melbourne, Australia
- Linda C. W. Lam, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, China
- Andreas Kruse, Ruprecht-Karls-University Heidelberg, Germany
Scientific contributions can be submitted now via the online portal [www.wpaberlin2017.com](http://www.wpaberlin2017.com). This website also allows journalists to be accredited for the congress and arrange interviews with experts.

**About the venue**

Berlin is one of the most fascinating and inspiring capitals of Europe. Not only do the politics of Germany take place there, but trends also emerge. A tourism hotspot, a city steeped in history and a cultural melting pot – this mixture makes Berlin a unique place with unlimited opportunities and the number one congress location in Germany.

**About the WPA World Congress of Psychiatry**

The WPA World Congress of Psychiatry takes place every three years. The congress event 2017 in Berlin is being organised by the World Psychiatric Association (WPA), together with the German Association for Psychiatry, Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics (DGPPN) as the host organiser. Approximately 12,000 participants are expected.

**About the World Psychiatric Association (WPA)**

The WPA is the world organisation for psychiatry: it brings together more than 200,000 specialists, therapists and scientists from over 138 national specialist associations. For many years, it has been committed to the quality of research, care and education in the field of mental health on all continents. Through its initiatives the WPA actively promotes dialogue between psychiatrists, affected people and relatives.

**About the German Association for Psychiatry, Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics (DGPPN)**

The DGPPN is the largest medical/scientific association for issues related to mental illness in Germany. The DGPPN campaigns for optimal medical care of patients, develops scientific guidelines, promotes training and further and continuing education and is involved in research into mental illnesses to advance the development of diagnostics and therapy. The main focus is thereby on the holistic perspective of people and all their individual mental, physical and social facets.

**Contact**

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