



ECNP neuroscience
applied



European College of Neuropsychopharmacology
Annual Report 2020

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The European College of Neuropsychopharmacology is a public-interest-serving entity (*algemeen nut beogende instelling* – ANBI) under Dutch tax law.

It is referred to hereafter as ‘ECNP’ or ‘the College’.

1. About ECNP

Mission

ECNP is an independent European scientific association that exists to promote high-quality experimental and clinical research in applied and translational neuroscience with a view to stimulating the development of better treatments for those suffering from disorders of the brain.

The mission of ECNP is to advance the science of the brain, promote better treatment and enhance brain health. It is non-profit-making.

Organisation

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32nd, 33rd, 34th ECNP Congress
University Hospital Frankfurt – Goethe
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Executive director

Alexander Schubert

Re-imbusement

The members of the Executive Committee receive no remuneration for their work for ECNP.

The president is granted € 15,000 and each officer (vice president, president-elect, past president, secretary, treasurer) € 4,000 to assist with associated secretarial expenses, payable to their institution of primary employment.

Each member of the Executive Committee receives a lump sum of € 1,500 to cover incidental expenses related to their role.

The Executive Directorship is a full-time position, and paid.

2. Activities

To execute its mission to support European applied and translational neuroscience, ECNP performs a number of activities annually, focusing especially on stimulating research, sponsoring education and raising awareness.

Membership

ECNP is responsible for all of the activities and programmes that facilitate interaction between ECNP's core membership and that fulfil ECNP's statutory obligations under its governance structure, including management of the membership administration and co-ordination of ECNP general assemblies.

Membership composition:

594	Ordinary members
113	Associate members
128	Corresponding members
24	Emeritus members
859	Total members

Top ten countries:

1. United Kingdom	6. USA
2. Germany	7. Switzerland
3. The Netherlands	8. Romania
4. Italy and Spain	9. Israel
5. Denmark, France and Sweden	10. Belgium and Russia

European Neuropsychopharmacology

In partnership with Elsevier B.V., ECNP publishes the international peer-reviewed journal *European Neuropsychopharmacology*, featuring the latest in applied brain science across the spectrum of basic and clinical and research. The 2020 impact factor was 3.853.

Special issues in 2020 included 'The Neurobiology of aggressive behaviour in the context of ADHD and related disorders' (January 2020), eds. Barbara Franke and Andreas Reif; 'Abstracts of the ECNP Workshop for Early Career Scientists in Europe, 5-8 March 2020' (February 2020); 'Abstracts of the 33rd ECNP Congress, 12-15 September 2020; and 'The neurobiology of suicidal behaviour' (November 2020), ed. Gil Zalsman.

Purpose: By providing a platform for international research in the translational neurosciences, *European Neuropsychopharmacology* plays a key role in circulating the latest discoveries and advances in brain science and facilitating advances in treatments of brain disorders.

Outcomes: The journal publishes more than 150 articles a year, and is distributed to all of the world's major research libraries. It is accessed some 600,000 times per annum.

ECNP Networks and Thematic Working Groups (TWGs)

These virtual, multi-centre European research clusters provide a unique platform for the collection and aggregation of continent-wide clinical data, in order to foster research collaboration and ideas-sharing across the translational neurosciences. In 2020 a new Network was added via an open call, 'Digital Health Applied to the Clinical Research of Brain Disorders', bringing the number of Networks and TWGs supported by ECNP to 15.

Purpose: The Networks fulfil a critical role in facilitating European scientific collaboration, enhancing European research effectiveness, and accelerating the science behind new treatments.

Outcomes: In 2020 the programme brought together some 400 of Europe's leading researchers, generating more than 15 peer-reviewed scientific publications and forming the basis of five major EU grant proposals.

ECNP Internship Programme

The programme offers short-term research internship opportunities to early career scientists, across the spectrum of applied and translational neuroscience.

Purpose: The internship allows 15 early career scientists to experience a research laboratory – hosted by a senior scientist – in a different European country, thereby quickening the transfer and exchange of knowledge and techniques, and helping to strengthen and enrich European research ties.

Outcomes: Due to the Covid-19 crisis the Internship programme was suspended in 2020.

ECNP Neuropsychopharmacology Award

This award, conferred annually, recognises exceptional research achievements in applied and translational neuroscience, alternating between basic and clinical science.

ECNP provides an unrestricted prize of € 10,000 – € 7,500 for the winner personally, and € 2,500 for a junior collaborator (or collaborators) of the winner's choice.

Purpose: By celebrating success, the award gives important visibility to translational neuroscience and creates awareness of European research achievements.

Outcomes: The 2020 winner was **Markus Heilig**, Sweden (clinical). Leah M. Mayo, also of Linköping University, Sweden, was his junior collaborator.

ECNP Rising Star Award

The ECNP Rising Star Award, conferred in 2020 for the first time, honours early career researchers in applied and translational neuroscience who have the potential to advance the science of treatment and prevention of brain disorders.

Purpose: The award identifies up-and-coming researchers of exceptional scientific promise and provides incentives for outstanding achievement throughout the field.

Outcome: The 2020 winner was **Martine Hoogman**, the Netherlands.

ECNP Co-morbidity Study

This major, three-year study in collaboration with the London School of Economics (LSE) and Medical University of Vienna (MUV) aims to provide a large-scale quantitative analysis of the frequency with which disorders of the brain coincide with somatic illnesses, and how this challenge is to be managed from a public health perspective. The first study of this scale and complexity ever attempted, it is due to be published in late 2021.

Purpose: The study draws attention to a significant, pressing and under-appreciated area of public health concern, long recognised but poorly understood because of its exceptional analytical complexity.

Outcomes: The study will provide ground-breaking new data and insights to better inform epidemiologists, public health experts, policy-makers and the wider public.

European Affairs

ECNP collaborates with a number of European societies to build European research and clinical capacity and advance the interests of the neuroscience research and best-practices treatment in Europe.

- Biomedical Alliance in Europe – member
- European Brain Council (EBC) – founding member
- European Federation of Psychiatric Trainees (EFPT) – supporter
- Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS) – founding member
- Expert Platform on Mental Health – Depression (EPD) – supporter
- Global Alliance of Mental Illness Advocacy Networks (GAMIAN-Europe) – member

Purpose: By working with other European organisations serving similar goals, ECNP is able to advance its mission and increase its scientific and societal impact.

Outcomes: ECNP is helping to co-ordinate a network of European initiatives and organisations in the brain area, ensuring more efficient and effective pathways between science, innovation, policy and patient care.

3. Financial Overview and Future Plans

To help broaden its scientific footprint, three important initiatives were transferred to the ECNP cost centre in 2020:

- *ECNP Networks and Thematic Working Groups*

These multi-disciplinary pan-European research collaborations bring together researchers with expertise across a matrix of disease-oriented and transnosological specialties. In reach, variety, depth and impact, they are unparalleled in Europe.

- *ISCTM joint meeting*

This joint meeting with the International Society for CNS Clinical Trials and Methodology (ISCTM) brings together international stakeholders from academia, industry, government, payer agencies, policy-makers, and the public to address strategic, regulatory, methodological and policy challenges in clinical research methods related to development and use of CNS therapeutics. The meeting is biennial; the next one is scheduled for 2021.

- *ECNP Internship Programme*

Through its short-term research internships the programme offers early career scientists opportunities to up-skill across the spectrum of applied and translational neuroscience.

Going forward, ECNP's scientific and financial strategy will revolve around the launch in October 2021 and subsequent promotion of the landmark 'Physical co-morbidity costs of mental disorders' study, the realignment of the ECNP journal *European Neuropsychopharmacology*, and ongoing efforts to build the organisation's profile and impact, and ensure its continuing relevance.

The impact of Covid-19

The adaptation of ECNP's goals and activities to the conditions of a post-corona world has become a strategic necessity. Not only is the science that ECNP fosters increasingly exchanged, communicated, taught and published digitally, but the day-to-day business of the College is also transitioning to online formats, requiring the ongoing renovation of ECNP's governance, management and operational practices.

Financial and investment strategy

ECNP's policy is at all times to handle its disposable assets in a responsible and sustainable manner. The principles of this policy are:

- Proactive tax and regulatory compliance
- Capital preservation – and adherence to agreed levels
- Budgetary discipline
- Ongoing diversification of the revenue base

To give substance to this, ECNP invests in securities through an established asset manager using a defensive policy. The goal is to preserve wealth, to ensure the College can continue to perform its public-good activities, not to maximise return.

In 2020 a new entity was created to house ECNP's investment portfolio, the Stichting ECNP Investment Fund. Management of the portfolio was transitioned from ING Bank N.V. to Providence Capital N.V.

Financial results

Balance sheet as of 31 December 2021
(after appropriation of profit/losses)

	31-12-2020		31-12-2019	
	€	€	€	€
ASSETS				
FIXED ASSETS				
Financial fixed assets				
Securities		16,261,286		-
CURRENT ASSETS				
Accounts receivable				
Amounts owed by other foundations	197,522		197,522	
Taxes	1,436		5,347	
Other accounts receivable	113,624		190,309	
		312,582		393,178
Securities		-		13,518,148
Bank deposits		376,562		1,177,097
		689,144		15,088,423
		16,950,430		15,088,423

	31-12-2020		31-12-2019	
	€	€	€	€
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
EQUITY				
Other reserves		16,696,896		14,965,659
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Trade creditors	200,304		53,261	
Other liabilities	53,230		69,503	
		253,534		122,764
		16,950,430		15,088,423

Statement of income and expenditure 2020

	Balance 2020	Balance 2019
	€	€
Income		
Membership fees	87,286	89,194
Donation	1,000,000	-
Royalties	108,586	133,788
Interest and similar income	1,180,396	600,727
Total income	2,376,268	823,709
Expenses		
Administration	285,729	256,898
Other expenses	100,549	147,463
European Neuropsychopharmacology	34,984	39,864
Other activities	201,767	144,454
Interest and similar charges	22,002	33,228
Total expenses	645,031	621,907
Net result	1,731,237	201,802
Appropriation of result		
Other reserves	1,731,237	201,802

Secretariat

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