



36th ECNP Congress

7-10 October 2023

Barcelona, Spain

Welcome to the future
of CNS treatments



Photo: Tobias Koch / tobiaskoch.net

REPORT

36th ECNP Congress Foundation 2021-2024





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CONTENT

Introduction	3
Committees	4
Aim and congress activities	5
Timeline	10
Finance	12
General information	18



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INTRODUCTION

The Foundation 36th ECNP Congress was established on 20 January 2021.

The objective of the Foundation is to obtain funds for the benefit of the ECNP Research and Scholarship Foundation (ECNP R&S), whose goal is to promote and maximise research in the field of neuropsychopharmacology. ECNP R&S is a Dutch public interest serving entity (ANBI).

The Foundation achieved its objective by organising the international congress named "36th ECNP Congress", which was held on 7-10 October 2023 in Barcelona, Spain.

The Foundation did not aim to make a profit. A net operating surplus was transferred to ECNP R&S.

The members of the board did not receive remuneration for their role.

This report will give you an outline of the activities related to the organisation of the congress.

We hope you will enjoy reading this report and for any comments or questions please contact us at secretariat@ecnp.eu.

Alexander Schubert
Secretary, Foundation 36th ECNP Congress
September 2024



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COMMITTEES

Board of the Foundation 36th ECNP Congress

Martin Kas, The Netherlands, *Chair and Treasurer*

Alexander Schubert, The Netherlands, *Secretary*

Members of the Scientific Programme Committee 36th ECNP Congress

John Cryan, Ireland, *Chair*

David Baldwin, United Kingdom, *Chair Educational Committee*

Andreas Meyer-Lindenberg, Germany, *Editor-in-chief journal Neuroscience Applied*

Eduard Vieta, Spain, *Editor-in-chief journal ENP*

Michael Benros, Denmark

Antonella Chadha Santucci, Switzerland

Monica Di Luca, Italy

Thomas Frodl, Germany

Aniko Korosi, The Netherlands

Kim Kuypers, The Netherlands

SoYoung Park, Germany

Beatrice Passani, Italy

Luisa Pinto, Portugal

János Réthelyi, Hungary

Christiaan Vinkers, The Netherlands



AIM AND CONGRESS ACTIVITIES

The aim of the ECNP Congress is to bring together people from disciplines across the spectrum of applied and translational neuroscience to network, exchange ideas and to advance the science of the brain, promote better treatment and enhance brain health.

To fulfil this aim, a variety special activities and sessions were organised.

Keynote Lecture (KL)

60 minutes (including welcome speech); livestreamed; available for in-person and virtual participants. Opening with a welcome by the ECNP President, the Keynote Lecture is given by a world-renowned speaker and formally launches the ECNP scientific programme. All participants were invited to join it.

Plenary Lectures (PL)

45 minutes; livestreamed; available for in-person and virtual participants

The six Plenary Lectures at the ECNP Congress are given by internationally-recognised eminent scientists and are the backbone of the scientific programme. Two of the six lectures were given by the 2023 [ECNP Neuropsychopharmacology Award](#) winner and by the Brain Prize Winner.

Symposia and other presentations

Symposia (S)

80 minutes; livestreamed; available for in-person and virtual participants

In these traditional ECNP Symposia, four top experts on a specific topic – led by a chair – map out the state of the field and present their most recent findings. Each speaker has 15 minutes to present their data followed by Q&A. Questions can be from in-person and virtual participants.



Breaking Hot Topic Symposium (S)

80 minutes; livestreamed; available for in-person and virtual participants

The Breaking Hot Topic Symposium offers an opportunity to present and discuss the timeliest science during a short talk. Speakers were selected by the [Scientific Programme Committee \(SPC\)](#) from open submission.

New Findings in Applied Neuroscience (S)

80 minutes; livestreamed; available for in-person and virtual participants

New Findings in Applied Neuroscience is a special symposium that gives six promising Early Career Scientists – selected from the best research presented at the [ECNP Workshop for Early Career Scientists in Europe](#) – the opportunity to present their latest findings. Each lecture ended with Q&A time. Questions can be from in-person and virtual participants.

New Medications Symposium (S)

80 minutes; livestreamed; available for in-person and virtual participants

The New Medications Symposium is a special symposium dedicated to clinical trials of new compounds, including proof of concept and post-marketing studies, using data from human trials. The selected speakers – led by a chair – presented their data on new medications during a short presentation followed by Q&A. Questions can be from in-person and virtual participants.



Career Development Sessions (CD)

45 minutes; livestreamed; available for in-person and virtual participants

The Career Development Sessions are training sessions with a leading expert in the field. The topics of these sessions focus on building your scientific career – writing scientific papers, improving presentation skills, creating a spin-off company or finding a job in the industry are just a few examples – and are especially interesting for Early Career Scientists. The session ended with Q&A.

Love Your Brain Sessions (LB)

30 minutes; livestreamed; available for in-person and virtual participants

These sessions – each led by a single speaker – focused on the importance of prevention of brain disorders and promotion of mental health through a healthy and brain-friendly lifestyle. These sessions explored neuroscience from a different perspective! The presentation of the speaker was followed by a short Q&A time.



Top Paper Sessions (TP)

30 minutes; livestreamed; available for in-person and virtual participants

During the Top Paper Sessions, distinguished speakers presented and discussed four papers published during the last year, which they consider clinically most important and cutting-edge in their discipline. These sessions are a great way to get up-to-speed with the latest developments in research.

Interactive Sessions

Campfire Sessions (CA)

45 minutes; only available for in-person participants

The Campfire Sessions allow for maximum interaction between experts on a certain topic and participants. Sitting in a circle as if around a campfire – and without slides and screens – the expert, with the help of a moderator, first introduced the topic followed by a conversation with the participants. It is an easy and accessible way to pose burning question(s) to a leading expert. The in-person only Campfire Sessions had a capacity of max. 60 persons, on a 'first come, first served' basis.



Educational Update Sessions (EDU)

80 minutes; livestreamed; available for in-person and virtual participants

These sessions are designed to provide an educational update with emphasis on new information relevant for clinical practice. They focus on a continuous dialogue between the two speakers and the participants. During their talks, the speakers engaged the participants by inviting them to take part in an interactive poll on the presented topics. Each presentation ended with the Q&A. Questions to speakers can be from in-person and virtual participants.



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Poster Sessions

The abstracts were reviewed and those accepted were added to the programme.

Posters at the ECNP Congress

Poster (P) and ePoster Sessions (EP)

- Poster Sessions: 60 minutes; available for in-person participants
- ePoster Sessions: available for in-person and virtual participants during the congress

The Poster Sessions were held in-person, from Sunday 7 October to Tuesday 10 October in the poster area. The abstracts accepted for in-person presentation were presented with a paper poster.

All posters from accepted abstracts were also available via the congress platform through ePosters, starting from the first day of the congress.



Other Sessions

ALBA Network Diversity & Inclusion Session (OS)

45 minutes; livestreamed; available for in-person and virtual participants

The general goal of this session was to raise awareness of gender and diversity issues in brain sciences and to disseminate positive practices countering discrimination.

ECNP's Got Talent (OS)

80 minutes; livestreamed; available for in-person and virtual participants

For this innovative format, ECNP selected a group of talented Early Career Scientists and challenged them to compete against their peers by giving the best presentation of their most recent data. Their 'performances' were evaluated by a jury and the best one received an award.

ECNP Inspired Sessions (OS)

45 minutes; livestreamed; available for in-person and virtual participants

'Inspiration' can be defined as an event that reveals a new truth to our mind, guiding us to new acts or a new perspective about our life and work. The ECNP Inspired Session gave the stage to speakers that inspired by giving a short talk on their experiences as researchers and clinicians.

Negative Data Prize in clinical Neuroscience (OS)

45 minutes; livestreamed; available for in-person and virtual participants

The [Negative Results Prize in Clinical Neuroscience](#) recognises those who have made exceptional contributions to CNS treatment development by publishing clinical research with negative findings. Winners are selected especially on the basis of the impact of their findings in helping the field to optimise its resource and investment allocation and, in doing so, advance long-term treatment development. The winner delivered an award talk during this session.

Neuroscience-based Nomenclature Session (OS)

45 minutes; livestreamed; available for in-person and virtual participants

The [Neuroscience-based Nomenclature \(NbN\)](#) is a pharmacologically driven nomenclature for medications with CNS indications, and updated continuously. It is a result from an unprecedented collaboration between the five leading CNS pharmacological organisations: The European College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ECNP), The International College of Neuropsychopharmacology (CINP), American College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ACNP), Asian College of Neuropsychopharmacology (AsCNP) and International Union of Basic & Clinical Pharmacology (IUPHAR). During this session, presenters from the NbN taskforce presented how the NbN has been developed and illustrated how to use it.



New Frontiers in Psychedelics Session (OS)

45 minutes; livestreamed; available for in-person and virtual participants

A session dedicated to the outputs of the [ECNP New Frontiers Meeting 2023: Psychedelics](#) held in March 2023. This meeting is an essential platform for focused, high-level exchange at the intersection of research science and the development of psychedelics as new treatments for brain disorders.

Panel discussions (OS)

45 minutes; livestreamed; available for in-person and virtual participants

Panel discussions host a selected group of panellists who discuss and share differing perspectives about a specific topic. A moderator will guide the panel and the audience through the session. The two discussants will offer opinions and respond to audience questions either through questions curated by the moderator or taken from the in-person and virtual participants.

Patient Session (OS)

45 minutes; livestreamed; available for in-person and virtual participants

ECNP is committed to ensuring that advances in the understanding of the brain are translated into better treatments and enhanced public health. Hence, one of the goals of ECNP is to facilitate the dialogue between researchers, regulators, government bodies, and patients. As such, each year the Congress organises and hosts this session with patient organisations, on a specific topic.

Regulatory Spotlight Session (OS)

45 minutes; livestreamed; available for in-person and virtual participants

This is a special regulatory dialogue session with the European Medicines Agency (EMA). Designed for open and active engagement amongst EMA stakeholders, the session is an excellent opportunity for scientific and regulatory exchange.

Industry Sessions

These industry sessions were organised with financial support from industry partners and were reviewed for balance and rigour by the Scientific Programme Committee (SPC).

Industry Satellite Symposia (ISS)

90 minutes; livestreamed; available for in-person and virtual participants, if applicable

These industry sessions are scientifically oriented and have a well-balanced programme (e.g. not concentrating on one specific medication). The programmes are not organised in parallel with the official ECNP scientific programme.

Industry Mini Sessions (IMS)

45 minutes; livestreamed; available for in-person and virtual participants, if applicable

These scientifically oriented mini sessions have a well-balanced programme and are not organised in parallel with the official ECNP scientific programme.

Industry Interactive Discussions (IID)

30 minutes; not-livestreamed; available for in-person participants only.

These interactive sessions offer the opportunity to move from commercial oriented exposure to more focused, scientifically driven engagement with the in-person participants. This format allows for close interaction with participants on a specific topic. After a short introduction by the expert(s), the session focused on interactive discussion with the audience. The programmes take place in parallel with the official ECNP scientific programme.



36th ECNP Congress

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Industry Product Theatre (IPT)

30 minutes; livestreamed; available for in-person and virtual participants, if applicable

These high-value sessions provide a podium for industry to present to participants on a broad range of issues, including new treatment approaches, medical devices, digital health apps, the uses of specific medications, clinical insights, innovative services and product demonstrations. The programmes take place in parallel with the official ECNP scientific programme.

Industry Case Study (ICS)

30 minutes; not-livestreamed; available for in-person participants only.

These interactive sessions provide participants with the opportunity to discuss the application of medicines, devices, and/or treatment strategies in real-world clinical settings. After a short introduction, the session focused on interactive discussion and problem solving with the industry expert(s). The programmes take place in parallel with the official ECNP scientific programme.

Exhibition

An exhibition was organised on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.



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TIMELINE

2021

The foundation received approval from the Dutch tax authorities to become a public interest serving Dutch entity (ANBI).

The ECNP Office based in Utrecht, the Netherlands, is charged with the organisation of the congress.

Registration with the tax authorities in the Netherlands has been completed.

In Autumn 2021 information became available on the [congress website](#) and a call for symposia and educational update session and case study proposals was sent out.

The contract with the venue was signed in November.

2022

A bank account has been opened in the name of the 36th ECNP Congress at the ABN AMRO bank. A deposit amount has been transferred from ECNP R&S to the 36th ECNP Congress as income for the Foundation from registration fees and support did not start until end of 2021.

Rules for VAT for sales invoices and registration for Spanish VAT has been set.

A site visit took place in November starting negotiations with the venue and other suppliers.

The annual account of 2021 has been prepared and finalised.

Work on the budget of the 36th ECNP Congress has been started and registration fees have been set.

The deadline for programme proposals was 1 March and in April the first meeting of the Scientific Programme Committee (SPC) was held at Schiphol Airport to review the programme suggestions received and to make the first draft of the scientific programme.

In June the second and third meeting of the SPC took place through Zoom and the scientific programme has been finalised and reviewed by the members of the Scientific Advisory Panels (SAPs). At the end of September invitations to speakers have been sent out.

At the end of June 2022, the Industry Guidelines, with the request for support has been sent out with deadline of application of industry sessions and exhibition space 18 January 2023.

In December the chairs of the sessions have been invited.



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2023

The budget of the 36th ECNP Congress has been set up and finalised and signed by the treasurer and secretary of the Foundation.

In January 2023 registration have been opened and it is possible for scientists to submit an abstract for poster presentations.

The annual accounts of 2022 have been prepared and finalised.

In March the programmes of the industry sessions have been approved and allocated to time slots.

CME accreditation has been obtained for the scientific programme.

Committee meetings of ECNP were scheduled and committee members were invited.

Logistics were settled regarding catering, meeting space, AV, IT, exhibition, signage and set-up of the venue.

Promotion for the congress was arranged at related congresses and every month the ECNP e-news will contain information about the congress. Special e-alerts will be e-mailed to the ECNP database.

In May the submission of abstracts for poster presentations will close and review was undertaken by the members of the Scientific Advisory Panels. Final decision were made by the field editor of ENP and the chair of the Scientific Programme Committee by 1 July 2023.

For the best abstracts of European early career scientists ECNP Excellence Awards were given. During the congress the 9 most excellent posters were rewarded with the ECNP Poster Award.

A second site visit took place on 15-16 May at the CCIB, Barcelona, Spain.

On 12-13 September the third site visit took place at the CCIB, Barcelona, Spain.

The congress was held from 7-10 October 2023, at the CCIB, Barcelona, Spain.

In November the financial and registration administration and procedures with suppliers was finalised.

2024

In March 2024 finances have been settled and VAT issues finalised. The final account of 36th ECNP Congress was determined and audited in April. The net operation surplus was transferred to ECNP R&S before 30 June 2024 as written in the Articles of Association of the Stichting 36th ECNP Congress. The bank account was closed.

The annual accounts of 2023 were prepared and finalised in May.

The closing balance 2024 was drafted by the auditors and the Foundation was liquidated and deregistered at the chamber of commerce and the Dutch TAX and ANBI Authorities by September 2024.



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7-10 October 2023

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FINANCE

Board

The members of the board did not receive remuneration for their role.

Secretarial Assistance

The chair of the Scientific Programme Committee received € 6,000 for secretarial assistance.

Reimbursement small expenses

The other members of the Scientific Programme Committee were entitled to request the amount of € 1,000 for the duration of their term on the Scientific Programme Committee. This amount covered their expenses for ground transportation, lunch, dinner, drinks, etc.



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Stichting 36th ECNP Congress, Utrecht

Statement of income and expenditure 2024

	Balance 2024	Balance 2023
	€	€
Income	-	4,099,776
Expenses	922,323	3,177,453
Result	<u>-922,323</u>	<u>922,323</u>
Appropriation of the results		
Statutory reserves	<u><u>-922,323</u></u>	<u><u>922,323</u></u>



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GENERAL INFORMATION

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