



ECNP Association

Annual Report 2024



Vereniging ECNP Association

European College of Neuropsychopharmacology

Annual Report 2024

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Vereniging ECNP Association is a public-interest-serving entity (*algemeen nut beogende instelling* – ANBI) under Dutch tax law.

1. About ECNP

ECNP Association is an independent European scientific association dedicated to ensuring that advances in the understanding of brain function and human behaviour are translated into better treatments and enhanced public health.

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

Address:	Daltonlaan 400, 3584 BK Utrecht
E-mail:	secretariat@ecnp.eu
Website:	https://www.ecnp.eu
RSIN:	823523974
Dutch TAX number:	NL 823523974B01
ANBI:	Vereniging ECNP Association is a public-interest-serving entity (<i>algemeen nut beogende instelling</i> – ANBI) under Dutch tax law.

ECNP Association is referred to hereafter as 'ECNP' or 'the Association'.

Objectives

ECNP exists to stimulate high-quality experimental and clinical research in applied and translational neuroscience, with a view to advancing the development of better treatments for those suffering from disorders of the brain..

ECNP seeks to bring together all those involved in or interested in the scientific study of applied and translational neuroscience by arranging scientific meetings, educational activities, research networks, and publishing and disseminating scientific research; to offer guidance and information to the scientific community and other relevant stakeholders on matters pertaining to applied and translational neuroscience; and to provide a format for coordination and for development of common standards in Europe.

Executive Committee

Officers

Martien Kas
President
University of Groningen
The Netherlands

Andreas Reif
President-Elect
University Hospital Frankfurt
Germany

Elisabeth Binder
Vice-President
Max Planck Institute of Psychiatry
Munich, Germany

Suzanne Dickson
Secretary
University of Gothenburg
Sweden

Gitte Moos Knudsen
Past-President
Copenhagen University Hospital
Denmark

Brenda Penninx
Treasurer
Amsterdam University Medical Center
The Netherlands

Councillors

David Baldwin
University of Southampton
United Kingdom

Iiris Hovatta
University of Helsinki
Finland

Paolo Brambilla
University of Milan
Italy

Marin Jukić
University of Belgrade
Serbia

Iria Grande
Hospital Clinic de Barcelona
Spain

Marion Leboyer
University of Paris Est Créteil
France

Expert

Gerry-Dawson
P1vital, Ltd
Wallingford, United Kingdom

Ex officio members

John Cryan
Chair, Scientific Programme Committee
35th, 36th, 37th ECNP Congress
University College Cork
Ireland

Eduard Vieta
Editor-in-Chief, European
Neuropsychopharmacology
University of Barcelona
Spain

Andreas Meyer-Lindenberg
Editor-in-Chief, *Neuroscience Applied*
Central Institute of Mental Health (ZI)
Mannheim, Germany

Executive Director

Alexander Schubert

The members of the Executive Committee receive no remuneration for their role. The President receives € 15,000 per annum, payable to his institution, for secretarial assistance. Each Officer receives € 4,000 per annum, payable to his or her institution, for secretarial assistance. And each member of the Executive Committee is entitled to € 1,500 per annum to cover associated meeting costs, including ground transportation, lunch, dinner, drinks, etc.

2. ECNP Activities 2024

In order to rationalise the ECNP structure and reduce complexity, risk and cost by centralising into one legal system, the General Assembly of Members voted in October 2023 to establish the Dutch Vereniging, ECNP Association. The Vereniging ECNP Association was accordingly incorporated in January 2024, with a view to continuing the activities currently conducted by ECNP. A Transfer of Property agreement was signed in September 2024 with the Property Components being, as of 31 December 2024, for the economic benefit, risk and account of ECNP Association. All future activities are with ECNP Association.

As of September 2024, members of ECNP wishing to renew their membership automatically became members of ECNP Association. Management of all activities was transferred by ECNP on 31 December 2024.

3. Financial Overview

ECNP's funding derived from donations and membership dues.

European College of Neuropsychopharmacology transferred all its duties, financial resources and investments to ECNP Association as of 31 December 2024.

Financial statements

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2024

(after appropriation of profit/losses)

	31-12-2024	
	€	€
ASSETS		
FIXED ASSETS		
Financial fixed assets		
Securities		14,848,472
		<u>14,848,472</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		
Accounts receivable		
Debtors	20,000	
Taxes	16,445	
Other accounts receivable	<u>145,013</u>	
		181,458
Bank deposits		1,046,048
		<u>1,227,506</u>
		<u>16,075,978</u>
		<u><u>16,075,978</u></u>
	31-12-2024	
	€	€
RESERVES, FUNDS AND LIABILITIES		
EQUITY		
Other reserves		15,930,613
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade creditors	34,870	
Other liabilities	<u>110,495</u>	
		145,365
		<u>16,075,978</u>

Statement of income and expenditure 2024

	Balance 2024
	€
Income	
Membership fees	6,651
Donation	1,000,000
Interest and similar income	857
Total income	1,007,508
Expenses	
Other expenses	6,169
Balance before financial expense	1,001,339
Interest and similar charges	-1,087
Net result	1,000,252
Appropriation of result	
Other reserves	1,000,252

4. Future Outlook

Taking into consideration the mission of ECNP and the changing environment for meetings, congresses, teaching, training and dissemination, and to address the challenges of the climate change, a comprehensive review of ECNP's strategic direction and portfolio of activities has been undertaken. Four priorities have been identified:

1. Exploitation of online communication to increase the impact of ECNP's wide range of activities, programmes and events and thereby reduce the Association's climate footprint.
2. Incorporation of a professional career development trajectory (from Early Career Scientist to Fellow Member) that allows stakeholders to step-in at all stages of their career and maintain engagement with ECNP from that point onwards.
3. Involvement and development of the ECNP Networks, as well as the ECNP Early Career Advisory Panel, to further increase the impact of our activities, programmes and events.
4. Analysis of the financial consequences of these changes, including which investments ECNP would need to make to pursue such a strategy.

To bring these priorities to life, the following actions were defined:

1. *Identify the gaps in the applied neuroscience ecosystem where ECNP can make a difference*

Brain science was identified as the primary focus of ECNP's identity, specifically research in applied neuroscience leading to the development and implementation of new treatments for brain disorders. Where ECNP – and only ECNP – can make a tangible, long-term difference was defined by the formulation: "To foster European research alliances and to provide a platform to educate, inspire, guide and disseminate neuroscience applied research to develop and implement novel treatments for brain disorders and to promote brain health."

2. *Define primary stakeholders and target groups*

To achieve more targeted, segmented and impactful activities and communication streams, the following five primary stakeholder groups were identified: (a) academic clinical and preclinical neuroscience applied researchers; (b) clinicians; (c) industrial clinical and preclinical researchers in applied neuroscience; (d) regulators; and (e) the general public, and in particular patient groups and their families.

3. *Understand the profiles and needs of each stakeholder group*

For each stakeholder group specific actions were developed:

- a. *Academic clinical and preclinical neuroscience applied researchers.* Three stages of career development within this stakeholder group and the steps required to respond to their respective needs were identified:
 - i. Early career scientists – interactions with their peers, mid-career and senior scientists to discuss their science and find ways to secure their next position.

- ii. Mid-career scientists – entry into established networks to discuss their science and participate in funding opportunities in research consortia.
 - iii. Senior scientists – opportunities to organise events around specific research themes and convert their ideas into project consortia grants and collaborations.
- b. *Clinicians*. Through the congress and educational activities clinicians will receive the latest knowledge on mechanisms of action and the use of evidence-based treatments. In addition, clinicians will provide valuable knowledge about their patients to applied neuroscience researchers.
- c. *Industrial clinical and preclinical researchers*. Collaboration between academic and industrial researchers will benefit from enhanced dialogue to better understand the differences (“clinical mismatch”). Additional ground for symbiosis lies in the areas of novel research developments (e.g. digital technologies) and biomarker validation pathways. The new generation of smaller companies (pharma/technology) will also be engaged, with digital health becoming a theme of even greater centrality.
- d. *Regulators*. ECNP will provide an informal and pre-competitive space to discuss the positions of key opinion leaders on priority topics in the field and educate the community and regulators on new developments.
- e. *Patient groups and their families*. Patients and their families will be actively involved in the co-creation of grant proposals and design of clinical studies.

4. Integrate and align activities

The ECNP Networks are very well positioned to address the needs of mid-career and senior scientists and to provide a clear and coherent ECNP career path, allowing for better integration and alignment of activities. To make this happen, we will:

- a. Organise early career scientist interest groups and activities with the possibility to develop activities according to their own needs, e.g. through online meetings, lab rotations, poster presentations at the ECNP Congress, etc.
- b. Ensure that approximately 30% of the Network members are mid-career scientists and each ECNP Congress symposium has (at least) one mid-career scientist as a speaker to maximise mid-career participation.
- c. Implement the suggested definitions for early career, mid-career, and senior scientist consistently throughout the organisation to facilitate targeted communication.
- d. Provide the Networks with the opportunity to organise ‘stand-alone’ meetings on a competitive or rotating basis.
- e. Increase the educational value of the lectures from leading experts at our activities for a larger audience with lay-language summaries of the main findings and clinical relevance.
- f. Increase the membership of Networks from industry to open the dialogue and encourage new research alliances.
- g. Focus the ECNP New Frontier Meetings on a new topic every year foregrounding the latest developments in the field.

- h. Optimise ECNP's media strategy to strengthen the bridge between science and the general public.

5. *Leverage digital tools and technologies (online platforms, social media, etc.)*

To increase the impact of ECNP's wide range of activities, programmes and events via online communication, thereby reducing the climate footprint, the following ideas were agreed:

- a. Identify ways to provide online access to the materials presented during the ECNP Workshops and other activities.
- b. Make online materials available through livestreaming during the event and stored for online access after the event.
- c. Use the Networks to develop content for online meetings on dedicated brain science-related topics.
- d. Provide the possibility to join dedicated meetings remotely.
- e. Develop an ECNP 'Research Tinder' app to allow early career, mid-career, and senior scientist to build their own research profile and connect with scientists with similar or complementary research interests.

6. *Systematise for maximum efficiency*

When possible, data-driven analyses should be used to measure the achievement of goals and the impact of activities and align implementation with long-term goals and investment planning.



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