



ecnp
Neuroscience applied



Photo: ECNP/Tobias Koch

REPORT

Stichting 41st ECNP Congress 2026

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INTRODUCTION

The Foundation 41st ECNP Congress was established on 15 January 2026.

The objective of the Foundation is to obtain funds for the benefit of the Stichting 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 achieves its objective by organising the international congress named "41st ECNP Congress" in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 2028.

The Foundation does not aim to make a profit. A net operating surplus, if any at all, will be transferred to ECNP R&S. Any shortfall will be covered by ECNP R&S.

The members of the board do 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 congress2028@ecnp.eu.

Alexander Schubert
Secretary, Foundation 41st ECNP Congress
May 2026

COMMITTEES

Board of the Foundation 41st ECNP Congress

Andreas Reif, Germany, *Chair*

John Cryan, Ireland,, *Treasurer*

Alexander Schubert, The Netherlands, *Secretary*

Scientific Programme Committee

Ole Andreassen, Norway, *Chair*

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 will be organised.

Keynote Lecture (KL)

80 minutes (including welcome speech and ECNP Award hand-overs); livestreamed; available for in-person and virtual participants.

The ECNP President opens the meeting with a welcome, followed by the Keynote Lecture delivered by a distinguished, internationally recognised speaker. This lecture officially marks the start of the scientific programme, and all participants are warmly invited to attend.

Plenary Lectures (PL)

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

Plenary Lectures at the ECNP Congress are delivered by leading, internationally recognised scientists and form the central pillar of the scientific programme. Two of the six lectures are given by the 2028 ECNP Neuropsychopharmacology Award winner and by a Brain Prize Winner.

Symposia and other presentations

Symposia (S)

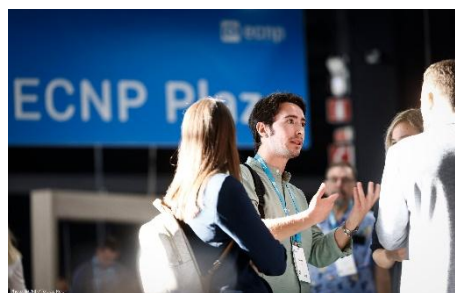
80 minutes; livestreamed; available for in-person and online participants

In these traditional ECNP Symposia, four top experts on a specific topic – led by a symposium chair – provide an overview of the current state of the field and share their latest research insights. The sessions are designed from open submission, ensuring a broad and diverse range of perspectives. Each speaker is assigned 15 minutes to present, followed by questions and answers.

Breaking Hot Topic Symposium (S)

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

The Breaking Hot Topic Symposium provides a platform for discussing 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 online 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 on Applied Neuroscience – the opportunity to present their latest findings. Each lecture ends with a short questions and answers segment.

Novel Therapies Symposium (S)

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

The Novel Therapies Symposium is a dedicated session focusing on clinical trials of new compounds, including proof-of-concept and post-marketing studies, using data from human trials – particularly phase II and III studies. The scope has been expanded to also include studies involving new medical devices, such as neurostimulation technologies. Speakers were selected by the Scientific Programme Committee (SPC) from open submission.

Career Development Sessions (CD)

45 minutes; available for in-person and virtual participants

The Career Development Sessions offer training led by experienced experts in the field. These intimate sessions cover a range of topics aimed at supporting your scientific career, such as writing research papers, enhancing presentation skills, launching a spin-off company, or exploring career opportunities in industry. Designed especially – though not exclusively – for Early Career Scientists, each session concludes with an interactive questions and answers segment.

Love Your Brain Sessions (LB)

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

These sessions – each led by a single speaker – focus on the importance of prevention of brain disorders and promotion of mental health through a healthy and brain-friendly lifestyle. These sessions will explore neuroscience from a different perspective! The presentation of the speaker is followed by a short questions and answers segment.

Top Paper Sessions (TP)

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

In the Top Paper Sessions, distinguished speakers present and discuss four papers published within the past year that they consider the most clinically relevant and cutting-edge in their field. These sessions offer an excellent opportunity to quickly catch up on the latest advances in clinical research.

Interactive sessions

Campfire Sessions (CA)



45 minutes; only available for in-person participants

The Campfire Sessions allow maximum interaction between experts and participants on a specific topic. In these unique sessions, participants gather in a circle – as if around a campfire – without slides or screens. The expert, supported by a moderator, introduces the topic before opening the floor for an engaging, interactive conversation. The campfire format provides a perfect opportunity to ask your burning questions directly to a leading expert. Limited to a maximum of 80-100 in-person participants, Campfire

Sessions operate on a ‘first come, first served’ basis.

Educational Update Sessions (EDU)

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

These interactive sessions are designed to provide an educational update with an emphasis on new information relevant for clinical practice. During their talks, the speakers engage the participants repeatedly by inviting them to take part in multiple interactive polls on the presented topics.

Poster Sessions



Poster (P) and ePoster Sessions (EP)

Poster Sessions: available for in-person participants in the poster area. The abstracts accepted for in-person presentation will be presented by means of a paper poster, printed for free by ECNP.

ePoster Sessions: available for in-person and virtual participants. All posters from accepted abstracts are also available via the Congress platform and the app as ePosters, starting from the first day of the Congress.

Focus Sessions

ALBA Network Diversity & Inclusion Session (AL)

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

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

ECNP's Got Talent – a contest in Storytelling (T)

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

For this innovative format, ECNP challenges four Early Career Scientists to explain their research to a non-specialist audience. The contest is not only about what is presented, how the data is presented is equally important – 'storytelling' and 'engagement' are key concepts. The performances will be evaluated by a jury and the best one will receive an award.

ECNP Inspired Sessions - The stories behind the researcher and the research (EI)

45 minutes; livestreamed; available for in-person and online 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 gives the stage to speakers that will inspire you by giving a short talk on their experiences as researchers and clinicians.

Patient Session (ES)

45 minutes; livestreamed; available for in-person and online 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 (RS)

45 minutes; livestreamed; available for in-person and online 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 are organised with financial support from industry partners and are reviewed for balance and rigour by the Scientific Programme Committee (SPC).

Industry Satellite Symposia (ISS)

80 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 is focuses on interactive discussion with the audience. The programmes take place in parallel with the official ECNP scientific programme.

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 focuses 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 will be organised during the congress days..

TIMELINE

2026

The foundation was established on 15 January 2026 and will request the approval of the Dutch tax authorities to become a public interest serving Dutch entity (ANBI).

Stichting Buro ECNP based in Utrecht, the Netherlands, is charged with the organisation of the congress.

Registration with the tax authorities in the Netherlands will be completed.

In Autumn 2026 information will be available on the congress website and a call for symposia and educational update session and case study proposals will be sent out.

A bank account will be opened in the name of the 41st ECNP Congress at the ABN AMRO bank. A deposit amount will be transferred from ECNP R&S to the 41st ECNP Congress as income for the Foundation from registration fees and industry support will not start until January 2028.

The contract with the venue will be signed.

A site visit will be planned to start negotiations with the venue suppliers and other suppliers.

2027

The annual accounts of 2026 will be prepared and finalised.

Work on the budget of the 41st ECNP Congress will start and registration fees will be set.

The deadline for programme proposals is in March and in April the first meeting of the Scientific Programme Committee (SPC) will be 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 through Zoom will take place and the scientific programme will be finalised and reviewed by the members of the Scientific Advisory Panels (SAPs). At the end of September invitations to speakers will be sent out.

In autumn, the Industry Guidelines, with the request for support will be sent out with deadline of application of industry sessions and exhibition space 15 January 2028. Remaining space of the exhibition can be applied for until 1 July 2028.

It is foreseen that in December the chairs of the sessions will be invited.

2028

The annual accounts of 2027 will be prepared and finalised.

In January 2028 registration will be opened and it will be possible for scientists to submit an abstract for poster presentations.

In March the programmes of the industry sessions will be approved and allocated to time slots. CME accreditation will be requested for the scientific programme.

Logistics will be settled regarding catering, meeting space, AV, IT, exhibition, signage and set-up of the venue. Committee meetings of ECNP will be scheduled and committee members invited.

Promotion for the congress will be 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 will be undertaken by the members of the Scientific Advisory Panels. Final decision will be made by the field editor of ENP and the chair of the Scientific Programme Committee before 15 July 2028.

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

A second site visit is planned.

The congress will be held in October 2028

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

2029

The annual accounts of 2028 will be prepared and finalised.

In 2029 finances will be settled and VAT issues finalised. The final account of 41st ECNP Congress should be finished in first quarter and an audit report will be requested. Before 30 June, any net operation surplus is to be transferred to ECNP R&S.

It is foreseen that by the summer the closing balance can be presented, and the Foundation will be liquidated and deregistered at the chamber of commerce.

FINANCE

Board

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

Secretarial Assistance

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

Reimbursement small expenses

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

Strategy

The strategy for the coming years can be found in the ECNP R&S report which is also published on www.ecnp.eu.

GENERAL INFORMATION

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Not available yet