



European College of
Neuropsychopharmacology
ECNP Research &
Scholarship Foundation
Annual Report 2017



Secretariat

ECNP Office

T: +31 88 75 69 555
E: secretariat@ecnp.eu
www.ecnp.eu

Postal Address

PO Box 85410
3508 AK Utrecht
The Netherlands

Visiting Address

Bolognalaan 28
3584 CJ Utrecht
The Netherlands

EXPLANATORY NOTE

ECNP operates as an amalgamation of different entities. These entities are legally autonomous and self-sustaining, but each represents the ECNP brand and serves co-ordinated goals.

This report covers two of those entities: the European College of Neuropsychopharmacology, a Swiss-constituted member society (hereafter ECNP Association); and the Netherlands-based ECNP Research and Scholarship Foundation (hereafter R&S). The ECNP Congresses are contained in their own foundations.

Both ECNP Association and R&S are public-interest-serving entities (algemeen nut beogende instellingen – ANBI) under Dutch tax law.

For the purposes of simplicity they are here collectively referred to as “ECNP” or “the College.”



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Message from the President

ECNP exists to improve human brain health.

Such a large goal demands focus, and ECNP's specialist focus is supporting European researchers and clinicians in their search for better treatments for those suffering from brain-related disorders and disabilities.

Even within this more confined frame though the challenges are daunting, and complicated yet further by the ongoing and often painful evolution that has come to characterise the field – in its science, its organisation, and its underlying funding structures. Not much looks as it did when ECNP began life 30 years ago. To continue to serve the European applied and translational neuroscience community effectively means continuing to change, adapt and innovate. This has been the defining theme of the 2016-19 Executive Committee term.



It also means focus. Looking at where the most pressing challenges lie, and where an organisation such as ECNP can have most meaningful attention, the Executive Committee has identified three areas in particular where ECNP can make a meaningful difference.

What ECNP stands for

01

MISSION

To advance the science of the brain, promote better treatment and enhance brain health

02

VISION

To stimulate experimental and clinical research in applied neuroscience

03

VALUE

Scientific excellence

04

STRATEGY

To propagate high-quality scientific content

Excellent science

The first is ECNP's traditional core competency: the promotion and diffusion of excellent science. The ECNP Congress continues to be the premier platform for the presentation and discussion of what is the newest and best in the science of treatments for disorders of the brain. This year marked its thirtieth anniversary, and ECNP has made a range of innovations and new investments to ensure it remains maximally useful and rewarding for researchers and clinicians in our field. It is now not only Europe's biggest meeting in applied and translational neuroscience, but also its most vibrant and scientifically rigorous.

Meanwhile, the ECNP journal, *European Neuropsychopharmacology*, under Andreas Meyer-Lindenberg's editorship, continues its ongoing renovation to keep it at the forefront of applied and translational neuroscience research. The journal has 2017 impact factor of 4.239. Given the quality of the editorial team, and the level of support the journal enjoys, we believe this can be raised even higher.

The ECNP Networks, now covering ten disorders and three key technical areas, go from strength to strength. Unique in Europe, they provide an indispensable platform for data exchange and ideas sharing, as well as a superbly productive seedbed for project consortia. Under the leadership of ECNP President-Elect Gitte Moos Knudsen (chair) and Nic van der Wee (scientific co-ordinator), the initiative is innovating with new, cross-disciplinary constellations to meet the challenges of future research and the changing nature of European funding structures.

An important addition to these activities is the Neuroscience-based Nomenclature (NbN) project, led by former ECNP President Joseph Zohar. An ambitious and imaginative attempt to use the best of our current neuroscience knowledge to reshape how the field thinks about psychiatric medications, the NbN has become a major scientific enterprise of worldwide significance, and the only to bring all of the leading independent societies involved in neuropsychopharmacology together in a single unified endeavour.

It is important to mention here too the ECNP Neuropsychopharmacology Award, given annually – with a prize of € 10,000 – to a pioneering European researcher. This year the winner was Michel Hamon of France, and we offer him our congratulations. We have also joined with Cohen Veterans Bioscience in the US to launch the ECNP Preclinical Network Data Prize for the best publication of negative findings. The first awardee will be chosen next year.

Junior scientists

The second is junior scientist education and career development. The commitment of ECNP in this area is unparalleled, with around 300 junior scientists annually passing through ECNP Schools (in Oxford and Venice), Workshops (in Nice and Barcelona), and Seminars, with their registration, meals and accommodation entirely paid for by ECNP. We also partnered with the UK's Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) to launch the Advanced Methods for Reproducible Science Workshop.

The total investment in this area makes the College the largest non-institutional provider of education in applied neuroscience in Europe.

And the commitment does not stop there. An additional 500 attend the ECNP Congress free of charge on our junior scientist registration waiver programme. And ECNP continues its internship programme, which regularly sees the region's best young researchers broadening their horizons in laboratories across Europe. I am especially proud that, in an environment of increasing financial pressure, we have been able to maintain and even increase this commitment, with an expanding programme of junior scientist activities at the ECNP Congress.

It should be stressed too that an important driver of ECNP's efforts to attack the blockages currently impeding investment in industrial neuroscience is the determination to ensure career opportunities for the talented young researchers on whom the future of the field depends.

Advocacy and awareness-raising

The third focus area is advocacy, but goes beyond this to raising awareness more broadly. In particular it involves performing a role which ECNP is uniquely equipped to fulfil: connecting different audiences and stakeholders across the CNS treatment puzzle.

The days when new treatments developed in a more or less linear fashion from laboratory scientist to clinician to patient are long gone. Today's situation – a reflection of the field's increasing complexity – is more of an ecosystem, but one in which the different parts remain inadequately integrated. These shortcomings can be measured in the poor rates of translation, the difficulty with clinical trials, the under-appreciation of innovation, the structural misalignments in investment, and the general lack of understanding about neuropsychiatric disorders, their origins, impact and extreme complexity.

ECNP has always existed to connect researchers across the treatment lifecycle – 'from bench to bedside' – but now we are working to connect a larger circle of stakeholders, including patients, policy-makers, regulators and the wider public, as well as new kinds of companies, such as biotechs, device-makers, CROs, and the scientific community beyond applied neuroscience.

An important step in this direction has been the launch of the spring innovation meeting in Nice, France, this year on New Approaches to Psychiatric Drug Development. The motivation, as in all of the innovation meetings, is to attack the problems impeding the development of new treatments for disorders of the brain in Europe. Next year the meeting will be formalised as the New Frontiers Meeting, with a dedicated committee, and we expect this to become a powerful platform for exchange between academia, industry and the regulatory agencies.

Our collaboration with the International Society for CNS Clinical Trials and Methodology (ISCTM) also continued, with our second joint meeting just before the 30th ECNP Congress in Paris. Like the New Frontiers Meeting, this has proven to be a very fertile springboard for discussion across all relevant parties on an international scale, in this case of the clinical trial issues complicating neuropsychiatric drug development. The meeting serves as a very useful complement to our annual session at the ECNP Congress in collaboration with the European Medicines Agency (EMA), this year on autism.

Also in conjunction with the 30th ECNP Congress, the College held its fourth Brain Day. Co-ordinated by Marion Leboyer and the Fondation FondaMental, the event attracted patient representatives and members of the public from across the Île-de-France. The opportunity it offered to promote awareness of disorders of the brain and the latest treatment horizons was highly valued by all involved. It amplified too the core message of collaboration and awareness-raising that is also the stimulus of the ECNP Congress Patient Session, this year on PTSD in terror attacks and the 'golden hours.'

This year too we expanded our support offerings to European projects, delivering dissemination services to two new consortia, one under the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI), the other an Horizon 2020 grant. Supporting major European projects in this way not only allows these projects to benefit from ECNP's uniquely extensive network, but puts the College at the heart of Europe's most innovative and ambitious research. It is both a recognition and reinforcement of ECNP's position as one of the most critical nodes in Europe in the science of disorders of the brain.

What I have given here is merely a summary. It leaves much out – not least the remarkable efforts of the many, many people who make ECNP's work possible. Without the energy, dedication and generosity of hundreds of volunteers none of what we have achieved would have been possible. They have my very sincere thanks.

The task as we go forward is to ensure we can continue to support European researchers and clinicians with this level of commitment and dynamism for another 30 years.



Celso Arango
President



Executive Committee 2016-2019

Celso Arango, Spain, *President*
Gitte Moos Knudsen, Denmark, *President-elect*
Laurence Lanfumey, France, *Vice-president*
Guy Goodwin, United Kingdom, *Past-president*
Martien Kas, the Netherlands, *Secretary*
Eduard Vieta, Spain, *Treasurer*

Councillors

Elisabeth Binder, Germany
Damiaan Denys, the Netherlands
Suzanne Dickson, Sweden
Catherine Harmer, UK
Stefano Pallanti, Italy
Gil Zalsman, Israel

Non-voting Members

Gerry Dawson, United Kingdom, *Co-opt Member*
Joop van Gerven, the Netherlands, *Co-opt Member*
Astrid Linthorst, United Kingdom, *Chair Scientific Programme Committee 29th, 30th, 31st ECNP Congress*
Andreas Meyer-Lindenberg, Germany, *Editor-in-Chief European Neuropsychopharmacology*
Mark J. Millan, France, *Co-opt Member*
Andreas Reif, Germany, *Chair Scientific Programme Committee 32nd, 33rd, 34th ECNP Congress*
Alexander Schubert, the Netherlands, *Executive Director*

R&S Board 2016-2019

Celso Arango, Spain, *Chair*
Gitte Moos Knudsen, Denmark, *Secretary*
Eduard Vieta, Spain, *Treasurer*

The ECNP mission – Who we are

**ECNP was founded in 1987 to advance the science of treatments for disorders of the brain.
That remit continues to be at the heart of all of the organisation's activities.**

The principles that drive this mission remain equally central: excellent science, rigorous governance, financial independence, and commitment at all times and in every way to the larger public good.

Today ECNP is a network of leading applied and translational neuroscience researchers that spans Europe, and beyond. The larger community of psychiatrists, neuroscientists, psychologists, neuro-biologists and neurologists that attend ECNP meetings and regularly interact with the College numbers in the tens of thousands.

ECNP will continue to explore new ways to serve this community and advance brain research in Europe and with it the health of well-being of people around the region and the world.

The importance of doing so can be seen from the scale of the challenge we face. Every year 164.8 million Europeans – almost 40% of the EU population – suffer from a mental disorder. Among all 12-month cases of mental disorders only 2-9% receive minimally adequate treatment – the majority receives no treatment at all¹.

Compared to the magnitude of this need, ECNP is a very small organisation. But our mission is clear, and our commitment total.

Our mission

To advance the science of the brain,
promote better treatment and enhance
brain health.

1) H.U. Wittchen et al., 'The size and burden of mental disorders and other disorders of the brain in Europe 2010', *European Neuropsychopharmacology* 21.9 (2011), 655–679.

The ECNP programme - What we do

ECNP fulfils its mission to improve brain health by propagating high-quality scientific content. It does so to a wide variety of audiences and through a broad spectrum of channels, with three critical areas of focus: ensuring European scientists are equipped with the latest and best research findings in applied neuroscience; ensuring junior scientists are prepared for their research, clinical and professional careers; and ensuring that key stakeholders, including the regulatory community, policy-makers, patients and the public, have access to robust, evidence-based information and guidance.



EXCELLENT SCIENCE

Science is at the heart of the ECNP mission, and the College continues to lead the field as Europe's premier platform for outstanding applied and translational neuroscience.



ECNP Congress

ECNP's oldest and still most powerful vehicles for diffusing outstanding science are the ECNP Congress and the ECNP journal, *European Neuropsychopharmacology*.



The 30th ECNP Congress was held in Paris on 2-5 September 2017. The congress attracted 4,784 participants from 97 countries, with 255 speakers in 86 sessions. No other event in the world presents such a rich array of treatment-related brain research of such high quality.

As well as showcasing the latest research on brain science and emerging treatment horizons, the congress also fulfils a vital educational function by providing a way for clinicians to learn about therapeutic trends and options, and a medium for dialogue with the pharmaceutical industry. This dual function was served by nine satellite symposia, four expert science exchanges and an exhibition.

An additional, key priority of the congress is to help less advantaged researchers and clinicians to stay up to date with the scientific knowledge and make use of the opportunities at the congress. To this end, 470 free registrations were given and € 52,000 awarded in travel awards and subsidies to junior scientists and participants from developing-economy countries (CDE).



AWARDS AND SUBSIDIES

- 433 free registrations for junior scientist poster presenters
- 37 free registrations for CDE poster presenters
- 10 Seminar Awards of € 1,000 each to selected ECNP Seminar participants
- 40 Travel Awards of € 500 each for outstanding junior scientist poster abstracts
- 8 Poster Awards of € 500 each to outstanding posters
- 36 CDE Grants of € 500 each for exceptional CDE abstract submitters

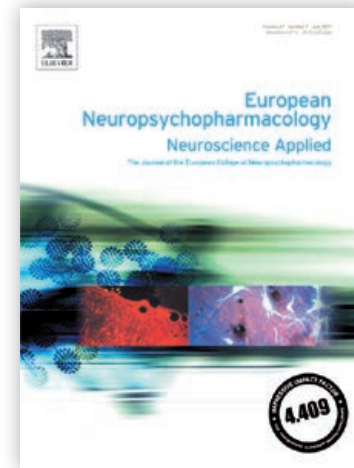
SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME COMMITTEE OF THE 30TH ECNP CONGRESS 2017

- Astrid Linthorst, United Kingdom, *chair*
Gil Zalsman, Israel, *chair Educational Committee*
Andreas Meyer-Lindenberg, Germany, *editor-in-chief European Neuropsychopharmacology*
Nicoletta Brunello, Italy
Suzanne Dickson, Sweden
Kevin Fone, United Kingdom
Philip Gorwood, France
Lucianne Groenink, the Netherlands
Shitij Kapur, United Kingdom
Evgeny Krupitsky, Russia
Carmen Moreno, Spain
Florence Noble, France
Marie-Claude Potier, France
Andreas Reif, Germany
Eduard Vieta, Spain
Guido van Wingen, the Netherlands

European Neuropsychopharmacology

European Neuropsychopharmacology continued to publish a broad spectrum of outstanding research from around the world.

Editor-in-chief Andreas Meyer-Lindenberg has successfully taken the journal beyond its neuropsychopharmacological base to encompass the full range of applied and translational neuroscience. The journal, with an impact factor 4.239, is in the top quartile of journals in clinical neurology (34/194), the neurosciences (62/248), pharmacology and pharmacy (40/256), and psychiatry (27/142).



2017 saw the introduction of a promising collaboration with the International Society of Psychiatric Genetics (ISPG), with the publication as special issues of abstracts from the 23rd and 24th World Congresses of Psychiatric Genetics (WCPG).

EDITORIAL BOARD

Andreas Meyer-Lindenberg, Germany, *editor-in-chief*
Michael Davidson, Israel
Jaanus Harro, Estonia
Rafael Maldonado, Spain
Brian Morris, UK
Andreas Reif, Germany
Thomas. G. Schulze, Germany
Eduard Vieta, Spain

ECNP Networks

The ECNP Networks marked in 2017 their tenth anniversary. There remains nothing quite like them in Europe: virtual, multi-centre European research clusters for the collection and aggregation of continent-wide clinical data.

The power of these networks is demonstrated by the many European grants they have won – and continue to win. In 2017 grants were obtained by the ADHD Network, the Bipolar Disorders Network, the Child & Adolescent Network, the Down Syndrome and Other Genetic Developmental Disorders (DSG2D) Network, the Preclinical Data Forum, and the Traumatic Stress Network, with several more major proposals in the pipeline.



Since 2007 the programme has expanded to include 13 Networks, and implemented the GRIDSAM multi-grid database system for integrating Network data sets and facilitating more efficient data management and exploitation. While the goals of the Networks initiative have stayed unchanged, ongoing thought is being given to how to ensure they remain optimally adapted to the ever-shifting nature of the science and the changing structure of the European Union's framework programmes.

To this end, sessions were held at the 30th ECNP Congress to clarify future goals and stimulate further collaborative bids. The result was the institution of Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) as a way to extend Network activities by providing more flexible, collaborative combinations across existing Networks.

ECNP NETWORKS BOARD

Gitte Moos Knudsen, Denmark, *chair*
Nic van der Wee, the Netherlands, *scientific co-ordinator*

ECNP NETWORKS TASKFORCE

ADHD: Barbara Franke, the Netherlands; Andreas Reif, Germany
Anxiety Disorders (ADRN): Borwin Bandelow, UK; Katharina Domschke, Germany
Bipolar Disorders (ENBREC): Michael Bauer, Germany; Lars Kessing, Germany;
Ole Andreassen, Norway
Child and Adolescent Neuropsychopharmacology: Alessandro Zuddas, Italy;
Carmen Moreno, Spain
Down Syndrome and Other Genetic Development Disorders (DSG2D):
Marie-Claude Potier, France; Mara Dierssen, Spain
Experimental Medicines: David Nutt, UK; Gerry Dawson, UK
Neuroimaging: Hilleke Hulshoff Pol, the Netherlands; Nikolaos Koutsouleris, Germany
Nutrition: Suzanne Dickson, Sweden; Roger Adan, the Netherlands
Obsessive Compulsive and Related Disorders (OCRN): Naomi Fineberg, UK;
Dick Veltman, the Netherlands
Preclinical Data Forum: Anton Bespalov, Germany; Thomas Steckler, Belgium
Schizophrenia: Silvana Galderisi, Italy; Dieter Naber, Germany
Suicide: Danuta Wasserman, Sweden; Vladimir Carli, Sweden
Traumatic Stress : Eric Vermetten, the Netherlands; Joseph Zohar, Israel

ECNP funds the Networks' expenses, including meeting and administrative charges, and provides grants for proposal preparation.

Targeted Network Meetings

A by-product of the Networks are the annual Targeted Network Meetings (TNMs), aimed at facilitating interaction between ECNP Networks and expert specialists, in order to encourage multidisciplinary approaches.

The meetings are held in conjunction with the ECNP Congress. In 2017 there were three:

- **Child and Adolescent Neuropsychopharmacology Network** – Emotional lability in mood and behaviour as a potential target for pharmacological intervention
- **Neuroimaging Network** – Personalised medicine: stratification in psychiatry based on imaging genetics
- **Schizophrenia Network** – Schizophrenia: beyond dopamine and psychosis

ECNP provides the meeting facilities and funds for nine speakers per TNM.

Neuroscience-based Nomenclature (NbN)

The Nomenclature project is a global initiative designed to address a longstanding, stubborn and widely recognised weakness in the science of treatments for disorders of the brain: the way medications are denominated is based on indications, not underlying mechanisms.

The consequence is a system that confuses patients and makes it more difficult for clinicians to reach informed decisions. ECNP, in collaboration with the other leading international scientific societies in the field², set out to fix it.



By applying the latest neuroscience knowledge and insight in this way, the project is an outstanding realisation of the College's diffusionary mission, with significant potential benefit to every clinician and patient in the field. In terms of its reach, scale and impact, it is one of the most important projects ECNP currently organises.

2017 saw the release of the second edition, with 130 compounds now included. Downloads of the smartphone application had by year end tipped the 20,000 mark – approximately 10% of all psychiatrists in the world.

All the expenses related to developing the NbN have been covered by ECNP.

2) The American College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ACNP), Asian College of Neuropsychopharmacology (AsCNP), International College of Neuropsychopharmacology (CINP), and International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (IUPHAR).

NBN TASK FORCE

Joseph Zohar, Israel, chair
Pierre Blier, Canada
Filippo Drago, Italy
Guy Goodwin, UK
David Kupfer, USA
Hans-Jürgen Möller, Germany
David Nutt, USA
Stephen Stahl, USA
Hiroyuki Uchida, Japan
Shigeto Yamawaki, Japan

ECNP Neuropsychopharmacology Award

The 2017 award, this year for basic science, in keeping with the award's basic/clinical alternation, went to Michel Hamon, France, in recognition of his decades-long career of ground-breaking research on the characterisation of serotonin and its receptors.



The award came with a prize of € 10,000. Michel Hamon gave his ECNP Neuropsychopharmacology Award lecture at the 30th ECNP Congress on 'A journey into serotonin: 40 years of discoveries and surprises'.

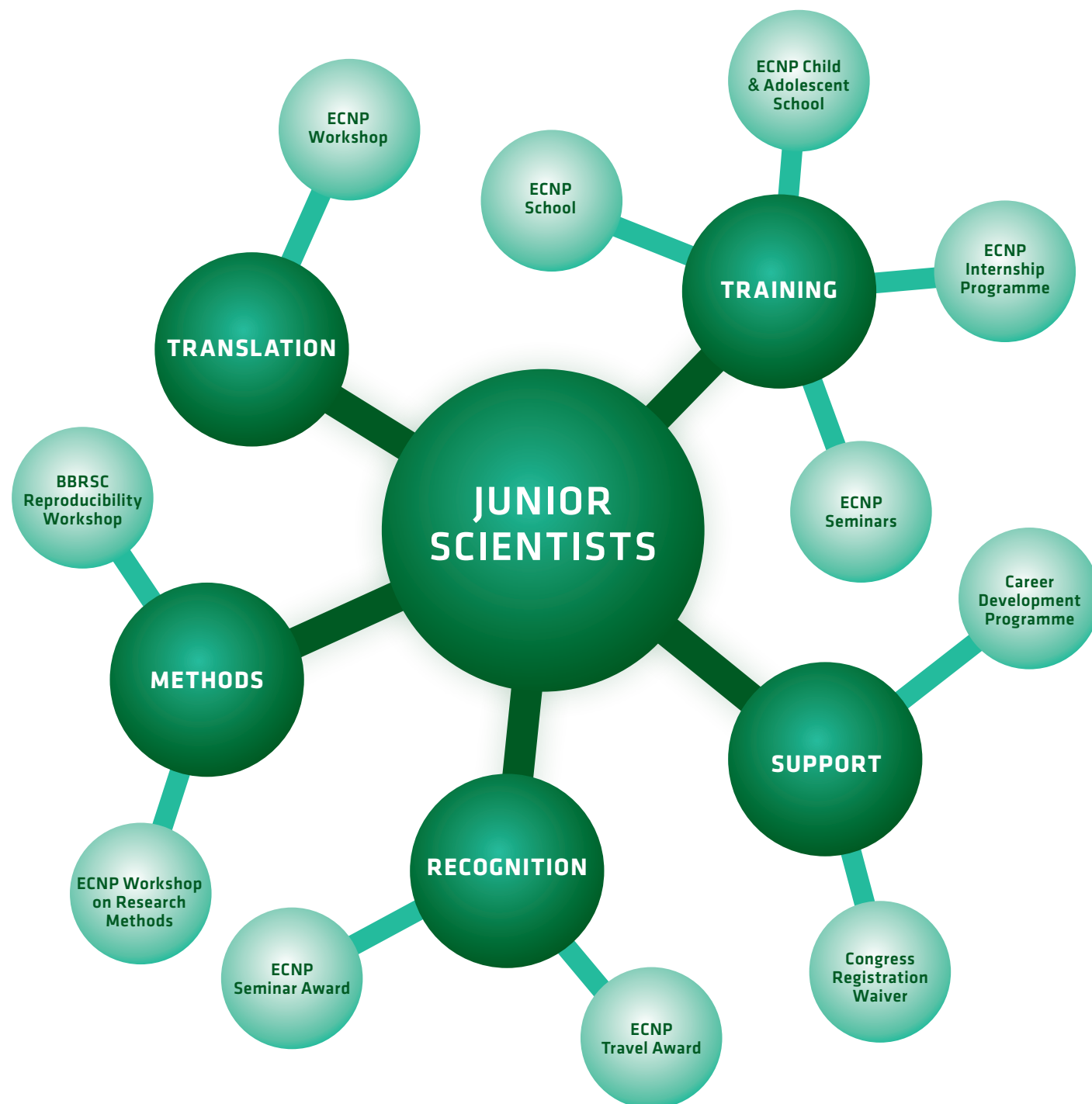


2017 AWARD COMMITTEE

Andreas Meyer-Lindenberg, Germany, chair
Monica DiLuca, Italy
Raquel Gur, USA
Wim van den Brink, the Netherlands

JUNIOR SCIENTISTS

The promotion of junior scientist education remains a critical ECNP priority. Three areas in particular have been identified as priority areas of attention: translational research, the use of psychiatric medications, and career development. Within these, special care is given to ensuring junior scientists from Eastern Europe are represented.



The ECNP Workshop



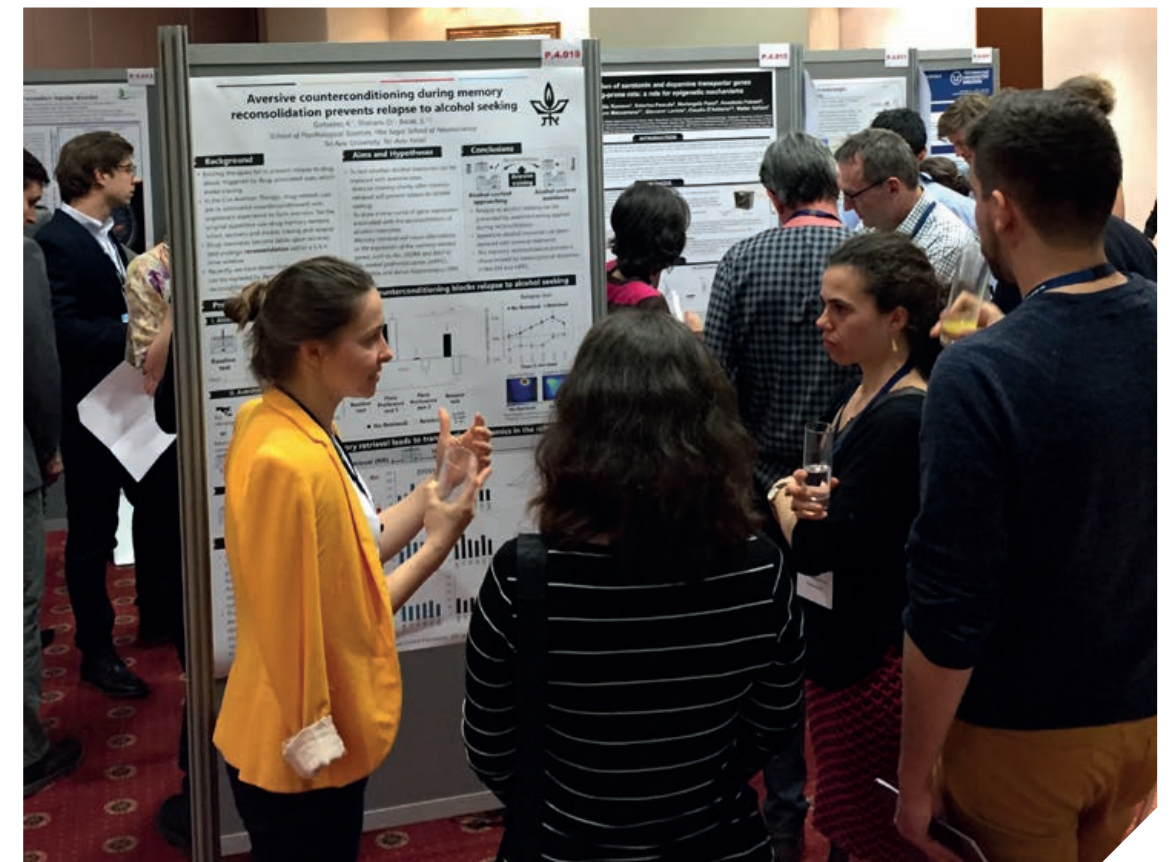
The three-day ECNP Workshop remains one of ECNP's most important educational activities, unique in Europe for the focus it gives to translational neuroscience, its international orientation, the quality of its faculty, and the close contact it affords between students and experts.

The 2017 Workshop took place on 9-12 March in Nice, France. Its 11 speakers came from eight countries, with the keynote lecture being delivered by Heidi Johansen Berg, United Kingdom, on imaging and stimulating adaptive brain plasticity.

Of 194 abstracts submitted, 99 participants were selected, representing 23 countries. Eight junior scientists were also selected to speak at the 30th ECNP Congress in Paris during the New Findings symposium.

For all of those selected, there was no registration fee and accommodation and food were covered by ECNP, and travel costs heavily subsidised.

"I would like to thank you for accepting me to this great Workshop. During these days I was able to interact with really important and enthusiastic professors/researchers that gave me an overall prospective on different research fields."



WORKSHOP COMMITTEE

Martien Kas, the Netherlands, chair
Roger Adan, the Netherlands
Elisabeth Binder, Germany
Suzanne Dickson, Sweden
Katharina Domschke, Germany
Catherine Harmer, United Kingdom
Jaanus Harro, Estonia
Marin Jukic, Sweden
Gitte Knudsen, Denmark
Oscar Marin, Spain
Mark Millan, France
Andreas Reif, Germany

“I would like to begin by congratulating the ECNP Workshop organisers for putting together a wonderful programme. I found my weekend in Nice to be incredibly insightful and inspiring with regard to wanting to improve the quality of my group’s scientific production and to expand the scope of our research.”



ECNP Workshop on Clinical Research Methods



Now in its third year, the three-day workshop fills a critical gap in the training of many young clinicians, including psychiatrists and clinical psychologists, by introducing them to the techniques and methodologies of clinical research.

The 2017 Workshop took place on 8-10 November at the Hospital Clinic of the University of Barcelona. More than 130 applicants applied, of whom 29 were selected – an indication of both the quality of the meeting and the demand.

Led by ECNP Treasurer Eduard Vieta, the Workshop provides practical interactive sessions on research in psychopharmacology, non-pharmacological research, how to read and write a scientific paper, and how to start a successful scientific project and career.

“I really enjoyed taking part in the Workshop and learned a lot! It was very interesting to get a direct insight into this kind of research and the publication of it. With the very comprehensive subjects from literature search to statistics, dealing with reviewers and ethical issues, the programme was very informative!”



All organisation costs, including speaker travel and accommodation costs, were met by ECNP. There was no registration fee, and participant hotel accommodation and meals were also provided by ECNP. Two CDE travel subsidies were available for participants that requested financial support.

“The Workshop gave me a great overview of how to critically assess both clinical research projects and publications, definitely encouraging me to try myself in the field.”

ECNP School

The ECNP School was launched to instruct future clinical leaders in the clinical applications of neuroscience, with a particular emphasis on the best practice use of psychotropic medications.

The 2017 School was held on 25-30 June in Oxford, England. Of the 128 applications, 47 participants were selected, representing 30 countries. 13 faculty members came from seven countries.

Once home, the participants were responsible for cascading their learnings from the School to colleagues and practitioners around their countries.

Organisation costs, including venue, speaker hotel and travel expenses, participant accommodation costs and food, were entirely covered by ECNP. There was no registration fee, and for those resident in a country with a developing economy (CDE) a CDE travel subsidy was made available to support travel expenses.



“The Oxford school went off under glowering skies this year. As ever it was a terrific experience for all of us who attended it. The contribution of the speakers and the participants themselves was stellar. The poster session on the Monday evening worked very well as an introduction to everyone’s professional lives. There was a very constructive concluding feedback which will help us think through modernisation of our teaching methodology in future years.”

Guy Goodwin, United Kingdom
Chair ECNP School of Neuropsychopharmacology



“It was an amazing experience, we learned so many new things, shared so many experiences, brainstormed with each other, made new friends. We’ll have great memories for a long time.”

ECNP School of Child and Adolescent Neuropsychopharmacology



The ECNP School of Child and Adolescent Neuropsychopharmacology, following the annual Oxford School model (page 22), offers a week-long residential programme of intensive training focused on encouraging excellence in clinical neuropsychopharmacology among child and adolescent psychiatrists.

The 2017 School took place on 2-7 April, in Venice, Italy, with 49 participants from 28 countries, and 19 faculty.

The programme co-ordinator was Alessandro Zuddas, Italy.

Five CDE grants of € 500 each were given to the participants.



“It was a great experience, getting new knowledge and sharing experiences and also leading to new approaches not only in psychopharmacology but also diagnoses and latest researches. It was an intensive week of learning and getting in touch with early trainees across Europe.”

ECNP Seminars

The Seminar, as one of ECNP's oldest continuous initiatives, draws upon a tested formula: two-and-a-half days of concentrated teaching and exchange with local and international experts.

Each Seminar is country-specific, and intended for those European countries whose researchers and practitioners have limited opportunities to attend international meetings. ECNP covers all associated costs, including speaker expenses, with the exception of student travel.

Seminars in 2017 were:



23-25 March, Marija Bistrica, Croatia

Local co-ordinator: Miro Jakovljevic

Seminar leader: Avi Avital

ECNP experts: Guy Goodwin, Istvan Bitter

Local experts: Martina Rojnić-Kuzman,
Alma Mihaljevic-Peles, Igor Filipčić

Number of participants: 33



20-22 October, Tbilisi, Georgia

Local co-ordinator: Eka Chkonia

Seminar leader: Gil Zalsman

ECNP experts: Avi Avital, Carmen Moreno

Local experts: Eka Chkonia,
Fuad Ismayilov, Armen Melik-Pashayan

Number of participants: 32



3-5 November, Tâncăbești, Romania

Local co-ordinators: Liana Kobylinska, Andra Isac

Seminar leader: Avi Avital

ECNP experts: Dina Popvic, Rene Hurlemann

Local experts: Jurma Anda, Iuliana Dobrescu,
Viorel Lupu

Number of participants: 45



10-12 November, Nicosia, Cyprus

Local co-ordinator: Anna Polyniki

Seminar leader: Avi Avital

ECNP experts: Mark Weiser, Joseph Zohar

Local experts: Anna Polyniki, Elena Palazidou,
Stelios Georgiades

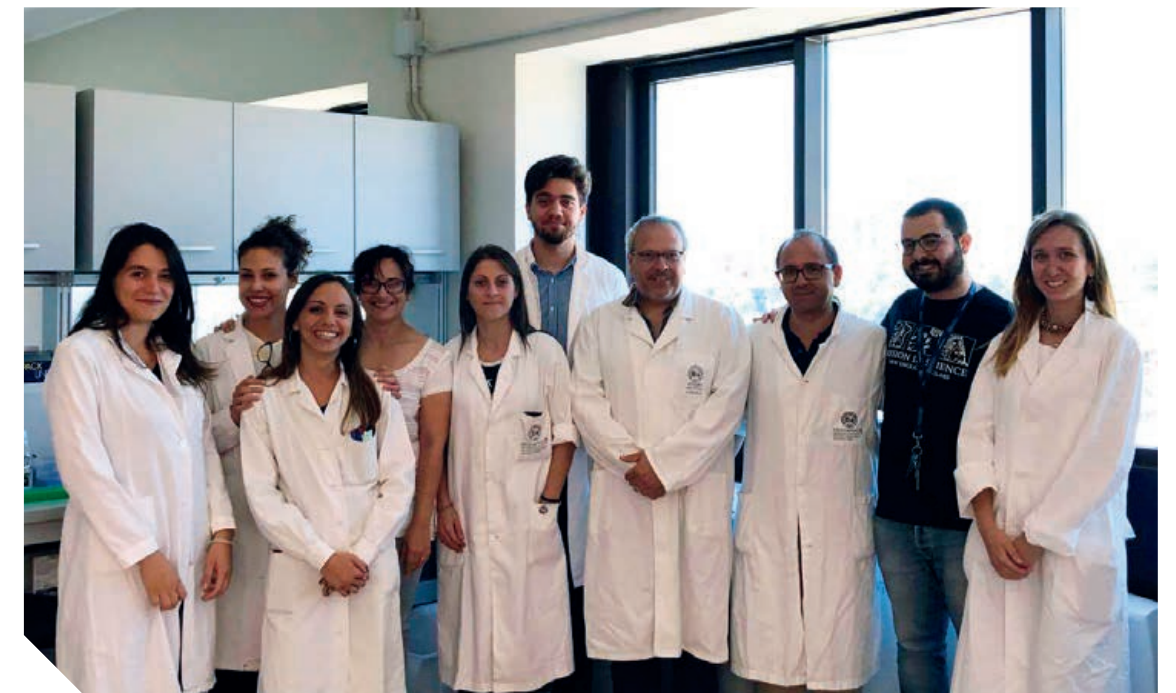
Number of participants: 26

ECNP Internship Programme

A highly popular and successful initiative, the ECNP Research Internship programme provides a means for junior scientists to spend two weeks experiencing a laboratory in another country, supervised by an ECNP fellow.

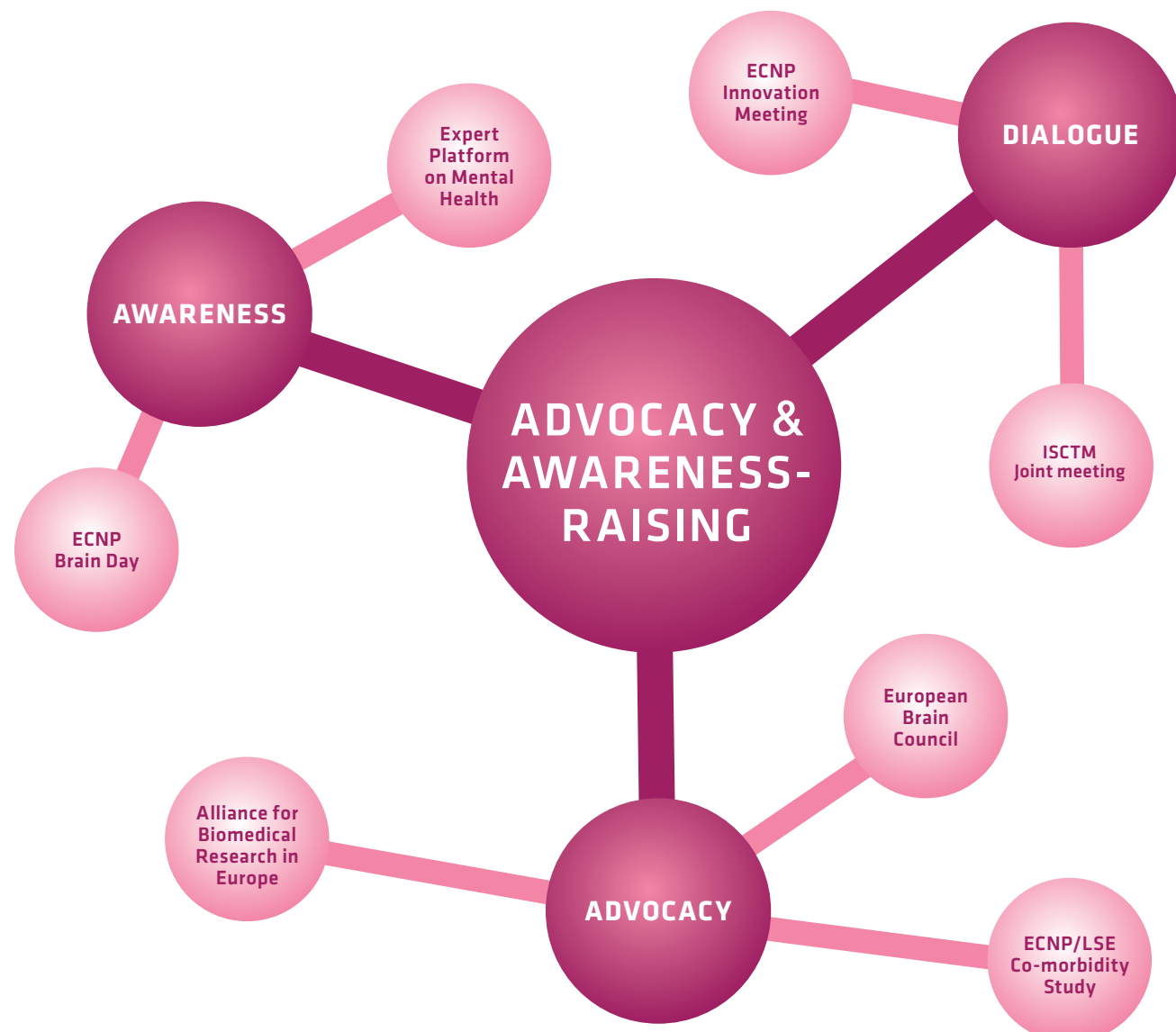
Launched in 2014 with 10 interns, the programme currently accepts 15 annually. ECNP provides travel funding for the intern, and a small grant to the host institution.

New in 2017, four of the 15 places are now dedicated to peer-to-peer exchange, with selection by the chair of the Educational Committee via a 'speed dating' session at the 30th ECNP Congress in Paris to match clinical and preclinical candidates. The two pairs of junior scientists will visit each other's lab/clinic with funding from ECNP.



ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS-RAISING

Encouraging dialogue across the constellation of research and development – to facilitate exchange and interaction, grounded in high-quality evidence-based science – is not only implicit in ECNP’s original mission, but a clear necessity at a time when deficits in communication, alignment, and understanding are threatening to do long-term damage to European neuroscience. ECNP is addressing this challenge across a variety of key nodal points.



ECNP New Approaches to Psychiatric Drug Development Meeting

The topic of the 2017 spring innovation meeting was new approaches to psychiatric drug development, held in Nice, France, on 12-13 March.

Organised by Executive Committee members Martien Kas and Joep van Gerven, the meeting brought together key players in the field on an invitation-only basis to explore new ways for neuroscientists, clinicians, industry, regulators and patients to collaborate on bridging the translational gaps between novel targets, CNS functions and clinical phenomena, in order to exploit advances in neuroscience to further psychiatric drug development.

10 speakers tackled key issues in the field, with 73 participants from 20 countries joining the discussion. There was no registration fee, and meeting costs – including speaker travel and accommodation expenses – were met by ECNP.

A ‘New approaches to psychiatric drug development’ session was held at the 30th ECNP Congress in Paris, and a report of the meeting is due to appear in *European Neuropsychopharmacology*.

New approaches to psychiatric drug development

12-13 March 2017, Nice, France

To promote discussions and present ideas on how the gap between 'drugable' central nervous systems targets and psychiatric conditions can be effectively bridged.

Interested? Mail nice2017@ecnp.eu

TALKS BY INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS
Speakers already confirmed:

Wayne Drevets Janssen Research & Development, USA
Catherine Harmer University of Oxford, UK
Patricio O'Donnell Pfizer, Inc., UK
Hugh Marston Eli Lilly and Company Limited, UK
Martien Kas RUG, The Netherlands
Joop van Gerven CHDR, The Netherlands

SESSION ON

Lecture 1: Setting the stage for drug development in psychiatry
Lecture 2: Stepwise approaches to drug development in psychiatry

ECNP neuroscience applied



ECNP-International Society for CNS Clinical Trials and Methodology (ISCTM) Joint Meeting

2017 saw the second joint meeting with the ISCTM, now a biennial event, just before the 30th ECNP Congress in Paris. The meeting was attended by over 150 researchers, industry experts and regulators from around the world.

Topics covered some of the most intractable challenges in CNS drug development, including hard outcomes in treatment studies, translation and cultural adaptation in multinational CNS trials, and the role of negative symptoms.

The success of the meeting reflects the status it has already established as an essential forum for identifying and discussing key problems inhibiting the development of new medications for disorders of the brain. A third joint meeting is planned for the 32nd ECNP Congress in Copenhagen in 2019.

ECNP Brain Day

The Brain Day is ECNP's most direct channel for reaching the public. Designed to bring the discoveries and excitement of frontier neuroscience to a general audience, the event is held annually in conjunction with the ECNP Congress.



The 2017 Brain Day took place on 1 September at the Conseil économique, social et environnemental (CESE) headquarters in Paris, attracting a full complement of some 200 people. Organised in collaboration with the prominent French mental health foundation Fondation FondaMental, the programme addressed topics such as bipolar disorder, autism, schizophrenia and OCD. Experts in the field, as well as various patient organisations, shared the latest knowledge and exchanged views.



European Affairs

ECNP's European advocacy programme operates a number of European organisations, in which the College is heavily engaged.

ECNP is a founding member of the European Brain Council (EBC), through which it, along with other stakeholder organisations in the European brain area, makes the case for continued funding of brain research. Former ECNP President David Nutt served in 2017 as the EBC president and ECNP Past-president Guy Goodwin served on the EBC board. The Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe (BioMed Alliance), of which ECNP is also an active member, fulfils a complementary function for biomedical research more broadly.

In addition, ECNP continued its support of other key stakeholders on the European level with operational grants to the Global Alliance of Mental Illness Advocacy Networks-Europe (GAMIAN-Europe) and the European Federation of Psychiatric Trainees (EFPT). We also continue to provide secretarial support to the Expert Platform on Mental Health Focus on Depression (EPD), led by former ECNP President Joseph Zohar.



ECNP Co-morbidity Study

ECNP embarked on a major, three-year study with the London School of Economics (LSE) and Medical University of Vienna on the physical co-morbidity of mental disorders, to be funded by ECNP.

The project will for the first time attempt a large-scale quantitative analysis of one of the most significant but also complex and methodologically difficult issues in the epidemiology of mental illness: the extraordinary 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 study is due to be published in 2019.



Membership, Finance, Management

ECNP's assets are multiple, and include first and foremost the goodwill of its volunteer community. The preservation and cultivation of this asset is critical to the College's future. The College is also privileged to have sufficient financial reserves to cushion what have been significant economic fluctuations. The low-return environment expected ahead, combined with the uncertainty in the funding environment, will demand particular care.

Membership

As a member organisation, membership and volunteerism are central to the ECNP Association culture and mission.

Membership is open to all those with an active interest in applied and translational neuroscience. It comes with a variety of benefits, almost all, however, non-material in nature. These include, above all, the chance to participate in ECNP's Europe-wide network of applied neuroscientists, including the ECNP Networks, to propose a Brainstorming Session at the ECNP Congress, to vote (Ordinary Members only) at the General Assembly, and to serve on an ECNP committee and help shape ECNP's future. Tangible benefits include reduced registration fees for the ECNP Congress and free e-subscription to the ECNP journal *European Neuropsychopharmacology*.

As of 31 December 2017, ECNP had a total number of 828 members, from across the world.

ECNP
MEMBER

TOP 10 COUNTRIES

- 1 United Kingdom
- 2 The Netherlands
- 3 Germany
- 4 France
- 5 Italy
- 6 Spain
- 7 USA
- 8 Sweden
- 9 Switzerland
- 10 Israel



Report of the ECNP External Review Board (ERB)

The duty of the ECNP External Review Board (ERB) is to assess continuously not only the quality of the scientific activities, but the whole governance of ECNP.

ECNP EXTERNAL REVIEW BOARD

Hans-Jürgen Möller, Germany, chair

Carlo Altamura, Italy

Naomi Fineberg, UK

Kim Do, Switzerland (replacing Rafael Maldonado who finished his term)

The ECNP External Review Board (ERB) in its current composition took over at the 29th ECNP Congress in Vienna in 2016. We had several meetings in 2017: at the ECNP Office in Utrecht in February; at the ECNP Workshop in Nice in March; and at the 30th ECNP Congress in Paris in September.

Each of these meetings was associated with meetings between the ERB and the ECNP President and/or the ECNP Executive Committee, where the observations and the ideas of the ERB were discussed intensively.

It is outstanding what ECNP offers to the scientific community on different levels: annual congresses; smaller-sized and more targeted meetings, such as the Workshops in Nice and Barcelona, ECNP Schools in Oxford and Venice; the ECNP Networks; the Neuroscience-based Nomenclature project; etc. All of these are on an excellent level and well attended.

The involvement of ECNP in the European Brain Council and other direct contacts to the EU political scene is of the greatest importance for the development of our field, especially in terms of funding.

The whole governance of ECNP is in good order and very effective. ECNP Association is in an outstanding financial situation with a financial background of around € 14 million. The EC has managed to become more and more transparent for the members in terms of budgets and their relation to the complex structure of ECNP and its associated foundations.

The ERB brought forward the following suggestions to the EC:

- ECNP should increase further the focus on gender-balance issues.
- ECNP should develop even more its role as scientific educator for clinicians.
- ECNP should consider the current misfit between the background of the delegates (70% clinicians) and the objectives/activities of the organisation.
- It might be meaningful to give more people access to the ECNP Workshop on Clinical Research Methods and to implement new workshops on new topics, e.g. preclinical research methodology.
- An increased involvement of neurologists and neuroscience-oriented psychologists seems advisable.

In summarising: ECNP is in a very good shape and very powerful. To the understanding of the ERB, none of the other competing societies is comparable with ECNP.

Hans-Jürgen Möller
Chair



Treasurer's report

Overview of 2017

The College finished the year in a strong position, with a net surplus across the two foundations of € 155,983. This exceeded the budgeted loss, largely as a result of better-than-expected returns on the investment portfolios. This remains a recurring challenge. The proportion of the College's income that investment revenue now constitutes, the unpredictability of the global markets, the wide variability of year-on-year returns, and the fact that ECNP and R&S are obliged to prepare their budgets at the end of the preceding year – that is, more than a year in advance – all combine to make accurate forecasting very difficult.

In 2018, however, we expect a less favourable result. R&S will book the fundraising proceeds from the 30th ECNP Congress in Paris, which will be lower, and the investment outlook suggests depressed returns.

Future outlook and forward strategy

The overarching reality that shapes ECNP's financial strategy is the increasingly inhospitable funding environment in which ECNP operates. European neuroscience has historically received the majority of its funding from the pharmaceutical industry. The marked reduction in pharma investment over the last eight years, with many of the world's biggest companies stepping back from the brain area, has reverberated throughout the entire field. Although ECNP does not receive money from the industry directly, it too has inevitably felt the effects as budgets have been cut and resources have contracted. While increased public investment, especially by the European Union, is helping to meet the shortfall at the research end of the spectrum, it can never be a complete substitute. It also leaves unanswered the question of continuing medical education and how this will be organised. Even if industry activity returns to its previous levels, our expectation is that the ways in which funding has been reconfigured are unlikely to be reversed. This is a long-term challenge to which all players in the field are having to adapt.

ECNP is unusually fortunate, however, in that it is able to offset these losses by drawing on its capital reserves. The revenue from these reserves now accounts for fully half of the College's income. This poses additional challenges, given that the volatile nature of the capital markets has seen this revenue stream fluctuate markedly. Budgeting in this environment remains complicated. Longer-term projections suggest increased stability but also lower returns, with an expected rate across the coming decade of some 2-3% per annum. Given ECNP's necessarily defensive investment posture, these rates of return will not be sufficient to meet the College's expenses. In the next three to four years, therefore, ECNP anticipates running a succession of operational deficits.

In the short term this policy will help to address the requirements of the Dutch tax authorities, under whose jurisdiction ECNP falls, to limit its capital position. Complying with this requirement is a critical imperative, and the Executive Committee is planning a number of investments to build current activities and develop new areas of activity. These include the New Frontiers Meeting, a major study on co-morbidity in collaboration with the London School of Economics, a planned small private online course (SPOC), and additional investments in the ECNP Congress.

Longer term, however, if the College is to avoid the erosion of its income base, deficits are clearly not sustainable. The long-term realignment of income and expenditure will have to come through a mixture of rationalisation and prioritisation, combined with the reassignment, where possible, of costs. In particular, the College will be under an increasing obligation to recapture some of the value it has been able in the past to give away for free. ECNP will not be alone in seeking this kind of reorientation – all medical and scientific associations are feeling similar pressure, for the same reasons – so we are confident that the culture change necessary to make it successful will occur. Nevertheless, the transition ahead is formidable.

Eduard Vieta
Treasurer



Annual accounts

ECNP balance sheet as at 31 December 2017 (in €)

(after appropriation of profit/losses)

	31-12-2017		31-12-2016	
ASSETS				
CURRENT ASSETS				
Accounts Receivable				
Debtors	398		144,494	
Amounts owed by other foundations	213,272		190,023	
Taxes	393		–	
Other accounts receivable	248,721		113,495	
		462,784		448,012
Securities		12,409,727		11,997,774
Bank Deposits		2,359,131		2,519,445
		15,231,642		14,965,231
EQUITY				
Other reserves		15,032,103		14,852,490
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Trade creditors	106,157		3,288	
Taxes	–		5,215	
Other liabilities	93,382		104,238	
		199,539		112,741
		15,231,642		14,965,231

ECNP statement of income and expenditure 2017 (in €)

	31-12-2017	31-12-2016
INCOME		
Membership fees	91,604	68,962
Interest and similar income	556,842	1,208,696
Total income	648,446	1,277,658
EXPENSES		
Administration	195,004	180,056
Other expenses	175,408	174,822
Publication	34,508	63,817
Other activities	33,837	114,717
Interest and similar charges	30,076	36,743
Total expenses	468,833	570,155
Net result	179,613	707,503
Appropriation of result		
Other reserves	179,613	707,503

Annual accounts

R&S balance sheet as at 31 December 2017 (in €)

(after appropriation of profit/losses)

	31-12-2017		31-12-2016	
ASSETS				
CURRENT ASSETS				
Accounts Receivable				
Debtors	7,375		2,556	
Amounts owed by congress foundations	213,559		209,912	
Taxes	4,854		–	
Other receivables	109,432		241,095	
Prepayments and accrued income	45,564		56,301	
		380,783		509,864
Securities		8,357,783		8,057,509
Bank deposits		4,873,073		5,121,963
		13,611,645		13,689,336
EQUITY				
Other reserves	13,351,045		13,374,675	
Designated fund	55,506		55,506	
		13,406,551		13,430,181
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Trade creditors	102,028		148,745	
Amounts owed to other foundations and college	53,384		39,134	
Taxes	–		6,490	
Other liabilities	49,682		64,786	
		205,094		259,155
		13,611,645		13,689,336

R&S statement of income and expenditure 2017 (in €)

	31-12-2017	31-12-2016
INCOME		
Proceeds fundraising	444,374	268,197
NbN	94,989	–
Interest and similar income	267,620	869,185
Total income	806,983	1,137,382
EXPENSES		
Meetings and other activities	599,369	835,671
Other expenses	231,244	286,123
Total expenses	830,613	1,121,794
Net result	-23,630	15,588
Appropriation of result		
Other reserves	-23,630	160,082
Designated fund	–	-144,494
	-23,630	15,588

Executive director's report

The ECNP Office sits within its own independent foundation, the Stichting Buro ECNP, subject to the board of that foundation. The Office operates as an agency providing services to ECNP Association, the Research and Scholarship Foundation and the ECNP Congress Foundations.

In 2017 the ECNP Office lost three members of staff, but gained three new ones. Rilana Rahaël joined as our new bookkeeper and office administrator, Vandana Kamath as a communications assistant manager, and Matteo Bason as scientific co-ordinator. All three are new positions that reflect developments in ECNP's ongoing evolution and the Office's efforts to support them.

The strategy of the ECNP Office is two-fold: to provide increased value to the foundations by providing a high level of input and support, in particular to keep ECNP activities aligned with the changing pressures and preferences of our marketplace; and to develop new services and competencies which can defray some of the Office's core costs.

THE ECNP REACH

Message of the President – 16,000 recipients monthly

E-news – 18,500 recipients monthly

Facebook – more than 5,000 followers

Twitter – 1,500 followers

An important new development which serves both these goals is the Office's increasing role in European projects as a dissemination partner. In 2017 the Office acquired two new projects – EQIPD³ and Eat2beNICE⁴, to add to PRISM⁵ – and the billable hours from these projects now account for a sizable proportion of Office time. Rilana, Vandana and Matteo will all work, in part, on the projects' administration and dissemination activities. As well as providing an important service to European consortia, this project work places ECNP at the centre of Europe's most avant-garde neuroscience research undertakings. We will continue to develop it.



The appointment of a scientific co-ordinator brings subject-matter expertise to the Office and will help us to provide more detailed support to ECNP committees, especially the Networks and Scientific Programme Committees of the ECNP Congress.

In a similar vein, the Office continues to insource functions formerly performed by outside suppliers, including bookkeeping and financial management, and, for the ECNP Congress, catering, onsite management stand construction services. This has allowed us to achieve not only greater cost efficiency, but greater quality control.

Alexander Schubert
Executive Director

3) European Quality in Preclinical Data (IMI2), led by Malcolm Macleod, UK, and Thomas Steckler, Belgium.

4) Effects of Nutrition and Lifestyle on Impulsive, Compulsive, and Externalizing behaviours (H2020), led by Alejandro Arias-Vásquez, the Netherlands.

5) Psychiatric Ratings using Intermediate Stratified Markers (IMI2), led by Martien Kas, the Netherlands, and Hugh Marston, UK.

The Office currently employs 13 full-time equivalents.

BOARD OF THE STICHTING BURO ECNP

Celso Arango, chair

Martien Kas, secretary/treasurer

ECNP OFFICE STAFF

Alexander Schubert, Executive Director

Iris Allebrandi, Director Congresses & Meetings

Ellen van den Berg, Director Operations

Ligia Bohn, Senior Project Manager Communication

Godelieve Escartín, Senior Project Manager Congresses & Meetings

Eline Dimmendaal, Project Manager Congresses & Meetings

Annemieke Heuvink, Project Manager Congresses & Meetings

Melinda Spitzer, Project Manager Congresses & Meetings

Corine ten Brink, Project Manager Science & Education

Wendy Schouten, Project Manager Science & Education

Petra Hoogendoorn, Project Manager Science, Education & Communication

Matteo Bason, Scientific Co-ordinator

Vandana Kamath, Assistant Project Manager Communication

Rilana Rahaël, Financial Administrative Assistant

ACTIVITY PER FOUNDATION

ECNP Association Projects and Initiatives

European Neuropsychopharmacology

ECNP Neuropsychopharmacology Award

European Affairs

ECNP Brain Day

European Brain Council, BioMed Alliance

ECNP Co-morbidity Study

R&S Projects and Initiatives

ECNP Workshop Neuropsychopharmacology

ECNP Workshop on Clinical Research Methods

ECNP School of Neuropsychopharmacology

ECNP School on Child and Adolescent Neuropsychopharmacology

ECNP Research Internship Programme

ECNP Seminars

ECNP Networks

Innovation Meeting

Neuroscience-based Nomenclature (NbN)

KEY IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS

ECNP Association

VAT number: NL823523974BO1

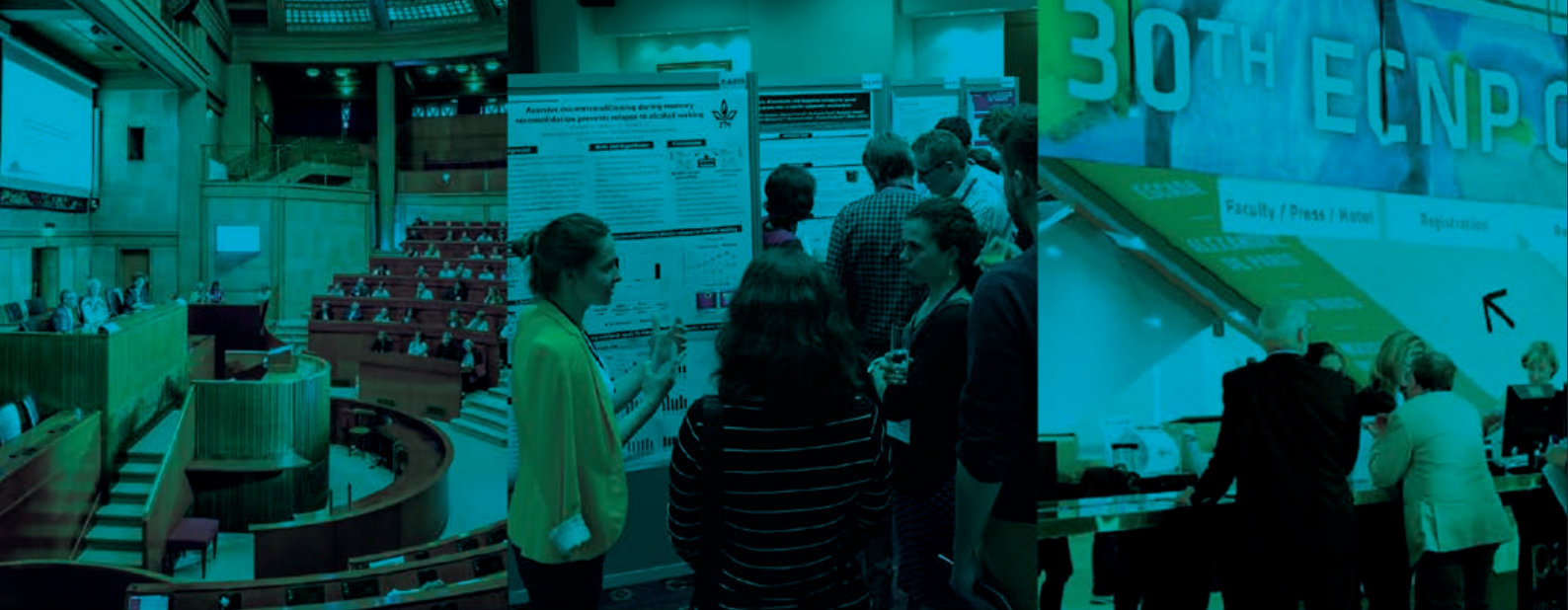
RSIN: 823523974

R&S

VAT number: NL807967087BO1

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