



**International Society of Psychiatric Genetics  
Business Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, October 22, 2020  
4:00 pm – 5:30 pm EDT**

**President's Welcome** - Dr. Thomas G. Schulze welcomed attendees to the meeting. He expressed his gratitude to the current board members for their work over the last two years. He thanked them especially for their work in accomplishing the transition to a virtual meeting along with the help of Parthenon Management Group (PMG), ISPG's society management company.

Dr. Schulze acknowledged the outgoing Board Members and Officers. He will also be leaving the board after 12 years. In the 12 years he has served he has seen the society grow and accomplish so much. The society has become the voice of international psychiatric genetics while establishing new programs like the early career investigator program and several task forces that have now become committees. A new logo was also created during that time.

Dr. Jordan Smoller thanked Dr. Schulze for his leadership and creating financial stability for the society and the ability to adapt to all kinds of circumstances.

**Outgoing Board Members:**

Elliot Gershon  
Margit Burmeister  
Jim Kennedy  
Dan Rujescu

**Outgoing Officers:**

Thomas G. Schulze, President  
Elisabeth Binder, Secretary

He also recognized the new board members and officers:

**Incoming/Reelected Board Members:**

Sarah Bergen  
Lea K. Davis  
Hailiang Huang  
Daniel Mueller  
Andrew McIntosh  
Danielle Posthuma

**Incoming/Reelected Officers:**

Jordan Smoller, President  
Jehannine Austin, Vice President

James Potash, Treasurer  
Naomi Wray, Secretary

**Treasurer's Report** – Dr. James Potash also thanked Dr. Schulze for his critical role in moving the society forward.

A financial summary was given by Dr. Potash. In 2019, the ISPG recorded \$451,563 in net assets. In 2018, the ISPG had \$402,297 in net assets. Overall, Dr. Potash expressed that the society is in a positive position financially. He reviewed that a typical meeting cost each year was approximately \$400,000 - \$450,000. This year the board decided early in the pandemic to shift to a virtual conference where costs were substantially less at \$120,000. He noted that the meeting has been a success in terms of attendance and science shared. He went on to congratulate the program chairs, Elisabeth Binder, Mirko Manchia, Alessio Squassina and Mario Maj for making the meeting a great success. The society was able to provide waived registration to attendees from low and lower-middle income countries which totaled 525 of the almost 1400 attendees. The income from the meeting which included corporate support totaled \$162,000. The revenue from the meeting will be deferred to 2021 to account for membership dues. The society may have a small loss this year but given how much uncertainty there was surrounding how a virtual meeting would go, the society remains in a stable financial position.

**Secretary's Report** – Dr. Elisabeth Binder thanked Dr. Schulze for a great collaborative experience in the last few years. Dr. Binder noted that Dr. Schulze has exerted great leadership and exciting changes have happened within the society and that the Early Career Investigator Program is critical to the society's success.

Dr. Binder congratulated those that participated in the Early Career Investigator Program this year.

- ISPG received 72 ECIP applications from 17 countries this year.
- ISPG funded 22 travel awardees. Ten of those awardees were funded through an NIAAA R-13 Grant.
- Eight Oral Presentation Award Finalists.
- Eleven Poster Presentation Award Finalists.

Dr. Binder thanked the:

- ECIP Committee Members
- ECIP Mentors
- ECIP Oral and Poster Judges

Dr. Binder recognized the:

- ECIP Travel Awardees
- ECIP Poster Finalists
- ECIP Oral Finalists
- Hugh Gurling Award Finalists

Dr. Binder announced the ECIP Poster Awardees:

- **Chiara Fabbri, Italy**  
*Major Depressive Disorder and Treatment-Resistant Depression from UK Biobank Primary Care Data*
- **Michael Lafferty, United States**  
*Genetic Variants Regulating MicroRNA Expression in the Developing Human Neocortex*
- **Douglas Wightman, Netherlands**  
*Largest GWAS of Alzheimer's Disease Implicates Microglia and Immune Cells*

Dr. Binder Announced the Oral Presentation Awardees

- **Alexandre Lussier, United States**

*A Prospective Study of Time-Dependent Exposures to Adversity and DNA Methylation in Childhood and Adolescence*

- **Wouter Peyrot, United States**

*Identifying Loci with Different Allele Frequencies Among Cases of Eight Psychiatric Disorders Using Cc-GWAS*

- **Josefin Werme, Netherlands**

*LAVA: An Integrated Framework for Local Genetic Correlation Analysis*

Dr. Binder announced the Hugh Gurling Awardee

- **Salil Sukumaran, India**

*Damaging Variants in NRG2 and LAMA1 in Bipolar Disorder May Impair Neuronal Migration*

## **Meeting Reports -**

### **2020 Virtual WCPG:**

Dr. Elisabeth Binder thanked the other 2020 WCPG Program Co-Chairs Dr. Mirko Manchia, Dr. Alessio Squassina and Dr. Mario Maj in helping to shift this meeting from an in-person meeting to a virtual conference. She also thanked the board for making bold decisions regarding timing, accessibility, and registration rates. The 2020 WCPG had 1383 registered attendees. She also thanked the Program Committee, IDEA Committee and PGC for their contributions to make the meeting exciting and interactive. She also thanked PMG for being an essential partner in this move to a virtual conference.

Dr. Binder thanked the 2020 WCPG supporters:

- Illumina
- Janssen Neuroscience
- Myriad Neuroscience

### **2021 WCPG Montreal, Quebec, Canada, October 12-17, 2021**

Dr. Jehannine Austin provided a meeting update and confirmed the plenary speakers listed below and one more speaker to be announced. The Co-Chair for this meeting is Gustavo Turecki who is based in Montreal. She acknowledged the 2021 Program Committee who have been very engaged in planning the meeting so far.

- **Elisabeth Binder, MD, PhD**

Director of the Department of Translational Research of the Max Planck Institute of Psychiatry, Munich, Germany

- **Lea K. Davis, PhD**

Assistant Professor of Medicine, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, Tennessee

- **Andrew Jaffe, PhD**

Lead Investigator at the Lieber Institute for Brain Development, Assistant Professor, John's Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland

- **Tadafumi Kato, MD, PhD**

Senior Team Leader and the Deputy Director of RIKEN Brain Science Institute, Japan

- **Sarah Laskey, PhD**

Health Research and Development at 23andMe

Dr. Austin reviewed the important dates below and recognized the uncertainty of whether this meeting would be happening in person. We are planning for an in-person meeting but are also reviewing the idea of another virtual meeting or a hybrid version.

- Abstract Submission and Honorific Awards Open February 2021

- Symposia Abstracts Deadline- April 2021
- Oral and Poster Abstract Deadline - June 2021
- Early Career Investigator Award Applications Deadline - June 2021
- Honoric Award Nominations Deadline- June 2021
- Global Diversity Bank Nominations Deadline – August 2021
- Registration Opens March 2021

## **2022 WCPG Florence, Italy, September 14-18, 2022**

Dr. Jehannine Austin announced the 2022 WCPG will be in Florence, Italy.

### **Discussion of Future Meeting Venues**

Dr. Schulze and Dr. Smoller led the discussion regarding future meeting venues. A goal for the society is to become more global and make the meetings more accessible. The meeting location has a big impact on attendance. Some ideas from attendees are below:

- Southern Hemisphere
- Puerto Rico
- Brazil (many attendees are from this area)
- Australia
- Brisbane in Australia
- New Zealand
- Mexico City
- Latin America
- Country in Africa
- South Africa
- Ethiopia
- Costa Rica
- South India
- Croatia
- Slovenia
- Dubai
- Iceland
- Singapore

Stacey Baker with PMG gave an update on meeting locations that are or have been considered for the WCPG. An issue ISPG faces is meeting space capacity as well as budget. Several locations in Mexico, Costa Rica and South America have been considered but were either too small or were too costly. Dr. Raventos a current board member has provided PMG with additional contacts in Latin America to help facilitate the search. PMG will reach out after the meeting. S. Baker also mentioned that Baltimore as well as other US cities are being considered for the 2023 location. Currently, no countries in Africa have been considered. Dr. Schulze mentioned Marrakech in Morocco as a potential location. PMG will investigate all the suggested locations after the meeting and report back to the board. If members suggest a city, it would be helpful to provide contacts and information about the location that they are suggesting.

Dr. Smoller discussed the structural changes the society made to shift to a virtual conference. How can we retain some of the changes that will allow us to capitalize on accessibility? We had features on the virtual platform this year that were great. We all lost personal contact, but it does seem like we may be able to leverage certain things from this meeting moving into the future.

## ISPG Committee Reports:

**Ethics Committee** – Dr. Gabriel Lazaro-Munoz reported that the committee was formed in 2018 and thanked Dr. Schulze for his work in helping start the committee. The committee is pleased that researchers want to use data in a responsible way. The committee successfully published the Ethics Paper in May 2019 entitled *International Society of Psychiatric Genetics Ethics Committee: Issues facing us*. The committee also presented a symposia session at this year's WCPG. The session was titled, *Into the Wild, The Real-Life Impact of Psychiatric Genetics*. The committee is working on a manuscript on Embryo Screening for Polygenic Conditions and Traits.

**Genetic Testing Committee** – Dr. Francis McMahon provided the committee update. The committee set six goals for this year as outlined below:

1. Complete and submit review articles regarding genetic testing recommendations.  
*The pharmacogenetics paper has been accepted at Pharmacopsychiatry and the Diagnostics Paper is in its final draft.*
2. Update the current genetic testing statement, Including COI statement.  
*This is still needed the last update was in December of 2018.*
3. Developing Joint Priorities with ISPG Committees.  
*The committee is in active discussion with the Education, Ethics, and other committees.*
4. Reaching out to relevant stakeholders  
*Symposium proposal submitted to SOBP for 2021. The committee is looking at other meetings throughout the world.*
5. Active recruitment of relevant experts to committee (e.g. child and adult psychiatrists)  
*The committee is still looking for more clinicians.*
6. Educational Session at WCPG 2020 regarding genetic testing, our statement, and related issues. *The presentation was a success with over 160 participants. The session had a didactic component with breakout sessions afterwards where more discussion took place.*

Dr. McMahon will be rotating off as chair and welcomed Dr. Franziska Degenhardt as the new chair of the committee. He also thanked Dr. Schulze for his leadership.

**Global Diversity Committee** – Dr. Chunyu Liu will be rotating off as Chair and Dr. Soraya Seedat will be taking over as Committee Chair. Dr. Liu thanked the board for the waived registration to participants from medium and low-income countries. There were many participants from these countries and nine new countries are represented mostly from Africa. Dr. Liu thanked all committee members for spreading the information about waived registration. He recommended a training program for data analysts/bioinformaticians in those under-represented regions. He also asked that the free registration program continue and that recorded sessions and virtual conference opportunities still take place even when physical meetings resume.

**Residency Education Committee** – Dr. Gwyneth Zai thanked Dr. Schulze and Dr. Nurnberger for their work and leadership on the committee. Dr. Zai recognized Dr. Aaron Besterman as the Committee Co-Chair. The objective of the committee is promoting education in psychiatric genetics across psychiatry residents, practicing psychiatrists and other practitioners. The committee hopes to provide and publish updates to the published committee papers. Dr. Zai reviewed the key points below:

What should a psychiatrist know about genetics?

- Basic principles of medical genetics

- Family studies and heritability
- Common genetic variants
- Rare genetic variants
- Epigenetics/gene expression
- Pharmacogenetics/pharmacogenomics
- Ethical and social issues
- Principles of risk communication

The committee has been promoting psychiatric genetics through international outreach with presentations, workshops, and courses. The committee has collaborated with other ISPG committees the Inter-Society Coordinating Committee for Practitioner Education (ISCC-PEG) and the Psychiatric Genetics Consortia (PGC) Outreach Committee to develop teaching tools for low-income countries and to teach trainees on these psychiatric genetics' topics and help them find resources.

The future direction on the committee is to continue to provide updates on the field of psychiatric genetics to residents, clinicians, and allied health professionals. As well as to disseminate this important information to international trainees and practitioners. The committee will also develop more online modules and utilize and promote what is already currently out there. The committee will also work to standardize the minimum requirements for psychiatry residents to develop competency in psychiatric genetics. Dr. Zai thanked the committee members for their hard work.

**IDEA Committee** – Dr. Schulze welcomed Jehannine Austin the incoming Vice President and Ben Neale to provide the update for the IDEA Committee. Dr. Schulze recognized that waived registration for this year's WCPG was suggested by Ben Neale.

The IDEA Committee stands for Inclusion, Diversity and Equity in Action Committee and was formed by Naomi Wray. The committee created a statement of Inclusivity in 2019 that is on the ISPG website. The society statement on Racism, Diversity and Equity created this year is also posted on the website. The committee is working to continually improve and develop in these areas. The committee wanted to make sure we were hearing from the voices within the society that are historically underrepresented in our environment for the plenary session this year. The committee put out a call for individuals who wanted to speak about racism as it related to their professional work.

Ben Neale thanked the speakers who participated in the IDEA Plenary session, Victoria Marshe, Anil Ori and Nancy Sey as well as the co-moderator Rohan Palmer. These speakers speak to many of the lived experienced perspectives that as a society we do not normally highlight or acknowledge.

What actions should we take individually and at a society level to address inclusivity and making sure everyone feels welcome. The committee released a survey to identify potential options for actions based on the five themes below:

- Representation in Studies
  - Diversifying overall genetic studies (clear call to action – ways to facilitate that kind of activity)
  - Lowering the barriers to entry - engage in recruitment and participate in research
- Methods for including all individuals
  - Societal actions we can take as well as individual actions we can take - may serve as blueprints for how we engage with our institutions
  - Concrete resources and roles to be established - how we are organized as a society - how we can boost representation across leadership and authority
  - Hire an anti-racism consultant to assess the structure and policies of the society
  - How we can boost representation across leadership and authority
  - View the meeting at large

- Suggested anti-oppression training for leadership positions within the society - It is something the society should take seriously and keep in mind as we think about our obligations in leadership
- Language use
  - Problematic language and how we address during a meeting were discussed
  - Educational - how do we improve the way we use language?
  - Keep in mind historical context and how this language as originated
  - How do we develop language to communicate and share data with each other?
- Outreach and engagement
  - Integrate our science more tightly into society
  - Building a more inclusive society
  - Making sure all ideas are well represented
- Community building
  - How PI's can foster an environment where underrepresented minorities feel welcome
  - Discuss the potential for affinity groups around shared goals or identities (open or closed) to help process things that are challenging in life - in contrast to doing explicit work for the society

The survey is still open. The committee will be working on a solid plan with the board on how to move forward. The Executive Office will recirculate the survey with the meeting evaluation link.

Dr. DeLisi made an announcement that Deborah Levy from Boston recently passed away. Dr. Schulze initiated a moment of silence in remembrance of Dr. Levy.

Dr. Schulze announced the call for committee membership has been extended until the beginning of November. Please get involved and get engaged.

**Call for New Business** - Dr. Jordan Smoller led the discussion for new business. He suggested that dynamic interplay between members of the society is something we would like to do more of.

Dr. Thomas G. Schulze adjourned the meeting and reminded all about the meeting in 2021 scheduled to be in Montreal, Canada.