

Document Title: **Personal Statement**

Author: Prof. IGOR FILIPČIĆ, MD, PhD. specialist psychiatrist and subspecialist in biological and social psychiatry.



Date Created: 26.05.2023.

Personal Statement

MY CANDIDACY AS WPA ZONE 9 REPRESENTATIVE – FOR REELECTED

As the world leading medical organization, World Psychiatric Association (WPA) have a pivotal and active role in promoting mental health services and research, strengthening the role of the psychiatrist, improving the conditions for psychiatry and assisting the member states in their ambitions.

A critical issue in mental health care, whether it be a local community anywhere in the region or any country in the world, is access to care. My roles as Chief, Chair have given me the opportunity to understand systems of care and education, barriers to access to care, and financial management, amongst other things. I successfully developed solutions to improve access to quality care while garnering resources to address physician and clinicians' professional development and burnout. I have extensive experience in budgeting, finances, and strategic planning for large organizations and program drive an organization, but fiscal integrity and planning are critical to its success. Throughout my career in organized medicine, I have been committed to sowing seeds of advocacy, leadership, and mentorship for our profession and our patients on both a national and international national level.

I am proud to be part of an organization that fights daily for our profession and our patients. We must continue to fight for parity in access to care for our patients and financial resources for quality care. We must fight to end discrimination against those living with mental illness, and fight for equality for all in treatment and opportunity. And we must fight for our profession to be well trained and resourced for the future to provide the very best care.

It is an amazing honor to be a again candidate for the WPA Zone 9 Representative position, and I look forward to the opportunity to earn your support.

If reelected as WPA Zone 9 Representative, I will promote the aims of the WPA according to the Statutes and the By-laws and the Action Plan accepted by the member states at the General Assembly. I will work in full cooperation with the WPA President, General Secretary, Executive Board, Main Board and other structures in the organization.

In period 2020-2023 Zone 9 – WPA several meetings with topics:

Covid pandemic

Number of mental illnesses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of patients in hospitals and those who asked help from a psychiatrist for the first time, it is assumed that the number of psychiatric illnesses has increased 20-30% more than usually. Psychiatric patients should be among the first to be vaccinated against Covid-19. Good side of epidemic in the greater development of telemedicine.

At a time when the Covid-19 epidemic has spread around the world, faced with an increase in the number of infected patients and the development of psychiatric illnesses, and with 2 major earthquakes that hit Croatia in 2020. year were held:

- 3rd Conference Schizophrenia 360 ° with international participation in virtual space from 16 to 17 December 2020.
- 16th Croatian Psychiatric Days with international participation in a virtual way from 25 to 27. November 2020.

Both Conferences were virtually visited by over 250 participants who were able to listen to expert lectures by more than 30 lecturers from Europe, 2 from America, from neighboring countries and Croatia.

Lectures and workshops discussed new treatment options in the challenging period of the Covid-19 epidemic, diagnosis and treatment of psychiatric patients. Participants enjoyed a wide range of discussions in the field of invited experts and sharing examples of good practice of experts from various countries, especially from the region, wanted to continue international cooperation, share modern scientific and clinical knowledge and spread knowledge in the field of psychiatry.

Young Psychiatrists Awards 2020

In 2020, the Section of Young Psychiatrists and Specialists in Psychiatry awarded the annual award for the most active and most successful members of the Section of Young Psychiatrists and Specialists in Science.

Joint Zonal 9 collaboration

1. Number of mental illnesses as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic

Participation in country research to see the results of the consequences of the epidemic and the development of new diseases.

Research to see the results of the consequences of the epidemic physical comorbidities and multimorbidity in chronic mental patients and the consequences on the success of treatment.

2. Detection of physical comorbidities and multimorbidities in chronic mental patients and consequences on treatment success.

Also, detection of physical comorbidities and multimorbidity in chronic mental patients and the consequences on the success of treatment.

Regarding somatic diseases and psychiatric patients, the importance of prevention due to high suicidality, many EU projects are being implemented to prevent it.

3. Study and prevalence of multimorbidity and multimortality in psychiatric patients (Pilot project is currently being implemented at the Psychiatric Hospital "Sveti Ivan")

4. Post COVID-19 mental disorders

Aid to Ukraine

Zone efforts to organize aid to Ukraine.

WPA Member Societies provided direct help to Ukraine. They have helped refugees in the receiving countries with psychiatric aid. Specialized psychiatric services for women and children with a focus on Ukrainian families have been established.

The Polish Psychiatric Association regularly invite the WPA to attend their meetings with the two Ukrainian Psychiatric Associations, as well as with the neighboring European countries' psychiatric associations, to continually discuss the needs regarding humanitarian and medical aid in Ukraine. The transfer to Ukraine

of several medical supplies, including psy-chotropic drugs, was provided by the cen-tral office of Lundbeck in Europe, stimulated by the WPA. A series of medication transports to Ukrainian hospitals, based on the lists provided by the Ukrainian Psychiatric Associations.

Congress

Activities to organize the World Psychiatric Congress in Bangkok Thailand.

WPA thematic congress Tbilisi.

Promotion congress in Vienna 23rd WPA World Congress of Psychiatry in Vienna, Austria.

18th Psychiatric Days of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Involvement of Board members in various committees & working groups.

New zone member

Admission of the Georgian Psychiatric Society to zone 9.

In elected year for some psychiatric societies in zone 9 presentation of new presidents of psychiatric societies and representatives in zone 9.

Report about future activities by the member of societies countries of Zone 9 -Central Europe about improvement of psychiatric care in their countries.

As WPA zone 9 representative, my priorities through a strong partnership with the member states will be again:

- Accelerate and strengthen regional collaboration and cooperation, respecting that open, transparent and continuous partnership with all Zone member states is a prerequisite for the success of WPA
- Strengthen education and research programs, particularly for residents, and early career psychiatrists
- Enhance support to the organization of all scientific events in the region, and joint programs and activities in all field related to psychiatry and wellbeing
- Championing new initiatives and implementing new projects in Zone 9 region, in collaboration with country leaders and institutions
- Support local organizations to achieve “parity of esteem” between mental and physical health, in terms of access to services, quality of care and allocation of resources
- Collaborating with other disciplines in medicine using integrated care models to help improve services and access to care
- Engaged in organization and implementation of mental health reforms in Zone 9, and promoted conceptual and attitudinal change towards community mental health
- Build new alliances with key stakeholders active in the field of mental health, in particular, patient and family organizations and carried out advocacy activities to increase the visibility of the network and raise awareness about the importance of mental health towards the regional institutions
- Engaging communities and forming partnerships with other stakeholders to help reduce misperceptions and stigma associated with mental illness
- Strengthen our organization and promote our profession
- Strengthen our organization and promote our profession