

Document Title: 2024 Annual Report WPA Digital Mental Health Section
Document Type: Annual Report Digital Mental Health Section
Author: Dr. Joan Soler-Vidal and Dr. Davor Mucic
Date Created: May 18th 2025



2024 Annual Report WPA Digital Mental Health Section

Overview

In 2024, the WPA Digital Mental Health (DMH) Section undertook various initiatives to strengthen collaboration, promote research, and support education in the domain of digital psychiatry. Key activities included regular virtual meetings, formation of specialised working groups, preparation of international symposia, and planning for future congresses and webinars.

Key Highlights

1. Section Meetings

Three official online meetings were held in March, July, and December 2024. Each meeting served as a platform for strategic planning, project updates, and international collaboration.

March 2024 Meeting

- Election of meeting date via Doodle poll to maximise participation.
- Reviewed symposium proposals for the **World Congress of Psychiatry**.
- Discussed a potential joint symposium with the **WPA Section of Addiction Psychiatry**.
- Evaluated, but ultimately did not proceed with, a European project on **Artificial Intelligence**.
- Finalised a plan to form **four working groups**: Artificial Intelligence, Telepsychiatry, Mobile Apps, and Ethics & Education.

July 2024 Meeting

- 23 members participated in a survey to join working groups.
- Decision to host one **webinar per working group annually**, each in a separate quarter.
- Tentative webinar schedule established starting in **October 2024**.
- Member selection and open call for further participation.

December 2024 Meeting

- Discussed participation in the **WPA Regional Congress (April 2025, Egypt)**.
- Reviewed a proposal for involvement in the **Colombo Congress, Feb 2025**.
- Explored the feasibility of organizing a **thematic congress**.
- Updates on upcoming webinars by the AI and Ethics & Education groups.
- Progress on **AI and Mobile Apps Guideline** development.
- Engaged in a discussion regarding Australia's plan to **ban social media for minors**.

2. Working Groups & Leadership

The DMH Section successfully formed four specialised working groups. Members were encouraged to volunteer and choose their preferred group.

2.1 Artificial Intelligence

- Notable members: Dr. Sandeep Vohra, Dr. Donald Hilty, Dr. Joan Soler and Dr. Nikolas Gkouvas (leader), and others.
- Scheduled the first webinar in **February 2025**.
- Ongoing development of an **AI & Mobile Apps Guideline**, led by Dr. Donald Hilty.

2.2 Ethics & Education

- Members: Dr. Marcus PJ Tan, Dr. Pinelopi Karaoulani, and others.
- Planning webinar for **June 2025**.

2.3 Telepsychiatry

- Members include Dr. Flávio Dias Silva, Dr. Dutsadee Juengsiragulwit, Dr. Davor Mucic and others.
- Plans are underway for a future webinar in the third quarter of 2025.

2.4 Mobile Apps

- Members are: Dr. S.Singh, Dr. D. King, Dr. L. Pezawas, Dr. S.K. Yates and Dr. Choukri.

3. International Engagement

- Participation in major 2024 and upcoming events:
 - **WPA World Congress, Mexico (Nov 2024)** – Course entitled: “Digital Mental Health: From Telepsychiatry to AI” directed by Dr. Davor Mucic and chaired by Dr. Margaret Isioma Ojeahere, Dr. Nikolas Gkouvas and Dr. Donald Hilty.
 - **WPA Regional Congress, Alexandria (Apr 2025)**.
 - **Digital Innovations Congress, Colombo (Feb 2025)**.
- Initiatives were aligned with WPA's broader mission, considering global and political feasibility.

4. Looking Ahead to 2025

- Continuation and evaluation of quarterly webinars.
- 12th February 2025 Webinar: “From AI Basics to Practice. Ask the Experts”
- June 2025: Organise a joint Webinar together with the WPA Early Career Psychiatrists Section.
- Progress toward a thematic congress.
- Expansion of the AI and Mobile Apps Guidelines, an initiative led by Dr. Donald Hilty.
- Ongoing international collaboration and symposium participation.
- Further exploration of digital policy issues, such as youth access to social media.

5. Acknowledgements

Special thanks to all the working group members, meeting attendees, and collaborators for their contributions in 2024. We hope we can continue advancing together. The section expresses appreciation for the leadership of **Dr. Joan Soler-Vidal** and **Dr. Davor Mucic**, Secretary and Chair of the Digital Mental Health Section, for guiding these initiatives.