



WORLD FEDERATION OF SOCIETIES OF BIOLOGICAL PSYCHIATRY

WFSBP Global Headquarters: Zum Ehrenhain 34, 22885 Barsbuettel, Germany, Phone: +49.40.670.882.90, Fax: +49.40.670.882.91, Email: info@wfsbp.org

Friday, 26 July 2019

Dear Colleagues,

I am honoured and privileged to have the opportunity to serve as the 13th President of the World Federation of Societies of Biological Psychiatry, a position I assumed after the conclusion of the General Assembly at the 14th World Congress of Biological Psychiatry in Vancouver on June 5th, 2019.

My first duty as the President is to inform you that the 14th World Congress of Biological Psychiatry was a resounding success with delegates raving about the excellent quality of the scientific program. All the plenary presentations and debates were outstanding; the delegates were particularly pleased to have the opportunity to hear Dr. Elizabeth Blackburn, a Nobel laureate, speak about her work on telomeres. Experts from around the world presented cutting edge and translational research on a broad spectrum of biological psychiatry topics in symposia, workshops, oral presentations and posters. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to all our plenary and debate speakers and presenters in symposia, workshops and oral sessions for making this event so successful. Thank you very much for being part of our WFSBP community, in leading discussions, sharing insights and networking, for greater worldwide collaboration.



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As we look forward to the 15th WFSBP World Congress of Biological Psychiatry which will be held in the beautiful and charming city of Vienna in Austria from June 27th to July 1st, 2021, I am pleased to announce that Prof. Peter Falkai, Vice-President for the WFSBP, has agreed to take on the role of Chair of the International Scientific Program Committee. He will be assisted by Prof. Michael Berk, Secretary for the WFSBP, as the Co-Chair. I am also delighted to inform you that Prof. Siegfried Kasper, a veteran in organizing international conferences, has agreed to Chair the Local Organising Committee for the World Congress. The call for the submission of proposals for symposia and workshops will go out in the near future and we very much look forward to your contributions to this meeting.

Our National Societies are the foundation of the WFSBP, and as President, I am looking forward to supporting each of these National Societies and the work we can do together in advancing the vision of the WFSBP. The WFSBP executive is keen to support the activities of the National Societies through hosting WFSBP Regional meetings around the world. We therefore, would like the National Presidents of WFSBP affiliated Societies to consider submitting bids to host Regional meetings in their parts of the world.

We are hoping to host a special reception for the ambassadors for the 15th World Congress of Biological Psychiatry in Vienna and we hope that all National Presidents would be willing to take on the role of ambassadors for the Congress and promote the meeting in their regions of the world. As well, we would like to ask the National Presidents to suggest the names of expert colleagues from their regions who might also be willing to be ambassadors for the conference.

I am also pleased to inform you that the Society's journal, the World Journal of Biological Psychiatry, now has an impact factor of 4.04, thanks largely to our Editor-in-Chief Prof. Siegfried Kasper. Prof. Kasper has recently stepped down from this role after 10 years of outstanding service to the journal. It gives me great pleasure to introduce Prof. Dan Rujescu, who has taken on the role of the Editor-in-Chief for The World Journal of Biological Psychiatry, as of July 1st, 2019. We are expecting Dan to further enhance the profile of the journal, and given his vision for the journal, I have no doubt he will succeed.

Our Secretary Prof. Michael Berk has been working diligently to refresh and rejuvenate the WFSBP Task Forces, many of which are now working on guidelines and consensus papers, all of which will contribute to advancing biological psychiatry. We encourage the chairs of all Task Forces to submit proposals for symposia and workshops for presentation at the 15th World Congress of Biological Psychiatry in Vienna.

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Lastly, we are hoping to make some changes to the WFSBP Constitution in order to make the society more efficient and function nimbly. You will receive an email in the near future with a summary of these changes and for your feedback on those changes.

In the coming months, I look forward to meeting our National Presidents and learning more about the National Societies in order to understand how WFSBP can support our affiliated Societies.

Kind regards,

Lakshmi N. Yatham, M.B. B.S., F.R.C.P.(C)

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