



ICOM 2026

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON MOOD DISORDERS

30 April - 03 May 2026- Grand Plaza Hotel - Ljubljana





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SPEAKERS



Fisun Akdeniz
TÜRKİYE



Ole Andreassen
NORWAY



Paolo Brambilla
ITALY



Jonas Eberhard
SWEDEN



Ali Saffet Gönül
TÜRKİYE



Melvin McInnes
U.S.A



Georg Northoff
CANADA



Timuçin Oral
TÜRKİYE



Thomas G Schulze
GERMANY



Alessandro Serretti
ITALY



Leanordo Tondo
ITALY



Marin Veldic
U.S.A



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Fisun Akdeniz / TÜRKİYE

Prof. Dr. Fisun Akdeniz is a psychiatrist and psychotherapist who graduated from Ege University Faculty of Medicine (1990). She completed her psychiatry residency at the same institution and served as a visiting researcher at the National Institute of Mental Health in 1999. In 2003, she earned an MSc in Affective Neuroscience from Maastricht University. She became Associate Professor in 2004 and Professor of Psychiatry in 2011, and has been in private practice since 2015. She has received advanced training in psychodrama, analytic group therapy, CBT, Mindfulness-Based therapies, and ACT.

Prof. Akdeniz has published nearly fifty scientific articles and is the author of two books, including Rapid Cycling and Depression in 100 Pages. She lectures nationally and internationally on depression, bipolar disorder, and women's mental health, and currently practices in İzmir, where she also leads Mindfulness and Self-Compassion workshops.



Ole Andreassen / NORWAY

Received his MD (1993) and PhD (1996) from the University of Bergen and completed postdoctoral training at Harvard Medical School (1998–2000).

He became a specialist in psychiatry at Oslo University Hospital in 2006. He currently serves as Director of the Centre of Precision Psychiatry at the University of Oslo (2024–), Co-Director of the KG Jebsen Centre for Neurodevelopmental Disorders (2020–), and Attending Psychiatrist at Oslo University Hospital. From 2013 to 2023, he was Director of the Centre of Excellence NORMENT. His research focuses on mental and neuropsychiatric disorders, genetic and environmental etiology, imaging genetics, somatic and immunological factors in severe mental illness, and precision medicine. He has received numerous prestigious awards, including the Fridtjof Nansen Award for Excellent Research (2023), and has supervised 42 PhD candidates and 21 postdoctoral fellows.



Paolo Brambilla / ITALY

Medical Doctor and specialist in psychiatry with a Ph.D. in Neuropharmacology and Neurophysiology. He is Full Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Milan and Adjunct Full Professor at the University of Texas Houston. He serves as Director of the Department of Mental Health at Fondazione IRCCS Ca' Granda Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico and Director of the School of Residency in Psychiatry at the University of Milan. He co-chairs the Neuroimaging & Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Sections of the European Psychiatric Association and the Neuroimaging Network of the European College of Neuropsychopharmacology, and is Editor-in-Chief of Minerva Psychiatry and Co-Editor-in-Chief of Journal of Affective Disorders and JAD Reports.

He has authored over 400 peer-reviewed articles and is a leading expert in neuropsychiatry, mood disorders, psychosis, autism, and neuroimaging.



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Jonas Eberhard / SWEDEN

Associate Professor in Psychiatry and Consultant at Lund University, Sweden. He is project manager in the "Severe Mental Illness" research unit and an affiliated researcher at the Birgit Rausing Centre for Medical Humanities. His expertise includes schizophrenia, psychosis, bipolar disorder, depression, adult autism, psychiatric epidemiology, suicidality, and the economic impact of psychiatric treatments.

He is PI of the Self-Reported Psychiatric Symptoms (SRPS) scale project and led a registry study on bipolar subtypes and suicidality (2014–2022). He supervises PhD students and serves on examination and supervision committees at Lund University.



Ali Saffet Gönül / TÜRKİYE

Ali Saffet Gönül joined the Ege University Faculty of Medicine Department of Psychiatry in 2002, where he continued to work in neuroimaging. He became an associate professor in 2004 and within the same year he received training on structural and functional neuroimaging at the Institute of Physics and Biology at the Louis Pasteur University in Strasbourg, with the Charcot Scholarship from the French Government. He worked as a post- doc researcher for one year at Stony Brook University Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences Clinic and Brookhaven National Laboratory in the United States. In 2007, he was appointed as an associate professor of clinical psychiatry in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Mercer University in Georgia, and became a professor in the same department in 2014 Having received 3 poster awards at the European Neuropsychopharmacology Congresses, Dr. Gönül also won the "fellowship" award from the college that organized these congresses in 2003 Dr. Gönül, established the SoCAT (Standardization of Computational Anatomy Techniques for Cognitive

and Behavioral Sciences) neuroimaging laboratory under the Department of Psychiatry at Ege University Faculty of Medicine in 2009 He was appointed as a professor in January 2011 In 2014, he became a Professor of Clinical Psychiatry at Mercer University. Between 2016-2017, he served as the director of Ege University Addiction, Toxicology and Drug Research Institute. He is still continuing his work at Ege University in Turkey and Mercer University in the USA. He is one of the researchers of the the international research community ENIGMA Consortium.



Melvin McInnes / U.S.A

Dr. McInnes, the Thomas B. and Nancy Upjohn Woodworth Professor of Bipolar Disorder and Depression, is the Director of the Heinz C. Prechter Bipolar Research Program, leading a team of over 30 faculty and staff with several projects focused on bipolar disorder.

Dr. McInnes is active in community outreach and educational programs. Furthermore, he is the Associate Director for Research at the University of Michigan Depression Center.

Dr. McInnes trained in Canada, Iceland, London (UK), and Baltimore (Johns Hopkins University). He is an internationally recognized expert in bipolar and depressive disorders.

Dr. McInnes is actively involved at the university in mentoring junior faculty and research staff on clinical translational research in bipolar disorder. In addition to his clinical, research, and mentoring roles, Dr. McInnes has authored 270 scientific publications, and has received federal research funding for the past 25 years. He is an active reviewer for top ranked scientific journals.



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Georg Northoff / CANADA

Georg Northoff, MD, PhD is EJLB-CIHR Michael Smith Chair in Neurosciences and Mental Health and holds a Canada Research Chair for Mind, Brain Imaging and Neuroethics at the University of Ottawa Institute of Mental Health Research. He completed his initial training in medicine/psychiatry and philosophy in Germany. Dr. Northoff's previous academic positions included Professorships at the University of Magdeburg, Germany, and Harvard University, U.S.A. With over 100 scientific publications, his current focus is predominantly on the self – having developed the concept of cortical midline structures. Experimental research within his unit focuses on the functional and biochemical mechanisms underlying our sense of self in both healthy subjects and psychiatric patients. In addition to neuroimaging, he also focuses on neuroethical issues. Finally, these issues converge nicely with his deep standing interest in the discipline of neurophilosophy. He is considered one of the main founders from the European-continental side, as is illustrated by several papers and books including "Philosophy of the Brain" (2004). His latest book about the self is aimed at a general audience in which he frames the latest neuroscientific results and neurophilosophical reflections into the framework of a mystery novel.



Timuçin Oral / TÜRKİYE

E. Timuçin Oral is in private practice since retiring after a 23 years of work as a psychiatrist at Bakırköy State Hospital for Psychiatric & Neurological Diseases and 6 years as a professor in the psychology department of Istanbul Commerce University. He, after graduating from Uludağ University Faculty of Medicine, worked for two years as a qualified medical practitioner. After becoming a psychiatrist in 1990 and an Associate Professor in 1995, he continued his studies mainly on mood disorders in general psychiatry. He has 50 articles and more than hundred presentations, editorship in two monograph series and has authored two book sections and he is the co-author of the "Mood Disorders" book in "Biological Psychiatry in Research and Clinical Applications" series. He has taken place in the review boards of all psychiatry journals published in Turkey and translation editor of two books on mood disorders. He was elected as the member of the National Executive Board and as the president of Istanbul Branch of the Turkish Psychiatric Association for two terms. He is also the past president of the Mood Disorders Section of the association. He is the member of the executive board of Turkish Bipolar Disorders Society, and board of councilors of The International Society for Bipolar Disorders. He had been teaching as a contracted lecturer at Yeditepe University, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry as well as in Doctorate Classes of İstanbul Bosphorus University Clinical Psychology Section. Lastly, he served as the 10th president of the Psychiatric Association of Turkey during 2016-2018.



Thomas G Schulze / GERMANY

Dr. Schulze is the Chairman and Director of Institute for Psychiatric Phenomics and Genomics, LMU in Munich and a Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the State University of New York.

His research has focused on genetic epidemiology and the genotype-phenotype relationship in psychiatric disorders. He coordinates a German-wide center grant on longitudinal psychosis research and spearhead an international study on the genetic basis of response to lithium treatment in bipolar disorder, comprising several research groups from Europe, the Americas, Asia, and Australia.

Furthermore, he is engaged in Germany-wide activities for sophisticated and networked biobanking for biological psychiatric research. To study the ethical and societal implications of contemporary large-scale "omics" projects, he is involved in consortia addressing these issues from various angles, bridging existing gaps between biomedical sciences, research on ethics and law.

At WBMA, Dr. Schulze, coordinates our research efforts to create the next generation of individualized medicine algorithms for diagnosis and treatment through exome and whole genome sequencing.



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Alessandro Serretti / ITALY

Alessandro Serretti, MD Associate Professor of Psychiatry Department of Biomedical and Neuromotor Sciences University of Bologna, Italy
Distinguished psychiatrist and academic researcher with over 25 years of experience in clinical psychiatry, genetics, and psychopharmacology. Currently serving as Associate Professor at the University of Bologna. Recognized globally as a "Highly Cited Researcher" with an H-Index exceeding 100. Primary research focus includes the genetics of mood disorders, pharmacogenetics, and the implementation of personalized medicine in psychiatry.

University of Bologna | Bologna, Italy Associate Professor of Psychiatry | 2012 – Present

- Conducting advanced research on the genetic liability to major psychoses and response to psychotropic medications.
 - Lecturer for the School of Medicine and Residency School of Psychiatry.
 - Coordinator of research units focusing on mood disorders and schizophrenia.
- San Raffaele Scientific Institute | Milan, Italy Project Leader & Researcher | 1998 – 2006
- Led research projects in psychiatric genetics and clinical psychopharmacology.
 - Supervised clinical trials and genetic association studies.



Leanordo Tondo / ITALY

Professor of Psychiatry, Lecturer in Psychiatry at McLean Hospital–Harvard Medical School, and Director of the Mood Disorder Outpatient Clinic Centro Lucio Bini in Cagliari, Italy. He received his medical degree and psychiatric specialty from the University of Rome and a Master of Science in Epidemiology and Statistics from the Harvard School of Public Health. Dr. Tondo has studied the course and treatment of bipolar and major depressive disorders since 1975 and is a leading expert in long-term mood disorder management and suicide prevention. In 1977 he founded the Lucio Bini Mood Disorder Center, one of Europe's largest specialized clinics, and has published over 200 papers in international journals. His work has been recognized with awards for affective disorder research and suicide prevention.



Marin Veldic / U.S.A

Professor of Psychiatry and Consultant in the Department of Psychiatry & Psychology at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, USA. His primary research focuses on molecular epigenetics and the development of individualized treatment protocols for bipolar and other mood disorders, including studies on epigenetic regulation of neurotransmitters, pharmacogenomics, and clinical phenotypes in youth.

Dr. Veldic received his MD from the University of Zagreb, completed psychiatric training at Mayo Clinic, and has been recognized with awards such as the ACNP Travel Award; he is also a Fellow of the International College of Neuropsychopharmacology.

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30 April 2026

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Hall 1	
14:30-17:00	Synergizing Science: A Multi-Consortium Course Consortia: GBC, ConLiGen-ENIGMA Melvin McInnis, Thomas Schulze, Kürşat Altınbaş, Çağdaş Eker, Ali Saffet Gönül,
17:00-17:30	OPENING CEROMONY Kürşat Altınbaş, Thomas Schulze
17:30-18:30	OPENING CONFERENCE Neuroeconomics of Mood Disorders Moderator: Çağdaş Eker Speaker: Ali Saffet Gönül

01 May 2026

01 May 2026		
Hall 1	Hall 2	
09:00-10:00	CONFERENCE ECT:Some positive results from the Swedish National ECT registry Speaker: Jonas Eberhard Moderator: Thomas Schulze	Pre-Peri-Postpartum Management of BP Disorder Speaker: Fisun Akdeniz Moderator: Çağdaş Eker
10:00-10:30	Coffee Break	
10:30-11:30	CONFERENCE Imaging and inflammatory markers in mood and psychotic disorders Speaker: Paolo Brambilla Moderator: Georg Northoff	Pre-Peri-Postpartum Management of BP Disorder (Cont.) Speaker: Fisun Akdeniz Moderator: Çağdaş Eker
11:30-12:00	Coffee Break	
12:00-13:00	Long Acting Injectable Treatments on Mood Disorders Speaker: Paolo Brambilla Moderator: Leonardo Tondo	
13:00-14:00	Lunch Break	



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	Hall 1	Hall 2
14:00-15:00	CONFERENCE Conceptualization and treatment of rapid cycling in patients with bipolar disorder Speaker: Leonardo Tondo Moderator: Paolo Brambilla	
15:00-15:30	Coffee Break	
15:30-16:30	CONFERENCE Epigenetic Mechanisms in Mood Disorders: A Clinical Perspective Speaker: Marin Veldic Moderator: Kürşat Altınbaş	
16:30-17:00	DISCUSSION	
02 May 2026		
	Hall 1	Hall 2
09:00-10:00	CONFERENCE Precision medicine in psychiatry - from big data to clinical applications Speaker: Ole Andreassen Moderator: Çağdaş Eker	
10:00-10:30	Coffee Break	
10:30-11:30	Conference – Beyond mood - Spatiotemporal classification of mood disorders Speaker: Georg Northoff Moderator: Ali Saffet Gönül	
11:30-12:00	Coffee Break	
12:00-13:00	Wisdom and Beginnings: A Career Dialogue Across Generations Speaker: Timuçin Oral Moderator: Kürşat Altınbaş	



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13:00-14:00	Lunch Break	
14:00-15:00	CONFERENCE Anhedonia: causes and treatments Speaker: Alessandro Serretti Moderator: Melvin McInnis	
15:00-15:30	Coffee Break	
15:30-16:30	CONFERENCE From Classification to Computation: Ontologies, the HPO, and the Future of Psychiatric Phenotyping Speaker: Melvin McInnis Moderator: Alessandro Serretti	
16:30-17:00	DISCUSSION	
3 MAY 2026		
10:00-12:00	Poster session Moderator: Çağdaş Eker	
12:00-12:30	Closing Ceremony Kürşat Altınbaş Thomas Schulze	



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