WPA COURSE PROPOSAL
26th WPA World Congress of Psychiatry
23–26 September 2026

Name of the course:
How to Integrate Telemedicine and Artificial Intelligence in Digital Psychiatric Practice.

Course Director:
Prof. Wolfgang Gaebel

Course Co-Directors:
Prof. Umberto Volpe
Dr. Rodrigo Ramalho

Course Faculty/Speakers:
1. Prof. Wolfgang Gaebel; Heinrich-Heine University, Düsseldorf, **Germany**
2. Prof. Umberto Volpe; Polytechnic University of Marche, Ancona, **Italy**
3. Dr. Rodrigo Ramalho; University of Auckland, Auckland, **New Zealand**
4. Dr. Laura Orsolini; Polytechnic University of Marche, Ancona, **Italy**
5. Dr. Sara Sütöri; Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, **Sweden**

Course objectives
By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

1. **Understand the role of digital psychiatry in clinical practice**: Describe the impact of digital mental health technologies on improving the availability, accessibility, and equity of clinical psychiatric practice.
2. **Develop an emergent competency in the application of digital tools in clinical practice**: Identify practical strategies for integrating digital psychiatry into daily clinical work, considering clinical and technical challenges.

3. **Promote equitable implementation of digital psychiatry**: Promote approaches to implementing digital mental health tools equitably, including in low-resource settings, culturally diverse and underserved populations.
4. **Engage in global digital psychiatry initiatives:** Discuss international efforts, including the work of the WPA Working Group on Digital Psychiatry, to advance digital psychiatric health transformation worldwide and participate in these efforts.
5. **Explore future directions in digital psychiatry**: Participate in expert-led discussions on emerging opportunities, challenges, and the future of globally integrated digital psychiatric practice.

Brief description

This course, organized by the WPA Working Group on Digital Psychiatry, focuses on the practical implementation of digital psychiatry in daily clinical practice and its role in promoting equitable outcomes. During the course, participants will explore the role of digital health technologies, particularly artificial intelligence and telepsychiatry, in enhancing the availability, accessibility, and equity of psychiatric treatment and care across diverse populations and regions.

Key topics also include strategies for equitable integration of these digital tools, including in low-resource settings, their implementation in daily clinical work considering clinical, technical and ethical aspects of this implementation, alongside discussions on policy guidance. The course is informed by the work led by the WPA Working Group on Digital Psychiatry toward the global transformation of health systems via further adoption and implementation of digital psychiatry.

This course is open to psychiatrists, early-career professionals, psychologists, and other members of the psychiatric workforce, as well as policymakers and care providers. The Faculty consists of globally renowned experts, the program will close with a General Discussion about opportunities and priority steps for globally integrated digital psychiatric health and care.

Course outline (Tentative times 9.00am – 13.00pm CET):

- Course introduction and information about the global status of Digital Psychiatry (Prof. Wolfgang Gaebel, Germany)
- Digital Psychiatry in Northern Europe (Dr. Sara Sütöri, Sweden)
- Integrating Telemedicine in Daily Clinical Psychiatric Work (Prof. Umberto Volpe, Italy)

- Break (11.00am – 11.30am CET)

- Artificial intelligence in psychiatry (Dr. Laura Orsolini, Italy)
- Cultural and Contextual Factors to be considered during the implementation of Digital Psychiatry (Dr. Rodrigo Ramalho, New Zealand)
- General Discussion on opportunities and challenges for globally integrated Digital Psychiatry (Faculty and Audience)
- Wrap up and conclusions (Prof. Wolfgang Gaebel, Germany)

Methods and materials

PowerPoint Presentations, recommended readings, interactive discussions, general discussion.

Reference list

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Torous J, Blease C. Generative artificial intelligence in mental health care: potential benefits and current challenges. World Psychiatry. 2024 Feb;23(1):1-2. doi: 10.1002/wps.21148

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American Psychiatric Association Publishing, 2018. ISBN 9781615370856

Gaebel W, Trost N, Diekmann S, et al. Transnational Policy for e-Mental Health: A guidance document for European policymakers and stakeholders. Interreg North-West Europe, 2020. https://www.nweurope.eu/projects/project-search/e-mental-health-innovation-and-transnational-implementation-platform-north-west-europe-emen/news-blogs/transnational-policy-for-e-mental-health-a-guidance-document-for-european-policymakers-and-stakeholders/

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