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## News from the Section Genetics in Psychiatry PSY-PGx - Progress and Achievements

The World Psychiatric Association is a partner in PSY-PGx, the initiative known for conducting the first large-scale, non-industry sponsored clinical study to demonstrate the clinical benefits of using pharmacogenetics in routine psychiatric care.

The progress made in the past year was crucial for the project, and PSY-PGx is now gaining significant momentum!

In March 2023, the PSY-PGx Team, under the leadership of Roos van Westrhenen, successfully initiated the enrolment of the first two participants in the PSY-PGx Clinical Study. Steadily advancing, more than 56 participants are either currently enrolled or have already finished the study.

The project has also been communicating its progress at major events, including last year's ECNP congress in Barcelona, the World Congresses of Psychiatry 2022 in Bangkok and 2023 in Vienna, and the 2023 Brain Innovation Days in Brussels. This included congresses and meetings organized by the World Psychiatric Association: The Thematic Congresses in Malta (2022), Kolkata (2023), Abu Dhabi (2023), the Regional Congress in Yerevan (2023), and an educational day for early career psychiatrists from Poland and Ukraine, taking place in Krakow (2023).

As a PSY-PGx consortium partner, the patient-driven organization GAMIAN-Europe was actively engaged with attendees by distributing leaflets and sharing details about the project with the varied group of experts and professionals present. Importantly, special sessions were organized advocating the importance of patient engagement in mental health research. "It takes two to tango" as the panel of experts by experience explained in this year's ECNP Congress, held in Barcelona while in the World Psychiatric Association Congress in Vienna, Roos van Westrhenen stressed again that patient involvement has to be an integral part of the research process.

As we look onwards, PSY-PGx continues to lead the way in innovating psychiatric medication selection, offering bespoke treatments for those grappling with anxiety, depression, and psychotic disorders, aligned with their genetic make-up. The analysis of the collected data with Artificial Intelligence is expected to culminate in the creation of an Open-Source algorithm, designed to personalize pharmacotherapy for psychiatric patients. This advancement promises to significantly diminish adverse effects while increasing the efficacy of pharmacological treatments. Consequently, PSY-PGx could revolutionize the current model of trial-and-error medication prescription in psychiatry. Such progress paves the way for a new era of enhanced care for psychiatric patients worldwide. The promise is that of an improved wellbeing for countless individuals.

We eagerly encourage everybody to be part of our continuing journey! Keep connected by following our updates on X ([@PSY\\_PGx](#)), explore the project website ([PSY-PGx.org](#)) and our YouTube channel ([@PSY-PGx](#)).

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