



## Conference Invitation: Global Minds in Forensic Psychiatry: Advancing Research and Practice

Dear colleagues,

We are pleased to invite you to the online conference *Global Minds in Forensic Psychiatry – Advancing Research and Practice*, an international and interdisciplinary forum designed to foster exchange between research and clinical practice in the field of forensic psychiatry.

Under the guiding theme *Advancing Research and Practice*, the conference brings together leading researchers, clinicians, and policymakers from around the world to discuss innovations that promote ethically grounded, evidence-based, and patient-centered forensic psychiatric care.

Registration is open until 10 April 2026. Please find the conference program and registration details attached.

We look forward to fostering international collaboration, strengthening scientific networks, and building bridges between research and clinical practice to improve the care of individuals with mental disorders.

Sincerely,

**Prof. Manuela Dudeck**

**PD Dr. Michael Fritz**

Department of Forensic Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, Ulm University, Ulm, Germany  
Lindenallee 2  
D-89312 Günzburg

Bezirkskliniken Schwaben - municipal enterprise (public law institution of the district of Swabia) - registered office: Augsburg; Management Board: Stefan Brunhuber (Chairman), Chairman of the Administrative Board: District President Martin Sailer, AG Augsburg HRA 16251



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## Meeting Schedule

### Friday, 24 April 2026 (Day 1)

All times in CET (Central European Time)

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**09:00 – 09:15 AM**

Opening and Welcome

**09:15 – 10:00 AM**

#### **Keynote Lecture 1**

*Ethical Pros and Cons of Research on Particularly Vulnerable Patient Populations*

PD Dr. Irina Franke (Center for Forensic Psychiatry, Chur, Switzerland)

**10:00 – 10:15 AM**

Short Break

**10:15 – 11:00 AM**

#### **Parallel Sessions**

**Session 1:** Novel IT-based Treatment Options in Forensic Psychiatry (session host: Dr. Michael Fritz)

- **Talk 1:** AVATAR therapy for distressing voices: lessons learnt and future directions  
Prof. Dr. Mar Rus-Calafell (Ruhr-University Bochum, Bochum, Germany)
- **Talk 2:** The clinical applications of Virtual Reality in Alcohol Use Disorder  
Dr. Alexandra Ghiță (Aspris by alkalma United for Health and Wellbeing, Dubai, United Arab Emirates)

**Session 2:** Novel Treatment Options for Psychosis and Delusions in Forensic Psychiatry (session host: Prof Dr. Manuela Dudeck)

- **Talk 1:** Advances in Catatonia: From Diagnosis to Evidence-Based Treatment  
Prof. Dr. Dusan Hirjak (Central Institute for Mental Health Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany)
- **Talk 2:** Neurostimulation and Cognition in Psychosis: Mechanisms and Clinical Perspectives  
Dr Panayiota Michalopoulou (King's College London, London, United Kingdom)

**11:00 – 11:15 AM**

Short Break

**11:15 AM – 12:00 PM**

**Keynote Lecture 2**

*Premature mortality among offenders with serious mental illness: lessons from forensic psychiatric patients and high-risk groups*

Prof. Dr. Björn Hofvander (Lund University, Lund, Sweden)

**12:00 – 1:15 PM**

Lunch Break

**1:15 – 2:00 PM**

**Keynote Lecture 3**

*The AIS and eHARM: a new set to tools for managing violence using big data*

Prof. Dr. Gary Chaimowitz (McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada)

**2:00 – 2:15 PM**

Short Break

**2:15 – 3:00 PM**

**Parallel Sessions**

**Session 3:** The Genetics of Aggression – Current Understanding and Emerging Treatment Implications (session host: Prof. Dr. Manuela Dudeck)

- **Talk 1:** Differentially expressed Gene pathway-analysis implicates the immune system, lipid metabolism, and neuroplasticity markers in aggression and violence  
Dr. Michael Fritz (Ulm University, Ulm, Germany)
- **Talk 2:** Genes and environment in shaping human behavior: legal and forensic perspectives  
Prof. Dr. Silvia Pellegrini (University of Pisa, Pisa, Italy)

**Session 4:** Brain anatomical correlates of aggression and anti-social behavior across clinical and population cohorts (session host: Prof. Dr. Unn Hansen Hauvik)

- **Talk 1:** Mapping cerebellar subregional volumes and heterogeneity in psychosis and violence  
Dr. Thomas Fischer-Vieler (University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway)
- **Talk 2:** Multimodal Correlates of Aggression and Agitation in Early Psychosis and Depression: Integrating Brain Structure, Polygenic Risk, and Social Adversity  
Clara Weyer (Ludwig Maximilian University Munich, Munich, Germany)

- **Talk 3:** Early indicators of conduct disorder in the developing brain: structural insights from ages 9-14 in the ABCD Study  
Dr. Jaroslav Rokicki (Oslo University Hospital, Oslo, Norway)

**3:00 – 3:15 PM**

Short Break

**3:15 – 4:00 PM**

**Parallel Sessions**

**Session 5:** Substance use disorders within forensic psychiatric care: symptoms, subgroups and treatment (session host: Prof. Dr. Malin Hildebrand Karlén)

- **Talk 1:** Community reinforcement approach applied in an FPC in-patient setting  
Prof. Dr. Malin Hildebrand Karlén (Gothenburg University, Gothenburg, Sweden)
- **Talk 2:** Co-morbidity subgroups within forensic psychiatric care  
Johan Green (Gothenburg University, Gothenburg, Sweden)
- **Talk 3:** Drug induced psychosis – transient and chronic symptoms  
Cajsa Jonasson (Gothenburg University, Gothenburg, Sweden)

**Session 6:** Current research in German Forensic Psychiatry (session host: Prof. Dr. Birgit Völlm)

- **Talk 1:** Involving service users in research in forensic psychiatry  
Prof. Dr. Birgit Völlm (Rostock University, Rostock, Germany)
- **Talk 2:** Developing a national database on forensic-psychiatric patients  
Dr. Katja Köppen (Rostock University, Rostock, Germany)
- **Talk 3:** Patterns of substance use in a forensic-psychiatric hospital in Germany  
Finn Sörensen (Rostock University, Rostock, Germany)

**4:00 – 4:15 PM**

Concluding Remarks (Day 1)

## Saturday, 25 April 2026 (Day 2)

All times in CET (Central European Time)

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**09:00 – 09:15 AM**

Opening Remarks (Day 2)

**09:15 – 10:00 AM**

### Keynote Lecture 4

*Long lasting impacts: The role of childhood adversity for treatment completion*

Prof. Dr. Hedwig Eisenbarth (University of Wellington, Wellington, New Zealand)

**10:00 – 10:15 AM**

Short Break

**10:15 – 11:00 AM**

### Keynote lecture 5

*Should Biological Markers Be Included in Forensic Psychiatric Reports?*

Prof. Dr. Unn Hansen Haukvik (University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway)

**11:00 – 11:15 AM**

Short Break

**11:15 AM – 12:00 PM**

### Parallel Sessions

**Session 9:** Risk of recidivism and development of risk assessment in the Nordics  
(session host: Dr. Markku Lähteenvuo)

- **Talk 1:** Finnish forensic psychiatric care and subsequent recidivism  
Dr. Markku Lähteenvuo (Niuvanniemi Hospital, Kuopio, Finland)
- **Talk 2:** Swedish forensic psychiatric care and subsequent recidivism in violent crime  
DDr. Jonas Forsman (Karolinska Institutet and The Swedish National Board of Forensic Medicine, Stockholm, Sweden)
- **Talk 3:** Beyond Categories: Temporal Validation and Clinical Refinement of Risk Assessment Tools for Modern Forensic Psychiatric Practice"  
Lenka Sivak (Karolinska Institutet and The Swedish National Board of Forensic Medicine, Stockholm, Sweden)

**Session 10:** Investigations into personality traits and attentional processes in offenders (session host: Prof. Dr. Schiltz, LMU Munich, Munich, Germany)

- **Talk 1:** Personality Profiles Across Offender Subgroups  
Susanne Schobel, M. Sc. (LMU Munich, Munich, Germany)

- **Talk 2:** Gaze Behaviour towards children in pedophilia and hebephilia  
Puyan Heindl, M. Sc. (LMU Munich, Munich, Germany)

**12:00 – 12:15 PM**

Short Break

**12:15 – 1:00 PM**

**Keynote Lecture 6**

*The New Science of Risk Assessment: Implications for Forensic Psychiatry & Psychology*

Prof. Dr. Seena Fazel (University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom)

**1:00 – 1:30 PM**

Concluding Remarks (Final Summary)



## Registration and Participation Fee

Registration for the online conference Global Minds in Forensic Psychiatry 2026 is open until 10 April 2026.

The participation fee is €90 for regular participants and €25 for students (doctoral, master's, and bachelor's students).

Please click [here](#) or scan the QR code to access the event website.



Participation in the conference is accredited with 12 continuing education credits for forensic psychologists. Accreditation of continuing education credits for medical professionals has been applied for.

We would be delighted to welcome you to this international forum and look forward to your participation in 2026.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at any time via [email](#).

Kind regards,  
The GMFP Organizing Committee