

Newsletter



Annual meeting in Cagliari

In honour of our late EUNETHYDIS colleague Professor Alessandro Zuddas, this year's meeting was held in Cagliari, Sardinia, on 8th-10th October 2024. In the main meeting we had 116 participants from 17 countries.

We first held two community events on ADHD for local teachers and clinicians. The education-focused event, led by Sara Carucci, Diane Purper-Ouakil, Friederike Blume and Daniele Bullegas, attracted an audience of 190 Sardinian teachers and benefited from simultaneous translation using headphones. In the session for clinicians, led by Samuele Cortese, Anita Thapar, Edmund Sonuga-Barke and Benedetto Vitiello, we had 90 local participants attending in-person and a further 280 online participants. We are delighted with the positive feedback received about these "local footprint" activities, where the speakers summarised latest findings on ADHD, with a focus on clinical and educational implications, and introduced EUNETHYDIS to the community.

This year, the main programme incorporated three keynote lectures. An engaging and thought-provoking external speaker's keynote by Branko van Hulst focused on the power of



the language we use. We then changed gear for a highly informative local keynote on dopamine and endocannabinoids by Miriam Melis. The member's keynote was a team effort, with Jeffrey Newcorn and Iris Manor joined by Beth Krone, providing insight into inflammation in ADHD.

Following a long EUNETHYDIS tradition, two lively debates provided food for thought. Tycho Dekkers bravely took on EUNETHYDIS heavyweight Jan Buitelaar, arguing entertainingly how 'our research priorities need to move from neurobiology to topics that are more meaningful'. Also expertly combining information and entertainment, Kate Langley and Alexandra Philipsen clashed, though in a rather civilised manner, on the issue of self-referrals and public perceptions.

Five new data symposia provided an excellent series of presentations on latest research. An informative 'ADHD in Italy' symposium shed light on the local perspective; our special thanks to the speakers Antonella Gagliano, Monica Conversano and Benedetto Vitiello. Smaller group sessions included meetings of ECRs, the European ADHD Guidelines Group (EAGG), special interest groups and mentoring. At a busy members' meeting the revised constitution and bylaws were approved unanimously.



Lifetime Achievement Award

The EUNETHYDIS Lifetime Achievement Award is given for sustained, fundamental and outstanding contributions to ADHD and to EUNETHYDIS. It undoubtedly came as no surprise to members that this year's awardee is past Chair Tobias Banaschewski, who has made an exceptional contribution to steering and developing the network, as well as to the wider ADHD field, with his uniquely enthusiastic and inspirational approach. A laudatory speech by Jan Buitelaar described Tobias' extensive contributions and achievements – 'The Odyssey of EUNETHYDIS'.



Steering Committee (SC) Update

SC thanks past Chair Tobias Banaschewski and Deputy Chair David Coghill, who have now stood down as SC members, for their excellent work and impactful contributions to the network over many years. Tycho Dekkers has been welcomed as a new member of the committee. Tycho will have special responsibility for social media and keeping the network's website up-to-date but will contribute to many other aspects of the committee's work too. Other SC members continue in their roles: Sven Bolte and Jonna Kuntsi (Co-Chairs), Diane Purper-Ouakil (Deputy Chair), Kate Langley (Secretary), Pieter Hoekstra (Treasurer), Friederike Blume (ECR Lead) and Samuele Cortese (EAGG Chair).



Alessandro Zuddas Poster Prizes

Many congratulations also to our Alessandro Zuddas Poster Prize winners! Steve Lukito (KCL) convinced the panel with his work entitled 'Emotional burden carried by adolescents with ADHD: Evidence from a new self-report scale' and Tamara Williams (Cardiff) with her work entitled 'Reflections on the manifestation of ADHD in girls from young adults with lived experience: a qualitative study'. The panel was particularly impressed by the innovation and methodological rigour of their work as well as the quality of the presentation.

Welcome!

SC has recently accepted three new members to the network. We warmly welcome Tamsin Newlove-Delgado (UK), Abby Russell (UK) and Sébastien Weibel (France).



Thank you to local host Sara Carucci

Our heartfelt thanks to our local host Sara Carucci (right), and to Caterina Medda (left) from her team, for their hard work over many months in ensuring the success of the meeting and for making everyone feel warmly welcome in their beautiful hometown!