



Satellite Meeting of the 21st International Congress of the
European Society for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry



ESCAP Research Academy 2025

Strasbourg, France

27+28 June 2025



***The effects of psychological trauma on the
brain: from mechanisms to early intervention***

Meet our Speakers

Eric Bui

Université de Caen, France



"Posttraumatic Stress Disorders: From Prediction to Evidence-Based Treatments"

T.-H. Eric Bui, MD, PhD initially received an MD and a PhD from the University of Toulouse (France). He is Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Caen Normandy (France), and adjunct investigator at the Massachusetts General Hospital (Boston, MA) where he served in different leadership capacities as a Harvard Medical School faculty, for nearly ten years. His research focuses specifically on understanding the mechanism and improving the treatment of anxiety and stress-related conditions, including using psychopharmacotherapy and mind-body approaches. To date, he has published over 200 scientific articles and book chapters, and edited two textbooks in the field of anxiety disorders, posttraumatic stress disorder, and prolonged grief disorder. He served as President of the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies (2020-2021), and currently serves as Associate Editor of the *European Journal of Psychotraumatology*, and as Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal of Mental Health*.

Vera Clemens

University Hospital Ulm, Germany



"Adverse childhood experiences - consequences and approaches to action"

Vera Clemens is a Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at Ulm University (Germany) and deputy director of the University Hospital for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry in Ulm. She holds an MD and PhD from the University of Münster (Germany) and a Master of Public Health from Charité Berlin (Germany) where she worked for 5 years in the Neurobiological Lab of the Hospital for Psychiatry, Charité Berlin. Her clinical specializations are Trauma, Acute Psychiatry and Child Protection. She was instrumental in building up and also worked for the Child Protection Hotline for many years which is a German national helpline for medical staff in cases of suspected child maltreatment. Vera's research focuses on consequences of child maltreatment and trauma-associated disorders. She served as speaker for the Early Career Scientists at the German Center for Mental Health where she is now PI, and is part of the German National Council against Sexual Violence against Children and Adolescents.

Andrea Danese
King's College London, UK



"Childhood adversity and psychopathology: Bridging from population science to clinical practice"

Andrea Danese, MD, PhD, is Professor of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, King's College London as well as Professor Adjunct at the Yale Child Study Center. His team has published highly-cited research on the measurement of childhood trauma, risk factors for trauma exposure, biological mechanisms through which trauma affects later health, mechanisms of resilience, modelling of individualised risk prediction for trauma-related psychopathology, and the epidemiology of child trauma and trauma-related psychopathology. Prof Danese is the recipient of several research awards including the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Early Career Research Contribution Award and the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) Senior Researcher Award and has been listed among the Clarivate "Highly Cited" Researcher in Psychiatry and Psychology since 2019.

Professor Danese has established and leads the National & Specialist CAMHS Clinic for Trauma, Anxiety, and Depression at the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust. The service attracts referrals from across the UK and abroad for second opinion on diagnosis and specialist treatment of difficult-to-treat young people with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), anxiety disorders, and unipolar depression. The clinic has also advised and worked with the UK government to develop public mental health interventions in the aftermath of emergencies and disasters.

Professor Danese is General Secretary and Co-Chair of the Academic Division of ESCAP and the Academic Secretary for the Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health (ACAMH). He is also Editor-at-large of the Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry.

Isabelle M. Mansuy

University and ETH Zürich, Switzerland



"Epigenetic inheritance: How traumatic experiences in early life can affect descendants via the germline"

Isabelle Mansuy is professor in Neuroepigenetics at the Medical Faculty of the University of Zurich and the Department of Health Science and Technology of the ETH Zurich. She holds a Ph.D. in developmental neurobiology from the University Louis Pasteur in Strasbourg, France for a doctoral thesis conducted at the Friedrich Miescher Institute in Basel. She trained as postdoc in the lab of Eric Kandel at the Center for Learning and Memory at Columbia University in New York and then established her own lab as assistant professor in neurobiology at ETH Zurich in Switzerland. I. Mansuy initially conducted research in molecular cognition and made landmark discoveries on the mechanisms of forgetting by identifying memory suppressors in the mammalian brain. In parallel, in early 2000s, she started to work on epigenetic inheritance and has become one of the pioneers and founders of this new discipline. I. Mansuy is studying the epigenetic basis of heritable traits induced by life experiences. Her work demonstrated that adverse conditions in early life such as traumatic stress can alter behavior, physiology and metabolism across multiple generations in mice, and that inheritance depends on non-DNA factors in germ cells, particularly RNA in sperm. This discovery established the existence of an RNA-based form of heredity in mammals independent from the DNA sequence, similarly to what's known in plants and invertebrates. The fundamentals of these findings in mice are being validated by translational studies in trauma patients in humans. This research provides important mechanistic advances about the influence of the environment on brain and body functions and is highly relevant for heritable environmental diseases. It has a major impact on evolution and offers an alternative to classical genetics for rapid organismic plasticity. It also has important societal and ethical implications.

I. Mansuy co-authored >200 research articles, reviews and book chapters in neurosciences and epigenetics. She published a book on epigenetics for the lay public in French and German "Reprenons le contrôle de nos gènes", Larousse (2019) and "Wir können unsere Gene steuern" Berlin Verlag (2020). She is active in multiple scientific and research funding boards, is member of the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences, the European Academy of Sciences (EURASC), and the European Molecular Biology Organization. She is Knight in the National Order of Merit and in the Legion of Honor in France.