

# Spring School Global Mental Health 2025



## Course syllabus



UNIVERSITÉ  
DE GENÈVE

FACULTY OF MEDICINE  
Institute of Global Health

WHO Collaborating Centre  
for Research and Training  
in Mental Health Services

**Hes-SO** GENÈVE  
Haute Ecole Spécialisée  
de Suisse occidentale

# Table of contents

Introduction	3
Logistical information	4
Schedule	5
Maps of venues	6
Speakers	8



# Introduction

The 2025 edition of the Spring School in Global Health will take place from Monday, 7 April to Friday, 11 April 2025 in Geneva, Switzerland. This year's theme will focus on Global will Mental Health, combining scientific evidence with policy perspectives. The course is co-organized by the UNIGE Institute of Global Health, Haute école de santé de Genève (HEdS), WHO & the WHO Collaborating Centre in Mental Health SWI54.

The Spring School will feature speakers from a range of international organizations and universities, offering both Swiss examples and global perspectives. As part of the Institute of Global Health and its PhD program, the event provide an in-depth look at current global mental health challenges and approaches.

## Organizers

- **Emiliano Albanese**, Professor, Institute of Global Health, University of Geneva
- **Nathalie Bot**, PhD, lecturer, Institute of Global Health, University of Geneva
- **Fleur Hierink**, PhD, lecturer, Institute of Global Health, University of Geneva
- **Swann Pichon**, Professor, Geneva School for Health Sciences
- **Nicolas Ray**, Professor, Institute of Global Health, University of Geneva
- **Dan Chisholm**, PhD, Mental Health Specialist, WHO
- **Giovanni Sala**, Consultant Mental Health, WHO

## Course description

This five-day course on global mental health offers a detailed curriculum that combines basic theory with practical applications and innovative approaches to mental health. Led by experts from UNIGE, WHO, other academic institutions and health organizations, participants will gain knowledge and skills critical to addressing today's mental health challenges. The course covers essential topics including public mental health frameworks and a life-course approach with a focus on child and adolescent mental health. Participants will also look at the social, environmental and economic factors that impact mental health, such as the effects of climate change.

Throughout the program, participants will benefit from insights provided by a diverse group of professionals and participate in hands-on components such as group projects, case studies and immersive activities such as the MHPSS Time Travel Machine. The course also explores digital solutions for mental health and cutting-edge technologies, including AI, in dynamic workshops.

# Logistical information

## Venues

### Campus Biotech (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday):

- **Location:** 9 chemin des Mines, 1202 Geneva, Classroom H8-01-D.
- **Directions:** From Gare Cornavin, take bus 1 or 25 to "Jardin Botanique."
- **Map:** Available on page 6 of the course syllabus.
- **Badge Collection:** Collect and return badges daily at the Campus Biotech reception.

### Maison de l'enfance et de l'adolescence (MEA) (Wednesday & Friday):

- **Location:** 26 Boulevard de la Cluse, HUG, 1205 Geneva.
- **Direction:** To reach Maison de l'enfance et de l'adolescence (MEA) from Gare Cornavin, you have several options.
  - **Tram:** Take tram line 12 or 18 and get off at the "Augustins" stop.
  - **Bus Options:** Bus 91: Disembark at the "Maternité-Pédiatrie" stop. Bus 7: Get off at the "Pédiatrie" stop.
  - **Train:** Take the Léman Express and alight at "Genève-Champel." From there, you'll have direct pedestrian access to Avenue de la Roseraie via a tunnel.
- **Map:** Available on page 7 of the course syllabus.

## Lunches

Participants receive 5 vouchers for meals and drinks. Redeemable at Campus Biotech or the HUG pediatric building's restaurant.

## Moodle platform

At the end of each day, we will upload presentations of the day and any other readings related to the courses on our dedicated Moodle page (Spring School: Global Mental Health). Guidance on access will be provided by e-mail.

## Contact

Don't hesitate to contact anyone of us for any question.

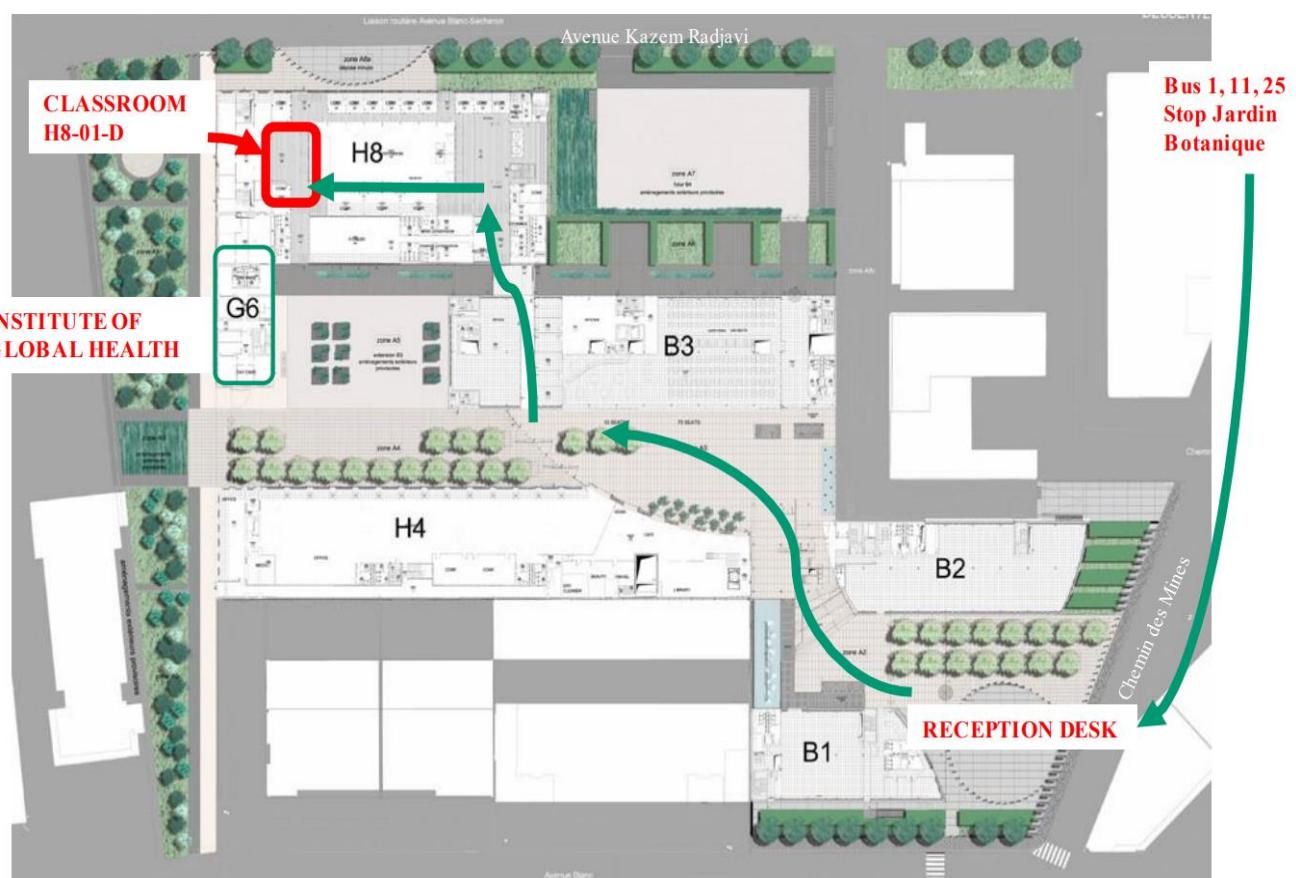
- Nathalie Bot [nathalie.bot@unige.ch](mailto:nathalie.bot@unige.ch)
- Fleur Hierink [fleur.hierink@unige.ch](mailto:fleur.hierink@unige.ch)
- Sonia Mondo Brouze [sonia.mondobrouze@unige.ch](mailto:sonia.mondobrouze@unige.ch)



# Schedule

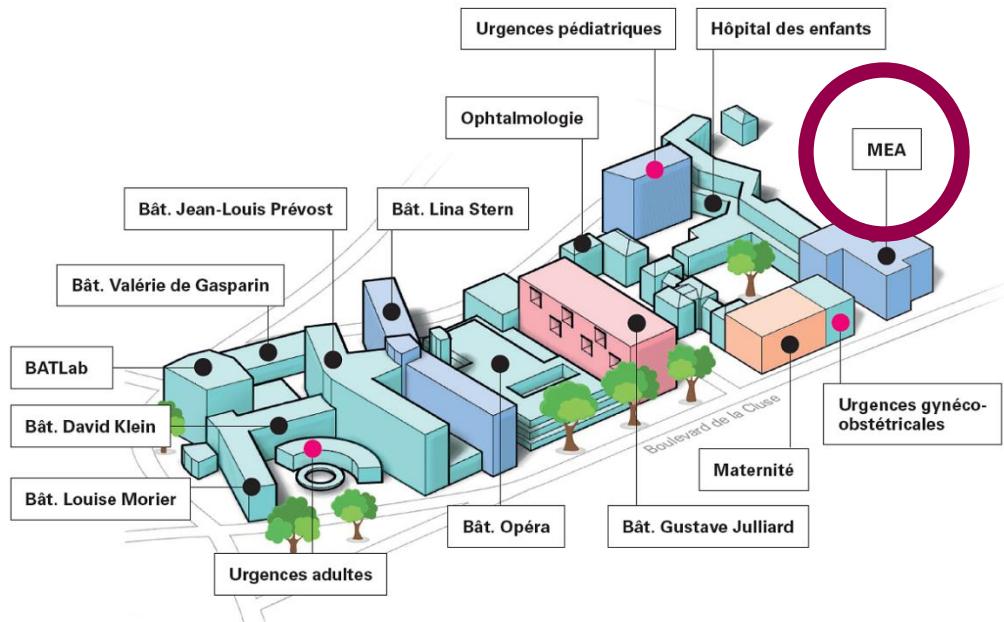
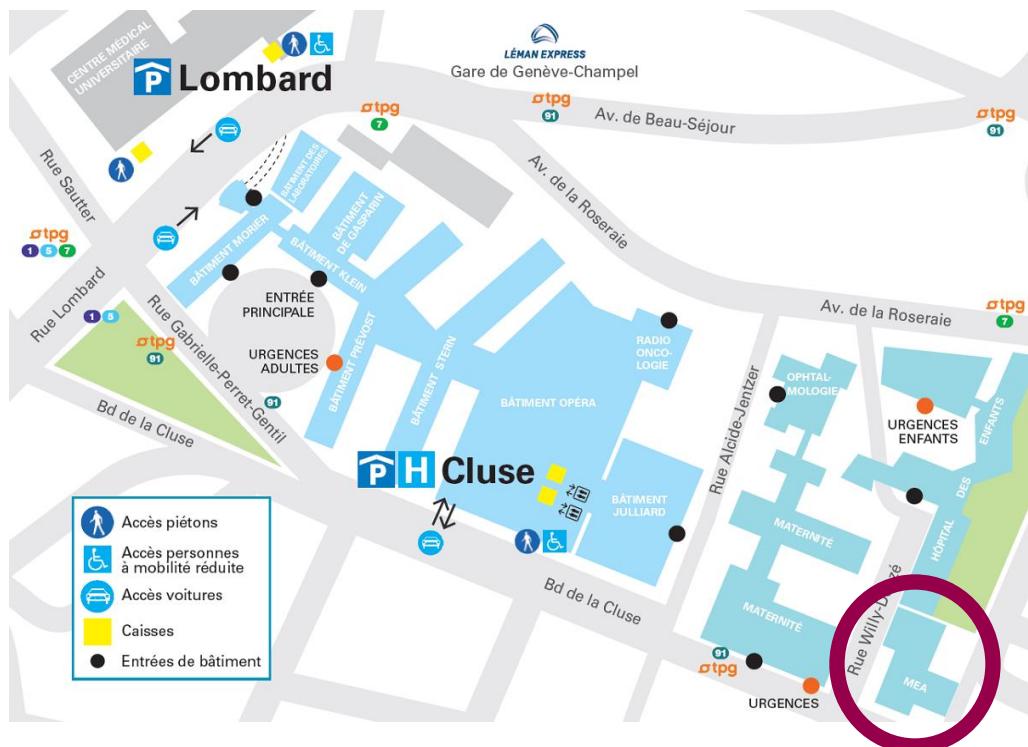
Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday	
Campus Biotech (H8-01-D)	<b>Breakfast</b> 8:30-9:00	Campus Biotech (H8-01-D)	<b>Breakfast</b> 8:30-9:00	MEA HUG (cinema room)	MEA HUG (cinema room)	Campus Biotech (H8-01-D)	MEA HUG (cinema room)	MEA HUG (cinema room)	MEA HUG (cinema room)
Public mental health principles - foundations and frameworks (Part 1)	<b>Welcome and introduction</b> 9:00-10:00  <i>Rabih el Chammay (WHO)</i> 10:00-10:30	<b>Appraising the determinants of mental health (Part 1)</b>  Group work: Policy levers and interventions to address mental health determinants in the local context <i>Daniel Chisholm (WHO)</i> 09:45-10:30	<b>Introduction to determinants of mental health</b>  <i>Daniel Chisholm (WHO)</i> 09:00-09:45	<b>Welcome and genesis of the Maison de l'enfance et de l'adolescence</b>  <i>Klara Poggenpohl (MEA)</i> 09:45-10:00	<b>Short tour MEA</b> 9:45-10:00	<b>Free time for administration</b>	<b>Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) in Humanitarian Emergencies: an introductory module</b>  <i>Fanny Hanna (WHO)</i> 09:00-10:30	<b>Breakfast</b> 8:30-9:00	<b>Breakfast</b> 8:30-9:00
Public mental health principles - foundations and frameworks (Part 2)	<b>Coffee break</b> 10:30-11:00	<b>Introduction</b>  <i>Emiliano Alfonse (WHO/CDC, UNICEF, US)</i> 11:00-11:30	<b>Appraising the determinants of mental health (Part 2)</b>  Climate change and mental health <i>Philippe Conis (C4U)</i> 11:00-11:45	<b>Prevention and Program response including digital tools</b>  <i>Sophia Achbar (WHO/CDC, UNICEF)</i> 11:30-12:00	<b>Short tour MEA</b> 9:45-10:00	<b>Coffee break</b> 10:30-11:00	<b>MHPSS Time Travel Machine Exercise (Part 1)</b>  <i>Fanny Hanna (WHO)</i> 11:00-12:30	<b>Coffee break</b> 10:30-11:00	<b>MEA HUG (cinema room)</b>
Public mental health principles - foundations and frameworks (Part 2)	<b>Coffee break</b> 10:30-11:00	<b>Mental health epidemiology</b>  <i>Daniel Chisholm (WHO)</i> 11:30-12:00	<b>Practical exercise</b>  <i>Ingrid Biege (HUG/UNICEF)</i> 12:00-12:30	<b>Lunch break</b> 11:45-12:30	<b>Lunch break</b> 12:30-13:30	<b>Lunch break</b> 12:30-13:30	<b>Lunch break</b> 12:30-13:30	<b>Lunch break</b> 12:30-13:30	<b>Campus Biotech (H8-01-D)</b>
Mental health promotion, protection and prevention over the life course with focus on Child and Adolescent Mental Health (Part 1)	<b>Coffee break</b> 12:30-13:30	<b>Mental health over the life course and life-course epidemiology</b>  <i>Emiliano Alfonse (WHO/CDC, UNICEF, US)</i> 13:30-14:15	<b>Principles and practice of mental health service organization</b>  <i>Sudipto Chatterjee &amp; Aswita Malik (WHO)</i> 13:30-14:15	<b>Introduction to Advocacy and Communications in Mental Health and WHO's MNS Advocacy Strategy</b>  <i>Audrey la Fontaine &amp; Peter Varnum (WHO)</i> 13:30-14:15	<b>Group work: Preparing a stakeholder briefing and consultation</b>  <i>Audrey la Fontaine &amp; Peter Varnum (WHO)</i> 14:15-15:00	<b>Introduction to Advocacy and Communications in Mental Health and WHO's MNS Advocacy Strategy</b>  <i>Audrey la Fontaine &amp; Peter Varnum (WHO)</i> 13:30-14:15	<b>The Celeste project: using LLMs to leverage AI in mental health</b>  <i>François Regis Chauvat (WHO)</i> 13:30-14:15	<b>Coffee break</b> 15:00-15:30	<b>MEA HUG (cinema room)</b>
Mental health promotion, protection and prevention over the life course with focus on Child and Adolescent Mental Health (Part 2)	<b>Coffee break</b> 15:00-15:30	<b>Windows of opportunities for intervening on CANH</b>  <i>Camille Pignot (HUG/UNICEF)</i> 14:15-15:00	<b>Mental health services planning and organization (Part 1)</b>  Group work: Planning of community-based mental health service networks <i>Sudipto Chatterjee (WHO/Supgnt Brdgpt Hdg)</i> 14:15-15:00	<b>Participatory action research to develop a depression care model with primary care services in rural India</b>  <i>Ananya Bora (WHO/Supgnt Brdgpt Hdg)</i> 15:30-15:45	<b>Forensic psychiatry in Rwanda</b>  <i>Isabelle Cordon (WHO/HG)</i> 15:45-16:00	<b>Global mental health indicators &amp; M&amp;E</b>  <i>Daniel Chisholm (WHO)</i> 15:30-16:15	<b>Digital Technologies in Psychiatry: Hope, Perspectives, Pitfalls (online)</b>  <i>Stéphane Marchal (Sorbonne University)</i> 15:30-16:15	<b>Coffee break</b> 15:00-15:30	<b>MEA HUG (cinema room)</b>
Group work - Policy design for CANH	<b>Coffee break</b> 15:00-15:30	<b>Mental health services planning and organization (Part 2)</b>  Group work: Preparing a stakeholder briefing and consultation <i>Emman Levy (UNICEF, HES)</i> 16:00-16:15	<b>Evidence and information for policy &amp; E, information systems and research</b>  <i>Emman Levy (UNICEF, HES)</i> 16:00-16:15	<b>Introduction to health information systems</b>  <i>Emman Levy (UNICEF, HES)</i> 16:00-16:15	<b>Roundtable Q&amp;A and discussion with panelists</b>  <i>Emiliano Alfonse (WHO/CDC, UNICEF, US)</i> 16:15-17:00	<b>Research in mental health</b>  <i>Emiliano Alfonse (WHO/CDC, UNICEF, US)</i> 16:15-17:00	<b>Closing remarks</b>  15:30-17:00	<b>Q&amp;A: open discussion</b>  <i>Bains des Paupiers</i> 19:00	<b>Social event with all participants</b>  <i>Bains des Paupiers</i> 19:00

# Map of Campus Biotech



<https://www.unige.ch/presse/plans/biotech>

# Map to reach MEA



# Speakers



## Emiliano Albanese

I am a public health physician and epidemiologist with over 20 years of experience in public and global mental health. My work has focused on conducting epidemiological and policy research, as well as conceiving, designing, and teaching both basic and advanced high-level courses and programs. I currently serve as Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Research and Training in Mental Health at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Geneva. Since 2015, I have also been a member of the Foundation Board of the Swiss School of Public Health.

## Sophia Achab

Achab Sophia is psychiatrist, senior lecturer, lead researcher and Head of WHO Collaborating Centre for Training and Research in Mental Health at Faculty of Medicine of Geneva University. She is part of the Lancet Commission for Global Action on Problematic Internet Use. Her Research line is "Populational and clinical perspectives of addictive behaviours\*" and she contributed to the efforts leading to their inclusion in ICD-11, including directing Swiss Field Testing of ICD-11 criteria for addictive disorders (WHO research project on their utility, feasibility and added value). She runs the Swiss pioneering treatment Centre ReConnecte specialized in addictive behaviours (Gambling, gaming, shopping, work.) since 2007 at University Hospitals of Geneva in Switzerland.



## Ameya Bondre

Dr. Bondre is a public health expert with 14 years of experience in research. He holds an MSPH from Johns Hopkins University and has prior medical training from India. He is published in peer-reviewed journals on mental health, pediatric neurodevelopment, and public health nutrition. He has contributed to India's first national guidelines on childhood developmental disorders. Having received honours from MIT Solve, TEDx, World Bank and others, Dr. Bondre currently directs mental health research projects at Sangath in Bhopal, India, collaborating with Harvard Medical School and other global institutions.

# Speakers

## Ken Carswell

Dr. Ken Carswell has a background in clinical psychology and is a Mental Health Specialist at WHO Headquarters in Geneva. As the focal point for digital and innovation in the Mental Health Unit, he has played a pivotal role in developing, testing, and implementing scalable psychological interventions. These include innovations for humanitarian contexts, such as Self-Help Plus (SH+), a multimedia stress management course, and two online self-help interventions for common mental health conditions, Step-by-Step and STARS, all of which are designed to increase access to evidence-based support.



## Sudipto Chatterjee

I am currently a staff member (Mental Health Specialist) with the Department of Mental Health Brain Health and Substance Use (MSD) at WHO HQ at Geneva. I have been involved in developing services and have led research projects for people with severe and common mental health conditions in resource constrained settings over more than two decades in India and other LMIC's using a task sharing approach.

## François-Régis Chaumartin

Founder and CEO of startup Celeste, and previously of Proxem (acquired by Dassault Systèmes, where he is VP Semantic Data Science). Software engineer and PhD in computational linguistics. AI expertise in Natural Language Processing and Large Language Models. Author of the book "Le traitement automatique des langues" (Dunod).



# Speakers



## Dan Chisholm

Dan Chisholm is a social scientist with interests and expertise in public health, mental health economics and health systems research. He works as a Mental Health Specialist in the Department of Mental Health, Brain Health and Substance Use at WHO Headquarters Office. He formerly served as Programme Manager for Mental Health in the WHO Regional Office for Europe. His main areas of work at WHO include development and monitoring of mental health plans and policies, technical assistance on mental health system strengthening, and analysis of the cost-effectiveness of strategies for reducing the global burden of mental health conditions.

## Philippe Conus

Philippe Conus is a physician who initially specialized in internal medicine, then in psychiatry, with a particular interest in schizophrenia. From 2000 to 2003, he worked in Melbourne in a program specializing in the early detection and intervention of psychotic disorders. Upon returning to Switzerland, he launched a similar program in Lausanne, which has since treated nearly 1,000 young patients. In 2010, he was appointed as a professor at the Faculty of Biology and Medicine at the University of Lausanne and became the director of the Department of General Psychiatry at CHUV (Lausanne University Hospital).



## Isabella D'Orta

Isabella D'Orta is a psychiatrist specializing in forensic psychiatry and transcultural psychiatry. She conducts research on mental health care across diverse populations, focusing on improving services in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) and examining psychiatric care among detainees. Her work aims to deepen the understanding of the cultural and social factors that influence mental health outcomes.

# Speakers

## Rabih El Chammay

Rabih El Chammay is a leading psychiatrist, a psychoanalyst, and a global mental health expert. He is the founding Director of the National Mental Health Programme at the Ministry of Public Health in Lebanon that was recipient of the UN Mental Health Award in 2023 for its innovative work developing and scaling up a WHO evidence-based guided self-help application. El Chammay holds a teaching position at the Department of Psychiatry at the Faculty of Medicine at Saint Joseph University in Beirut. He is involved in international research on mental health policy and service delivery, with a special interest in Humanitarian crisis contexts and System Strengthening.



## Audrey la Fontaine



Audrey is a passionate mental health expert, from Reunion Island. She holds a MD in psychiatry from the University of Lille, a MSc in behavioral neuroscience from Sorbonne University and a MPP from Paris Political Institute. Audrey currently works as technical officer in the office of the director of the department of mental health, brain health and substance use in WHO. Previously, she practiced psychiatry in France, worked at the Ministry of Health during the covid crisis, and then at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Internationally, she has been a consultant to UN Women for the generation equality forum, delegate at the Y7, youth engagement group of the G7, and member of the European Health Parliament initiative.

## Fahmy Hanna

Dr Fahmy Hanna MD, a psychiatrist by training, has more than 15 years of experience in mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) in humanitarian emergencies. He served early in his career in several countries affected by complex emergencies, including in Syria and Libya during the ongoing armed conflicts. In 2014, he moved to WHO Geneva, where his focus areas include providing technical assistance to countries on scaling up services and interagency coordination on mental health during emergencies. Since July 2017, Dr Hanna has represented WHO as the co-chair of the IASC Reference Group for MHPSS in Emergencies. He is the WHO HQ focal point for MHPSS response in humanitarian emergencies such as in Ukraine, Afghanistan and South Sudan and for MHPSS aspects of public health emergencies.



# Speakers

## Dévora Kestel



Dévora Kestel is a senior global mental health policy expert with more than thirty years of international experience in Europe, the Caribbean and Latin America; implementing and advising governments on national policies related to mental health systems. She is a strong advocate for the rights of people with mental health issues. 2000 she joined WHO as a mental health officer first in post-war Kosovo and then in Albania where she became the WHO Representative. In 2007 Ms. Kestel joined the Pan American Health Organization, providing technical cooperation in the mental health field to the entire region. Over the years, Ms. Kestel has contributed to and co-authored to numerous publications in the area of mental health. Since 2019 Ms. Kestel is the WHO Director of Mental Health, Brain Health and Substance Use.

## Emma Leavy

I am an Academic Associate at the School of Health Sciences in Geneva, with a background in nursing and a Master's in Environmental Sciences from the University of Geneva. I have worked in public health at the "Office Cantonal de la Santé" and in psychiatric home care. My doctoral research explores postpartum well-being, focusing on community-based peer support. By integrating clinical expertise and cross-cultural insights, I aim to understand how such interventions can be effectively adapted to diverse cultural and socioeconomic contexts.



## Aiysha Malik

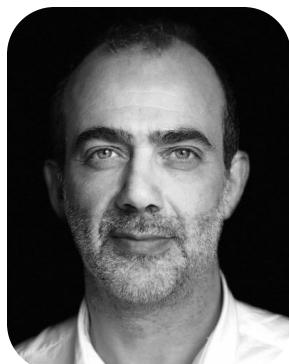


Mental health specialist at the World Health Organization. At WHO, I specialize in global mental health – covering, international and national policy, technical product development, research, and strengthening capacity of countries to address mental health care. Since 2017 I have coordinated the development, testing and training of WHO -UNICEF Early Adolescent Skills for Emotions (EASE) in Jordan, Lebanon, Pakistan, and Tanzania - and now oversee the global capacity building efforts for EASE. As technical lead on protecting the mental health of people living with communicable and non-communicable conditions, this work includes the implementation of a WHO field-test guidance on collaborative care for integrating mental health services into physical health disease programmes. I hold a doctorate in Psychiatry (PhD) and doctorate in Clinical Psychology (DClinPsych) from the University of Oxford, UK.

# Speakers

## Matteo Malgaroli

Dr. Matteo Malgaroli is an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at NYU School of Medicine. He earned his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Columbia University under George Bonanno. His research at the intersection of psychiatry, AI, and technology focuses on using language models to identify digital biomarkers for passive monitoring of mental health conditions and for intervention feedback. Dr. Malgaroli also teaches computational methods to psychiatry trainees and psychology students. His work has been featured in prominent media outlets including NBC and Forbes magazine.



## Stéphane Mouchabac

Stéphane Mouchabac is a psychiatrist in the Psychiatry Department at Saint Antoine Hospital in Paris and a member of the ICRIN Psy Innovation research unit at the Paris Brain and Spine Institute. He co-leads the E-health section of the French Association of Biological Psychiatry and Neuropsychopharmacology to promote digital tools in mental health care. He studies with sociologists the impact of new technologies on psychiatric care and co-develops with specialists AI-based therapeutic tools for patients.

## Swann Pichon

Pr Pichon is based at the Geneva School for Health Sciences, where he teaches psychology and digital health. He earned his Ph.D. from Sorbonne University and completed his postdoctoral training at UNIGE Faculty of Medicine. He received an FNS Ambizione grant and served as a lecturer at the Faculty of Psychology at UNIGE. His research focuses on leveraging mobile health and gamification to enhance the effectiveness and adherence of mental health interventions. His team approaches this topic from both applied and fundamental perspectives, using interdisciplinary methods from health and behavioural sciences, computer science, game design, and affective neuroscience.



# Speakers

## Camille Piguet

Prof. Camille Piguet-Nemitz, PhD, MD, is a psychiatrist and psychotherapist and holds a PhD in cognitive neuroscience. She works as a psychiatrist at the HUG in the Adolescent and Young Adult Health Consultation (CASAA) and the Young Adult Psychiatry Unit, where she is involved in promoting access to psychiatric care for young people and multidisciplinary management of complex situations. At the Synapsy center/UNIGE, her research group focuses mainly on the brain bases underlying emotional regulation processes in youth and non-pharmacological early interventions to improve their mental health, notably using mindfulness meditation.



## Chiara Servili



Chiara has expertise in global child and young people's mental health, with more than 15 years of experience working in this field at global level as well as at country and regional levels in the African and Eastern Mediterranean regions. She is technical focal point for child and young people's mental health at WHO Department of Mental Health, Brain Health and Substance Use. Her work focuses on development of normative guidance and implementation tools for child and adolescent brain and mental health and providing technical advice to regions and countries. A child neuropsychiatrist by training, obtained an MPH at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and a PhD at the Universita' of Modena.

## Peter Varnum

Peter Varnum is an expert in Global Mental Health and an advocate with lived experience, working as a consultant within the Director's Office at the World Health Organization. Peter built the World Economic Forum portfolio in mental health, working with Ministerial-level leadership in government as well as senior executives from across the health, professional services, and other industries. He has worked with Orygen Global and in the global mental health advocacy community. Peter earned a Masters in global health policy and international communication and a Bachelors in English. He also received an Executive Masters in Leadership. He speaks professional-level French.





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