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Press release
Paris, 24 May 2026

The Lancet Launches Commission on Schizophrenia with Global Core Expert Group

On World Schizophrenia Awareness Day, an international group of leading researchers and clinicians, co-chaired by Marion Leboyer (Université Paris-Est Créteil, AP-HP, Inserm, Fondation FondaMental – France) and Michael Berk (NHMRC, Deakin University, Barwon Health – Australia), announced the launch of the Lancet Commission on Schizophrenia and Psychotic Disorders. Spearheaded by *The Lancet*, one of the world's leading medical journals, with the support of Fondation Sisley-d'Ornano, this landmark initiative aims to advance scientific understanding, improve clinical care, and shape global health policy for one of the most complex and often neglected mental health conditions.

Schizophrenia and related psychotic disorders affect approximately **23 million people worldwide (around 1 in 345 people)** and are associated with profound health, social, and economic burdens. Despite major advances in genetics, neurobiology, epidemiology, and treatment, **substantial gaps remain in diagnosis, prevention, long-term care, and public understanding**, with schizophrenia accounting for **1.5–3% of healthcare expenditure in developed countries.**

This initiative is detailed in an **Comment published by *The Lancet* on May 21, 2026, entitled *"Announcing the Lancet Commission on schizophrenia and psychotic disorders"*,** co-authored by **Marion Leboyer** (UPEC, AP-HP, Inserm, Fondation FondaMental, scientific lead of the French Research Program on Precision Psychiatry PEPR PROPSY – France), **Michael Berk** (Deakin University and Barwon Health – Australia), **Bruno Pedraz-Petrozzi** (Fondation FondaMental, Central Institute of Mental Health, University of Heidelberg, PEPR PROPSY – France/Germany) and **Moritz Spangemacher** (Central Institute of Mental Health, University of Heidelberg – Germany).

https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(26)00916-5/fulltext

Bridging the gap between knowledge and care

To address these persistent challenges, the Commission will bring together **scientific evidence, clinical expertise, and lived experience** to create an **integrated framework for understanding and managing psychotic disorders**. Its purpose is not simply to summarize the available literature, but to offer a **critical and forward-looking overview** of an urgent health problem.

Its final report will provide **practical, evidence-based guidance for healthcare providers**, including general practitioners, psychiatrists, and allied specialists, as well as **accessible, plain-language information for patients, families, and policymakers worldwide.**

A broad, patient-first approach

The Commission recognizes that **there is often overlap between schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depression, and other syndromes**. To reflect this, we will take an integrated approach in order to move beyond rigid diagnostic categories and **better reflect the true complexity of psychotic disorders.**

People with lived experience, families and advocacy groups are central to the Commission's work, guiding interpretation of evidence, and **ensuring that recommendations are socially relevant, feasible, and impactful.** The Commission also aims to address **stigma, discrimination, social exclusion, and inequities in care**, with particular attention to settings where mental health services are limited or under-resourced.

The Experts Shaping the Commission

The Commission's final report will synthesize the **most significant scientific and clinical advances on schizophrenia,** while identifying persistent knowledge gaps and **setting priorities for the next decade of research and practice**.

This work is organized into **nine chapters** covering diagnostic validity, life course and staging, epidemiology and risk, mechanisms and biomarkers, co-occurring psychiatric and physical conditions, stigma and social responses, treatments, policy and clinical recommendations, and future research priorities.

To ensure comprehensive coverage, a **team of internationally recognized Core Experts has been appointed as scientific and writing leads**:

- **Peter Falkai (Germany):** Professor and Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy at Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich and spokesperson for the German Center for Mental Health (DZPG)
- **Alison Yung (Australia): MD,** NHMRC Research Leadership Fellow and Professor of Psychiatry at the Institute for Mental and Physical Health and Clinical Translation (IMPACT), Deakin University
- **Maxime Taquet (United Kingdom):** MSc BM BCh MRCPsych PhD, Associate Professor at the University of Oxford
- **Rob McCutcheon (United Kingdom):** MRCPsych, PhD, Associate Professor and consultant psychiatrist at the University of Oxford
- **Dan Siskind (Australia):** MBBS, MPH, PhD, FRANZC, Clinical Academic Psychiatrist at Metro South Addiction and Mental Health Service and Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Queensland
- **Nicola Reavley (Australia):** Principal Research Fellow at Melbourne School of Population and Global Health
- **Mark Weiser (Israel):** from the Division of Psychiatry at Sheba Medical Center and Professor of Psychiatry at Tel Aviv University School of Medicine
- **Andreas Meyer-Lindenberg (Germany):** Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy at Heidelberg University, CEO and Medical Director of the Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy at the Central Institute of Mental Health in Mannheim

By combining international expertise, interdisciplinary perspectives, and input from people with lived experience, the Commission aims to **redefine how psychotic disorders are understood, diagnosed, and treated globally,** while addressing stigma, discrimination, and social exclusion.



« The Lancet Commission on Schizophrenia is a chance to set the research and clinical agenda for the next decade, ensuring that scientific breakthroughs translate into tangible improvements in understanding, preventing, and treating this complex disorder.»

Michael Berk, NHMRC Senior Principal Research Fellow, Alfred Deakin Chair of Psychiatry at Deakin University and Barwon Health, Australia, Director of the Institute for Mental and Physical Health and Clinical Translation (IMPACT)



« Our goal is to integrate the latest scientific evidence with clinical experience and lived perspectives to produce a comprehensive, accessible resource that supports clinicians, guides research, informs policy, and ultimately improves outcomes for people living with schizophrenia and related disorders worldwide.»

Marion Leboyer, Professor of Psychiatry (UPEC, AP-HP, Inserm), CEO of the Fondation FondaMental, Scientific Director of the PEPR PROPSY precision psychiatry exploratory research program (Inserm and CNRS with Fondation FondaMental; France 2030)

Fondation FondaMental: supporting innovation to cure mental disorders

Created in 2007 on the initiative of the French Ministry of Research and dedicated to scientific cooperation in the field of severe mental disorders, Fondation FondaMental's mission is to support cutting-edge research and innovation in diagnostic strategies, to train healthcare professionals, to inform the public and to bring together various players in the field of psychiatric.

It focuses its efforts on schizophrenia, bipolar disorders, resistant depression and autism spectrum disorders, bringing solutions to the scientific and medical community, patients and their families.

Fondation FondaMental relies on both public and private funding to promote scientific expertise internationally, accelerate the pace of discoveries, and help cure mental disorders.

See our results at www.fondation-fondamental.org

To support research in psychiatry, make a donation to Fondation FondaMental : Faire un don | Nous soutenir | Fondation FondaMental

Press Contact

Mathilde Couderc – mathilde.couderc@agence-constance.fr – +33 (0)7 57 68 30 62