



Candidates for President Elect

Pierre Blier MD. PHD, Canada



I am thankful and honoured that the Nomination Committee of the CINP selected me to postulate for the President-Elect position on the Executive Council. I served two terms as a councillor during which I was a member of several committees. In particular, I have chaired the program committee in 2011 for Biennial Congress that took place in Stockholm in 2012 and have been a member of that committee for the subsequent three congresses. I have always been proud of the utmost quality of the programs, especially in the last 10 years. Indeed, the quality and appeal of the CINP meetings for basic scientists and clinicians has been extraordinary from beginning to end of these congresses.

The first CINP meeting I attended was in Jerusalem in 1982 and have not missed one since. This initial encounter with CINP truly solidified my commitment to become a psychopharmacologist keeping abreast of the science, striving to advance the field, and promptly putting in application the latest discoveries to get patients better faster on their way to recovery.

I completed my undergraduate degree at Bishop's University in Biology/Psychology and Chemistry, a small university outside Montreal where we had extensive hands-on training in the laboratory with all techniques and spectroscopy. I then joined Dr. de Montigny's laboratory, as his first trainee, and obtained a Master's degree in Neuroscience at the Université de Montréal. I then completed my medical studies, as well as my PhD in Neuroscience in the same laboratory. I subsequently pursued a post-doctoral fellowship with Drs. Salomon Langer and Bernard Scatton in Paris. Upon returning to Montréal, I set up my basic research laboratory at McGill University and began treating patients with mood and anxiety disorders not responding to prior treatments.

In the next 12 years at McGill, I had the opportunity to develop a research program funded by the federal government and the pharmaceutical industry, train many basic scientists, contribute to the training of psychiatry residents in psychopharmacology, participate in numerous academic committees, and chaired the Clinician-Scientist committee at the national level for 5 years. Relocating at the University of Florida was an enriching challenge, having to start a basic and research unit in a different country, and practicing medicine in a new environment was an unique learning experience. After four years in the United States, I opted to return to Ottawa, Canada with the support two research chairs to continue translational research in Psychopharmacology.

Over the years, I have truly enjoyed meeting and exchanging with scientists and clinicians from numerous countries, learning about local challenges they face and bringing them the latest developments in our field. I foresee the CINP having an increasing role in medical education throughout the world by orienting some of our meetings towards more effective clinical management



of psychiatric disorders and having clinically targeted articles in our official journal, which is open access and thus available to all clinicians throughout the world.

The main challenge we face in Neuropsychopharmacology is the decreasing availability of research funding when compared to other fields of Medicine and the exodus of the pharmaceutical industry from developing psychotropic medicines. On the one hand, it is indeed costing increasingly more to bring new medications to market but, on the other hand, psychiatric disorders carry the largest burden of diseases and they worsen the prognosis of other medical conditions when they are comorbid. I truly believe that the CINP has a crucial role in fostering links between academia and the private sector in order to fund the development of new drugs and re-tooling some of the existing ones for optimal treatment of our patients. For instance, our institution was the first Private Public Partnership hospital in Canada where we have a socialized medicine system. We also have to strive to convince our decision makers in our respective governments that investing more resources in mental health research represents a high return on the investment change

The CINP must continue to have successful world congresses every other year and to expand our thematic meetings on alternate years to a larger scale to be able to pursue our education mission worldwide. This priority, coupled with a fiscally responsible policy, will ensure that the CINP continues to thrive. Over the years, the CINP has recognized my efforts through a Rafaelsen award, the Max Hamilton award, and the basic research award. I aspire to continue serving in our college and providing the opportunity to as many young scientists as possible to thrive in their career with the help of CINP.



Barbara J. Sahakian DSc FBA FMedSci, UK



I am based at the Department of Psychiatry and the Behavioural and Clinical Neuroscience Institute at the University of Cambridge (UK). I am a Fellow of the British Academy and the Academy of Medical Sciences. I am a member of the International College of Neuropsychopharmacology (CINP), European College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ECNP), British Association for Psychopharmacology (BAP), Society for Neuroscience (SfN) and a Fellow of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ACNP). I was a Member of the International Expert Jury for the 2017 Else Kröner Fresenius Prize (<https://www.ekfs.de/de/wissenschaftliche-foerderung/research-prize-2017/>)

I am a Past President of the BAP and of the International Neuroethics Society. I have an international reputation in the fields of psychopharmacology, neuropsychology, neuropsychiatry, neuroimaging and neuroethics. I am best known for my work on ‘hot’ and ‘cold’ cognitive deficits in depression and early detection and early treatment with cholinesterase inhibitors in Alzheimer’s disease. I have over 450 peer-reviewed publications in scientific journals and a Hirsch (h) index of 109. I have co-invented the neuropsychological CANTAB and EMOTICOM tests and the Cambridge University PEAK Memory Training Wizard game. I have contributed to Neuroscience and Mental Health Policy, including the UK Government Foresight Project on Mental Capital and Wellbeing (Beddington et al., 2008, *Nature*), the Strategy for Mental Health for the Medical Research Council (Sahakian et al., 2010, *The Lancet*) and the Grand Challenges in Global Mental Health (Collins et al., 2011, *Nature*). I was on the Committee for the Strategy for Neuroscience and Mental Health for the Department of Health which launched its report in December 2017. In March 2017, I participated in the Global Council on Brain Health meeting in Washington, DC. I have spoken at the World Economic Forum, Davos in 2014 and I am a member of the WEF on the Future of Neurotechnologies and Brain Science. I am also on the Clinical Advisory Board of the Human Brain Project. I am the co-author of two popular science books: *Bad Moves* (Oxford University Press, 2013) and *Sex, Lies & Brain Scans* (Oxford University Press, 2017), both reviewed in *Nature*. This latter book also received a book prize from the British Psychological Society. I also co-edited *The Oxford Handbook of Neuroethics* and *Translational Neuropsychopharmacology* (Springer, 2016).

It is a great honour for me to be nominated for CINP President Elect. In previous years, I have been on the CINP Council for two terms, and given presentations at CINP Congresses including two Plenary Lectures. In addition, I am Chair for the CINP 2018 Congress in Vienna, with Professor Marina Picciotto as Co-Chair. In 2016, I was awarded the CINP Ethics Prize. For the CINP 2016 Congress, I organized lunchtime panel with other women for discussion of career issues and other topics of interest to female members and attendees.



I have published in the CINP journal, the International Journal of Neuropsychopharmacology, and have contributed as co-author to CINP articles on public-private partnerships and other initiatives with the pharmaceutical industry (e.g. Andersen et al., 2014, *Nature Reviews Drug Discovery*; Phillips et al., 2015, *International Journal of Neuropsychopharmacology*). Should I be chosen as the President Elect of CINP, I would like to continue these initiatives started by previous Presidents and Members of the Executive Committee, including Anthony Phillips, Shigeto Yamawaki and Siegfried Kasper. These would incorporate a wide range of industry, in addition to pharmaceuticals, including biotech, medical devices, neuroimaging, cognition, etc. Another focus would be to increase global membership of CINP, including Asia, Australia and South America and to promote diversity of the membership. While the psychiatry and related disciplines' workforce includes a considerable percentage of women, unfortunately, this is not represented in our membership, which regrettably has a relatively small percentage of them. Therefore, a CINP women's taskforce would actively seek to increase membership. A final focus would be to develop a more extensive mentoring and networking programme for younger members, to promote the next generation of leaders in the field.