



HORATIO

EUROPEAN PSYCHIATRIC NURSES

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

AISLING CULHANE



Dear Horatio Friends!

As we approach the close of another year, the Christmas season offers an opportunity to reflect on our shared commitment to the profession of Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing. We are glad to have you here with us where connection, collaboration, and engagement are at the heart of what we do.

Mental health has never been more critical to the societal agenda. Mental health challenges are global and interconnected. International collaboration allows us to share best practice

research and consider models of education. By doing so we strengthen our role in advocacy, promoting equity in access to care as we recognise our responsibilities as a profession towards a human rights-based approach to mental health.

Whilst the holidays are often associated with joy and togetherness, we recognize that this period can also present unique challenges for individuals living with mental health difficulties. Increased stress, social isolation, and emotional strain are realities for many, and our role as mental health professionals is critical in providing support, advocacy, and clinical expertise during this time.

I know December can be a busy time, but I want to remind you to look forward to 2026 whereby Horatio will be celebrating 20 years old !! at the Horatio Congress in the beautiful town of Mechelen in Belgium on May 28-29. Routed Resilient Ready Fundamentals of Mental Health Nursing as Drivers for the Future hosted by the Belgium Nurses Network and Thomas Moore University I know you will join with me wishing Liesbet Van Bos and her colleagues your good luck wishes and support as they prepare this very special occasion. We will reflect on the past 20 years of Horatio and also hope to meet new colleagues to celebrate the past present and future of mental health nursing. You will see within the newsletter the 2nd Call for Abstracts, which closes on the 22nd of February 2026.

Also, within this newsletter, you will also find some photos and links to the wonderful congress in Berlin 2025 Complex Interventions in Mental Health. We hold gratitude to Suzanna and our German colleagues for the friendships, share learning, and the conversations which keep the Horatio community, vibrant and alive.

I also wish to make reference to Horatio's attendance at the inaugural Mental Health Nurse Leaders' Summit last November in Barcelona an opportunity to meet with international colleagues hosted by the Australian College of nurses and the RMIT University. The main focus of the Summit was to draw together international leadership of the Mental health nursing profession to discuss critique and review the mental health nursing discipline, specific capability frameworks, scopes of practice, education, and the readiness of the mental health nursing workforce for societal demands in addressing the global mental health burden. The Summit also addressed the establishment of an International Council or Congress of mental health nursing as this initiative evolves we will keep you informed a short synopsis of the two days is provided.

Some other photos in this newsletter will take you to beautiful Vienna also last November where the board of Horatio had meetings and exchanges with our colleagues Cornelia Schneidtinger, Gerhard Lindenhofer and Stefan Nöstlinger Thank you for your warm welcome and hospitality.

As we move to the season of reflection and rest. I wish you well and I look forward to learning listening and connecting with you in 2026.

See you in Mechelen Belgium in May

Is mise le meas (yours respectfully)
Aisling Culhane



HORATIO CONGRESS BERLIN IN PICTURES - 2025

COMPLEX INTERVENTIONS IN MENTAL HEALTH



With over 100 abstracts, 220 delegates and very interesting keynote speeches the Congress in Berlin was a huge success. If like us you are looking forward for the next one, make sure to join us in Mechelen, Belgium

AUSTRIA - 2025



The Horatio European Psychiatric Nurses Association convened its Board Meeting on 13 November 2025 in Vienna, hosted at the Hochschule Campus Wien: University of Applied Sciences (HCW).

The gathering marked an important opportunity for the Board to deepen its understanding of psychiatric nursing in Austria, to exchange perspectives on current developments, and to explore pathways for future collaboration with the Austrian Health and Nursing Association (ÖGKV). The meeting combined expert contributions, strategic dialogue, and reflections on shared ambitions for advancing psychiatric nursing across Europe.

The day began with a formal welcome from representatives of the Hochschule Campus Wien, who emphasised the university's commitment to professional excellence, applied research, and strong partnerships with clinical institutions. They expressed appreciation for the work of Horatio in strengthening psychiatric nursing across Europe and acknowledged the importance of international collaboration in addressing the challenges and opportunities facing the profession.

From Austria, the meeting brought together leading experts and representatives including: Cornelia Schneidtinger, Member of the ÖGKV Federal Expert Group for Psychiatric Nursing Stefan Nöstlinger, Academic Expert Programme for Psychiatric Health Care and Nursing at HCW Gerhard Lindenhofer, De-escalation Trainer, NAGS (Network for Violence Prevention and Safety). This diverse group created an ideal platform for shared learning and the strengthening of cross-national professional ties.

The first expert contribution was delivered by Gerhard Lindenhofer, a renowned specialist in violence prevention and de-escalation. His presentation highlighted key strategies used in Austrian psychiatric facilities to prevent aggression, promote patient safety, and support staff wellbeing. He described Austria's systematic approach to violence prevention, which integrates structured staff training, early recognition of risk factors, and evidence-based intervention models.

Stefan Nöstlinger followed with an overview of the educational pathways for psychiatric nurses in Austria. He provided a detailed explanation of the specialisation programme delivered at the Hochschule Campus Wien, describing curriculum components, clinical placements, and competency expectations. He also highlighted the importance of translating theoretical knowledge into practice and the crucial role of interprofessional education.

.The third presentation, delivered by Cornelia Schneidtinger offered a reflective and forward- looking perspective on psychiatric nursing in Austria. She traced key milestones in the profession's development, from the evolution of psychiatric reform to current efforts supporting patient-centred and recovery-oriented care. Looking to the future, were identified priorities such as expanding community psychiatry, strengthening research capacity, integrating innovative models of care, and further reducing coercive practices. Her presentation resonated strongly with Board members, given Horatio's commitment to promoting humane, evidence-based, and rights-oriented psychiatric nursing across Europe.

Strategic Dialogue: Collaboration Between Horatio and the ÖGKV - The discussion was both constructive and forward-looking, reinforcing the shared belief that professional alliances are essential for addressing the complex challenges that psychiatric nursing faces across Europe.



MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE

Co-creation and Impact Evaluation

Mental Health Europe (MHE) has positioned co-creation as a core principle in its work with members, service users, families and professionals across Europe. As a full member, Horatio represents the voice of mental health nursing within this network and contributes actively to the development and implementation of co-creation tools.

Over the past years, Horatio, together with other MHE partners, has contributed to the development of an MHE co-creation toolkit. The current phase focuses specifically on evaluating the impact of co- creation. Based on a rapid review of existing co-creation evaluation frameworks, Horatio analysed the strengths, gaps and limitations of different models for use in mental health settings.

Based on this analysis, the MHE task force decided to adopt the PROSECO framework as its primary reference and to adapt and operationalise it further for the MHE context. PROSECO comprises five themes and 35 elements. In this phase, the taskforce chose to concentrate first on the theme "Impact" and to add the element "Readiness", reflecting recurring needs identified during trainings facilitated by MHE.

This work has been translated into a structured draft table that includes the original PROSECO definitions and an additional column with concrete criteria, indicators, and guiding questions for practice. The draft has been circulated to taskforce members, inviting them to comment on the definitions and the proposed operationalisation, with feedback requested by the end of the year. Within this process, MHE provides the overall framework and strategic direction, while Horatio contributes expertise from mental health nursing practice, education and research. This collaboration helps ensure that the emerging MHE framework for co-creation impact evaluation is both methodologically robust and grounded in real-world practice, with particular attention to the role of mental health nurses and, most of all, to the meaningful involvement of people with lived experience and their families.

Horatio Congress 2026

Mechelen, Belgium

28 - 29 May 2026

Rooted. Resilient. Ready.

Fundamentals of Mental Health Nursing as drivers for the future.

Rooted. Resilient. Ready. Fundamentals of Mental Health Nursing Driving the Future

The conference theme this year goes straight to our fundamental roots. There is a sheer complexity to mental health nursing, sustained by the brilliance, creativity, and humanity it requires. Across Europe, we may work in different systems, cultures, and contexts, but we face many of the same challenges. We see, at times, different cracks, but often the same pressure points.

The conference in Belgium is an invitation to share your work, be part of a community of passionate, tireless, and deeply committed mental health professionals and experts by experience from across Europe. Together, we can turn those fundamentals into engines of change and pillars of resilience through the lens of compassion, interpersonal relationships, and the enduring passion that defines mental health nursing.

To let the fundamentals of our profession not only ground us, but drive us boldly into tomorrow. And to declare, together, that we are ready, ready for the future.

In a world that often asks more than it gives, where mental health is tested on every front, we stay the course.

Because we are more than ready. We are **Rooted. Resilient. Ready.**

Also, Horatio proudly celebrates its 20th anniversary as the leading voice for psychiatric and mental health nurses across Europe. For two decades, Horatio has represented national associations, strengthened the professional identity of mental health nurses, and acted as a critical partner in shaping European mental health policy. Together with organisations, research groups, and practitioners, Horatio continues to advocate for compassionate, evidence-based and human-centred mental health care.

This milestone year will be celebrated during our European Congress 2026, hosted in the beautiful and historic city of Mechelen, Belgium. We are excited to welcome you to three days of dialogue, inspiration, learning and connection.



MECHELEN 2026

Under the theme "Rooted, Resilient, Ready", the Horatio Congress 2026 will take place in Mechelen, Belgium. The event is organised and hosted by the Netwerk Verpleeg Kunde in cooperation with Horatio-European Psychiatric Nurses.

The conference will be held at Thomas More - Campus De Vest, in Mechelen, Belgium between the 28th and 29th of May, 2026.

Registration is open. Please visit www.horatiobelgium2026.com for more details

CONGRESS FEES

EARLY BIRD - 420€
(registration till 31.1.2026)

REGULAR - 470€
(registration after 01.02.2026)

The participation fee includes the participation in the scientific programme on both congress days. Coffee breaks and lunch are complimentary

The Congress has a limited seating capacity, so we urge delegates to register in advance to avoid disappointment.



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Cheryl Forchuk



Hanna Tu vesson



Dominique de Marné



Karel Desmet



Nina Kilku



Dirk Richter

horatiobelgium2026.com

MENTAL HEALTH NURSING LEADERS SUMMIT

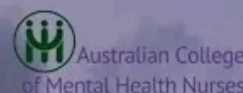
Aisling Culhane President and Tomas Petr Treasurer Represent Horatio European Psychiatric Mental Health Nurses as Global Mental Health Nursing Leaders Unite in Barcelona Spain 21–22 November 2025. A landmark summit sets the stage for a new era in mental health nursing leadership. The summit addressed urgent global challenges in mental health nursing, including post-pandemic mental health deterioration, workforce shortages, and the erosion of leadership visibility. Mental health nurses represent 44% of the global mental health workforce, yet face systemic barriers such as limited policy recognition, diluted education models, and legislative gaps.

Main Objective:

To Establish an International Congress of Mental Health Nurses (ICMHN) to restore disciplinary self-determination, advocate for universal mental health care, and strengthen global collaboration.

Priority Themes Discussed: Through A World Café Format

1. Intersectoral Integration – Moving beyond biomedical models to holistic, community-based care.
2. Education & Development – Reforming curricula, promoting lived experience inclusion, and building academic capacity.
3. Workforce Expansion – Addressing shortages, retention, and leadership pathways.
4. Human Rights & Ethics – Trauma-informed, culturally safe, recovery-oriented care.
5. Technology & AI – Safe integration of digital tools and ethical frameworks.
6. Climate Change Response – Preparing for mental health impacts of environmental crises.
7. Suicide Prevention & Transformative Kindness – Innovative, person-centred approaches.



Mental Health Nursing Leaders Summit

21 and 22 November 2025
Barcelona

Next Steps:

- Adoption of the Barcelona Declaration of Priorities.
- Formation of a working party to draft terms of reference for ICMHN.
- Post-summit Delphi survey to rank priorities, followed by a global communiqué in the International Journal of Mental Health Nursing.

Looking Ahead

This summit marks a turning point for mental health nursing leadership—enhancing visibility, shaping policy, and ensuring future-ready strategies for global mental health care. While several attendees, including Associate Professor Sevil Yılmaz and Assistant Professor Özge Süküt, described the summit as “a dynamic forum addressing human rights, safe environments, and ethics”,

We have witnessed the birth of a movement — and now we will grow it...” — Prof Rhonda Wilson, summarising consensus at the Summit and announcing the official Barcelona Declaration

Further Reading - First publication from the Summit: Read the article in the International Journal of Mental Health Nursing; Beyond Resilience: Resources, Respect and Recognition in Global Universal Mental Health Nursing Reform -

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/jpm.70081>



EU PROMENS



Horatio continues to be involved and supporting EU-PROMENS. EU-PROMENS is a capacity-building programme on mental health financed by the EU4Health programme and will be implemented by the project consortium (GFA Consulting Group GmbH, Trimbos Institute, and Mental Health Europe) between January 2024 and December 2026. It will enhance and improve the capacity of health professionals across Europe in the field of mental health. The programme implements flagship 15 'Initiative For More And Better Trained Professionals in the EU' of the Commission's Communication on a comprehensive approach to mental health.

FOR MORE INFO VISIT: [HTTPS://EU-PROMENS.EU/EU-PROMENS](https://eu-promens.eu/eu-promens)

BANK DETAILS

Please note that the bank details for the Horatio bank account have changed. The new bank account is now in Czech Republic. All new membership invoices will include the Iban and all other details of the new bank account. Membership renewals will be sent out in January 2026.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 2026 Annual General Assembly (GA) will be held during the congress in Belgium. All the full members (associations) are welcomed to join the GA and also to use their voting right for the election of the new members of the board. We will send more detailed information about the agenda of GA by email.

FELLOWSHIP AWARD

The Horatio Fellowship Award will recognise recipients for their contribution to the professional activities in support of psychiatric/mental health nursing (PMHN), either in Europe or worldwide. It is designed to ensure that those who have had an extraordinary influence on the professional growth, development, and identity of PHMN will be rewarded for their endeavours.

FELLOWSHIP AWARD WINNERS



DES KAVANAGH
(2017)



MICHAEL SCHULZ
(2018)



AGNES HIGGINS
(2023)



PÁLL BIERING
(2025)

Only full, paid up, member organisations of Horatio can nominate one person per year using the "Fellowship Nomination" (in attachment). It can either be one of their own nationals, or someone they wish to recognise from another country. Nominations are not restricted to European nurses only but may be from worldwide. Nominations should be sent to the General Secretary of Horatio by email. All nominations must be accompanied by the signed Nominee Consent Form.

The award will be announced and presented at the next Horatio Congress in Mechelen, Belgium.



Horatio Fellowship Award

As announced at the Annual General Meeting in May 2017, the Horatio Award will recognise recipients for their contribution to the professional activities in support of psychiatric/mental health nursing (PMHN), either in Europe or worldwide. It is designed to ensure that those who have had an extraordinary influence on the professional growth, development, and identity of PHMN will be rewarded for their endeavours. The first to receive the award in 2017 was Mr. Des Kavanagh who, throughout a long and active career, had been highly influential representing PMHN in Ireland, and for nine years was the first President of Horatio.

Award Process

Only full, paid up, member organisations of Horatio can nominate one person per year using the attached form. It can either be one of their own nationals, or someone they wish to recognise from another country. Nominations are not restricted to European nurses only but may be from worldwide. There are no specific criteria that need to be met, but the individual must have demonstrated over time a commitment to their own work and that of PMHN. Nominations should be sent to the General Secretary of Horatio by the closing date on the form. **All nominations must be accompanied by the signed Nominee Consent Form.**

Award Selection

The recipient will be the individual who, in the opinion of the Board members, has demonstrated the qualities necessary to receive this prestigious award. In the event that the Board is unable to agree upon a successful candidate, more than one Fellowship may be awarded for that year, though this is to be avoided if possible. In the event that the Board does not feel that the nominations meet with the high standard set for the award, no Fellowship will be offered that year. Nominating organisations will be advised of the Board's decisions in advance of the award presentation.

Award Presentation

The award will be announced and presented at the next Horatio Congress or Festival. Whilst it is preferable, the recipient does not have to be present at the event. In the case of an absent recipient a nominated person/organisational representative, may receive the award on their behalf. The Fellowship is awarded for life and the Fellow's name will appear on the Horatio website, along with the announcement of their award and short biographical details about the individual. (In very extreme circumstances, and at the discretion of the Horatio Board, a Fellowship may be withdrawn).



Fellowship Nomination form _____

(year of nomination)

Name of Nominee	
Consent form attached?	
Nationality	
Contact details	
Why does your organisation feel this individual should receive the Fellowship Award? (Max 400 words)	
Member Organisation	
Name of signatory	
Role within the organisation (i.e. President)	

Nominations must be received by the Horatio General Secretary at info@horatio-web.eu no later than 4 weeks in advance of the upcoming Horatio Congress or Festival



Horatio Fellowship Award

Nominee Consent Form

Name of Nominee:

Nominating Organisation:

Dear,

Your name has been put forward as a nominee for the annual Horatio Fellowship award which recognises outstanding work in support of psychiatric and mental health nurses in Europe and/or worldwide. In order that your nomination can be submitted you are kindly requested to sign below giving your consent to be nominated

I,, hereby give my permission to be nominated for the Horatio Fellowship Award

Signed _____



Social media has become a very important part of every one's life and it has many feature like providing information, entertainment, and learning

SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow Horatio's latest news, publications, and upcoming events on all our social media platforms.

Horatio has just recently updated it's Facebook page. Please follow us on:

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/HoratioEuropeanPsychiatricNurses/>

X

@Horatio_eu

Instagram

horatio_eu

Website

<https://www.horatio-eu.com>

E-mail

info@horatio-web.eu



A collection of gold Christmas ornaments and snowflakes is scattered across a white marble background. The ornaments include several large, ribbed spheres, smaller smooth spheres, and three five-pointed stars. Two large, intricate snowflake ornaments are also present. The text "Happy Holidays" is written in a black cursive font across the center of the image.

Happy Holidays