

CALL FOR PAPERS

"8th International Congress on Borderline Personality Disorder and Allied Disorders"

Lausanne, Switzerland

September 07-09, 2026

«Transforming Futures: Integrating Lived Experience, Research, and Practice »



By Régis Colombo, LT/ www.diapo.ch

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

We are very pleased to invite you to submit your work to the **upcoming "8th International Congress on Borderline Personality Disorder and Allied Disorders"**, on the topic of **"Transforming Futures: Integrating Lived Experience, Research, and Practice"**. We will meet in **Lausanne (Switzerland)**, from **Monday, September 07th until Wednesday, September 09th, 2026**.

Transforming Futures—for clients as well as for the field of personality research and treatment—will serve as an expansive theme for highlighting the exciting progress emerging across our discipline. This includes the challenges and opportunities related to timely identification of personality disorders across the lifespan, advances in differential diagnosis, and the delivery of effective interventions. We warmly welcome contributions that showcase innovation in assessment, diagnosis, theoretical models, treatment approaches, clinical outcomes, and everyday practice.

The 8th Congress of the European Society for the Study of Personality Disorders will reflect on these topics—as well as many other shifts currently shaping our field—and explore how they offer opportunities for learning and advancement. ESSPD Lausanne 2026 will feature a **dynamic, cutting-edge scientific program** enriched by the **insights of master clinicians** and opportunities for **one-to-one exchanges** with leaders in the field.

This call for papers encourages innovative contributions that address the evolving contexts in which treatment for individuals with personality pathology is delivered. We welcome fresh ideas that push the field forward and open pathways to meaningful, lasting change. We also invite proof-of-concept studies that can lay the groundwork for the next generation of research—projects that can be tested, expanded, and refined over time. Finally, we encourage submissions that recognize the multi-level complexity of personality pathology and its treatment from different perspectives.

The 8th International Congress on Borderline Personality Disorder and Allied Disorders will take stock of these changes, along with many others our field is currently experiencing, and examine them as opportunities to learn and make progress. ESSPD Lausanne 2026 promises to deliver a lively cutting-edge scientific program, supported by the thought-provoking presence and guidance of master clinicians and one-to-one meet-ups between leaders in the field.

This call for papers invites innovative submissions addressing changing contexts of treatment delivery for individuals with personality pathology. We invite new ideas which move the field forward, and thus present opportunities leading to lasting change. We invite proof-of-concept studies which may serve as basis for the next generation of researchers to be tested, elaborated and refined. We invite submissions which take into account the multi-level complexity of personality pathology and its treatment.

The deadline for submission is February 27th, 2026, midnight CET on the following platform:

<https://esspd.mymeetingsavvy.net/>

Formats of submission

Research symposia

Research symposia should include four to five presentations focused on a common theme or various aspects of a large-scale research project. Presentations should come from at least two different institutions. The symposia will last 90 minutes, with a minimum of 15 minutes for open discussion with the audience. Each symposium should have a chair (normally the organizer of the panel or another relevant person).

We encourage to include the perspective of users and family members in the symposia.

The panel submission portal is set up for **one person** (in most cases the chair) to submit the **panel abstract AND each paper abstract** together. Thus, before submitting, this person should collect all abstracts from the panel speakers and then proceed with the provided link. Overall and individual paper abstracts have a maximum of **300 words**.

Individual Papers

Individual papers are suited for presentations of completed research, or projects that have **not been submitted as part of an organized thematic research symposium**. They will be a maximum of **15 minutes**, and the Scientific Committee will organize papers of similar topics to be presented during the same time slot. The Scientific Committee will assign a chair to each Paper session. Abstracts have a maximum of **300 words**.

Posters

Poster presentations are appropriate for a range of research reports, including completed studies, pilot data, and work-in-progress. Posters offer the unique opportunity for the audience to see detailed **graphic output**. There will be guided poster tours with a designated moderator. The speaker should also bring print-outs of the poster in format A4. Abstracts have a maximum of **300 words**. Of note, the best three posters will be awarded at the Award Session at the 2026 ESSPD congress.

Format of the congress

After the outstanding 2024 conference in Antwerp, Belgium, we are already looking forward to meeting again in 2026 in beautiful Lausanne, Switzerland. Together, we will continue and deepen our discussions on how to improve treatment for individuals with personality disorders—drawing on new scientific findings as well as the experiences shared by those affected, their families and friends, and clinicians. We are eager to bring together diverse perspectives and expertise to gain deeper insights and inspire innovative ideas for future research.

At the same time, we recognize that circumstances have evolved, and some colleagues may prefer or need to participate virtually. As an **Academy of Excellence** dedicated to advancing expertise in personality disorders, the ESSPD is committed to facilitating broad and accessible knowledge sharing. For this reason, we are offering a partially **hybrid format: all speakers will attend in person in Lausanne to deliver their presentations, while select sessions will be live-streamed worldwide to reach participants in every region**.

Awards

As Academy of Excellence, the European Society for the Study of Personality Disorders (ESSPD) is very pleased to send out a call for two awards.

ESSPD Early Career Investigator Award 2026

The European Society for the Study of Personality Disorders (ESSPD) established the Early Career Investigator Award in order to stimulate early career researchers to perform innovative research in the broad field of personality disorders. The selection criteria for the award jury will be:

- The research idea has to be original, innovative and methodologically sound
- It has to connect different domains of research, resulting in a new perspective
- The research has to be the applicant's own project, is not part of a larger institutional project and has to be adequately presented and discussed.

<https://www.borderline-congress.org/awards/>

ESSPD Excellence Award 2026

The European Society for the Study of Personality Disorders (ESSPD) invites researchers to submit their work for the ESSPD Excellence Award 2026.

The ESSPD aims at recognizing an idea, a concept, a method – in the form of a published paper - which clearly pushes forward the field of personality disorders worldwide and makes a break-through contribution to the understanding and treatment of individuals with personality disorders.

<https://www.borderline-congress.org/awards/>

Deadline for submission for both awards: March 31st, 2026 to be submitted to info@esspd.eu

Travel to Lausanne, Switzerland

For our colleagues from Central Europe, ESSPD encourages you to consider your carbon footprint and to travel by train to beautiful Lausanne. You can find details about how to travel to Lausanne here: <https://www.lausanne-tourisme.ch/en/access-to-lausanne/>

Details of hotels will also be available shortly on the website. Last but not least, an exciting Social Program and a casual Network Dinner is awaiting us in Lausanne.

Please visit our website for further information related to ESSPD Lausanne 2026

www.borderline-congress.org

www.esspd.eu

For specific questions, please send an e-mail to info@esspd.eu

We very much look forward to receiving and reviewing your submission, and then to welcoming you to Lausanne, Switzerland, in September 2026.

For the Scientific Committee of ESSPD Lausanne 2026,

Michaela Swales, PhD
ESSPD President

Chiara de Panfilis, PhD
Chair of the Scientific Committee ESSPD Lausanne 2026