



18th International Conference on Tourette Syndrome & Tic Disorders
17-19 June 2026 · Grand Hotel Union Eurostars, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Conference Programme

Wednesday, 17 June

| WHITE HALL | GLASS HALL |
|---|---|
| <p>09:00–12:00</p> <p>Workshop in English for participants with basic training</p> <p>Trainers: Tara Murphy · Zsanett Tárnok · Jolande van de Griendt · Cara Verdellen · Katrin Woitecki</p> <p>“Basic principles and behavioural techniques for treating tic disorders”</p> <p>09:00 – The cornerstone of treatment: diagnostics, assessment and psychoeducation 09:25 – Habit reversal training (HRT) 10:15 – Coffee break 10:30 – Exposure and response prevention (ERP) 11:15 – Function-based interventions 11:45 – Questions and closing – challenges in real life</p> | <p>09:30–10:30</p> <p>ENIGMA-TS</p> <p>Speaker: Peristera Paschou</p> <p>“Unravelling brain development and genetic background in Tourette Syndrome”</p> <p>20-minute talk followed by 40-minute discussion / ENIGMA-TS working group meeting.</p> <p>Moderated by: Kevin Black</p> <p>11:00–13:00</p> <p>Tics and Tourette Across the Globe (TTAG)-AM Session</p> <p>Patient associations and advocacy groups meeting</p> <p>“Tourette Across the Lifespan: Bridging Clinical Practice, Research and Real-Life Experience”</p> <p>11:00–11:05 – Welcome – Michele Dunlap, TTAG President, Germany 11:05–11:10 – Welcome – Nanette Mol Debes, ESSTS Chair, Denmark 11:10–11:40 – “Lifespan Perspective on Tourette Syndrome” – Mauro Porta, Italy 11:40–12:10 – “Understanding Co-Occurring Conditions and Tourette” – Christine Conelea, USA 12:10–12:15 – Break 12:15–13:00 – Interactive Session: “TS in Real Life – Challenges, Obstacles and the Unknown” – Maria Belen Prieto, TTAG Board, Spain</p> |
| <p>13:00–14:00</p> <p>Garden hall</p> <p>Light lunch</p> | |

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| 14:00–17:00 | 14:00–17:00 |
| Workshop in English for advanced participants | Tics and Tourette Across the Globe (TTAG) Annual Meeting-PM session |
| Trainers: Tara Murphy · Zsanett Tárnok · Jolande van de Griendt · Cara Verdellen · Katrin Woitecki | |
| <p>"OCD and tic-related OCD"</p> <p>14:00 – Quiz</p> <p>14:10 – Introduction, background & assessment of tics, OCD and tic-related OCD</p> <p>14:30 – Treatment overview including sequencing of treatment</p> <p>14:55 – Systemic approach (school, work)</p> <p>15:10 – Neurobiology & update on medication</p> <p>15:25 – Coffee Break</p> <p>15:45 – Case discussions in smaller groups</p> | <p>14:00–14:30 – “Therapeutic Approaches Across the Lifespan – From Symptom Management to Life-Centered Care” – Roxana Apollonio Cabrera, TTAG Vice President, Spain</p> <p>14:30–14:40 – Preview: AFSGT Project “Livres Blanc” – Jean-François Mittaine, France</p> <p>14:40–15:50 – Expert Panel Discussion: “Navigating Lifespan Challenges”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kirsten Müller-Vahl, Germany • Christine Conelea, USA • Elia Abi-Jaoude, Canada • Sam de Boer, The Netherlands • Maria Belen Prieto, TTAG Board, Spain <p>15:50–16:00 – Coffee Break</p> <p>16:00–16:45 – Presentation & Interactive Session: “Supporting Families and Caregivers – Psychoeducation and Beyond” – Donatella Comasini, TTAG Board, Italy</p> <p>16:45–17:00 – Key Takeaways & Goodbye till 2027 – Roxana Apollonio Cabrera and Michele Dunlap, TTAG</p> |

Opening ceremony

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| 18:00–19:45 |
| Glass Hall |
| I. Keynote |
| Speaker: Barbara J. Coffey |
| <p>"Tourette Disorder: Tears, Fears and Years"</p> <p>The role and impact of anxiety and depression in TS, with recent data on suicidality.</p> <p>Lecture (45') followed by discussion (15')</p> <p>Moderated by: Tammy Hedderly</p> |
| II. Professor Mary Robertson Award 2026 |
| Speaker: winner to be revealed! |
| <p>Oral presentation (15')</p> <p>Moderated by: Natalia Szejko</p> |
| III. Mary Robertson Travel Grant winners |
| <p>Annalise Leopold-Australia, Méliza Gagnon-Canada, Ione Georgakis-UK, Christiane Licht-Germany, Giulia Maio-Italy, Wiktor Sliwinski-Poland</p> <p>(in alphabetical order)</p> |
| 19:45 |
| Garden Hall |
| Cocktail time; getting together again! |

Thursday, 18 June

07:00

Tivoli Park

Morning run

The morning run tradition continues – pack your running shoes!

Chief Track & Field Officer: Nanette Mol Debes.

09:00–09:15

Glass Hall

Welcome address by Tics and Tourette Across the Globe (TTAG)

Speaker: Michele Dunlap

09:15–10:30

Glass Hall

Symposium session on OCD

I. Neuroplasticity in OCD: lifespan changes and treatment targets

Speaker: Odile van den Heuvel

II. Advanced treatment strategies for OCD

Speaker: Philippe Domenech

III. Focus on clinical aspects

Speaker: Osman Malik

10:15–10:30 Q&A – discussion

Moderated by: Nanette Mol Debes

10:30–11:00

Garden Hall

Coffee break

11:00–12:30

Glass Hall

Clinical rounds - case (video) presentations

Session Chair: Tammy Hedderly

12:30–13:30

Garden Hall

Lunch break

13:30–14:15

Glass Hall

General Assembly | Thank you for participating!

Board elections: 2026–2029 term

eVoting available for members not attending in person.

14:15–15:00

White Hall

Poster rounds, session I

Moderated by: Nanette Mol Debes

15:00–15:30

Garden Hall

Coffee break

15:30–16:15

Glass Hall

Complementary medicine in tic disorders: a scoping review

Speaker: Tamara Pringsheim

Moderated by: Christelle Nilles

16:15–16:45

Glass Hall

Pharmacotherapy for tics: past & future

Speaker: Kirsten Müller-Vahl

Moderated by: Christelle Nilles

16:45–18:00

Glass Hall

Oral presentations of submitted abstracts, session I

Moderators: Kirsten Müller-Vahl, Andreas Hartmann

Social activities

18:15

Guided Tour

"Old town & Plečnik's Ljubljana

From 19:45

InterContinental Rooftop Restaurant

Social Event-Dinner

Friday, 19 June

09:00–10:45

Glass Hall

Pathophysiology session

I. Animal models of Tourette syndrome

Speaker: Marco Bortolato

II. Biomarker of tic prognosis

Speaker: Yulia Worbe

III. Pathophysiological insights from the EMTICS study

Speaker: Andrea Dietrich

10:30–10:45 Q&A – discussion

Moderated by: Kirsten Müller-Vahl

10:45–11:15

Garden Hall

Coffee break

11:15–12:30

Glass Hall

Oral presentations of submitted abstracts, session II

Moderators: Kirsten Müller-Vahl, Andreas Hartmann

12:30–13:30

Garden Hall

Lunch break

13:30–14:30

Glass Hall

Controversy session, followed by a live poll

"Is coprolalia a tic or functional?"

Speaker: Kirsten Müller-Vahl

Arguing "No, it is not a tic"

Speaker: Elia Abi-Jaoude

Arguing "Yes, it is a tic"

Moderated by: Tammy Hedderly

14:30–15:15

White Hall

Poster rounds, session II

Moderated by: Nanette Mol Debes

15:15–15:45

Garden Hall

Coffee break

15:45–16:45

Glass Hall

Best papers of 2025 on tics and TS

Speaker: Kevin J. Black

Moderated by: Andreas Hartmann

16:45–17:15

Glass Hall

Closing ceremony

Best poster & best oral presentation awards

New ESSTS Board announcement

ESSTS Conference 2027 announcement



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Oral presentations of submitted abstracts

Moderators: Kirsten Müller-Vahl, Andreas Hartmann

Thursday, 18 June

16:45-18:00

Glass Hall

Session I

1. **a) Behavioral inflexibility and impulsivity are associated with explosive outbursts in youth with Tourette syndrome**
b) Executive functioning and explosive outbursts among youth with Tourette syndrome
Simon Morand-Beaulieu
2. **Sleep Patterns in Children with Tic Disorders: Distinct Profiles by Tic Subtype rather than Diagnosis Alone**
Stella Haffner
3. **Prevalence and Phenomenology of Pain in Children and Adolescents with Tourette Syndrome: Findings from a Tertiary Tic Service**
Tarendeep Johal
4. **Autism and Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder Traits as Predictors of Tic Phenomenology in Children and Adolescents.**
Ellie Roberts
5. **Effects of wrist-administered vibrotactile stimulation on tic symptoms in young people with Tourette syndrome: a mixed-methods pilot study**
Hannah Wright
6. **Beyond tics: The impact of explosive outbursts on family functioning in Tourette syndrome**
Méliza Gagnon
7. **Sex differences in the expression of explosive outbursts in youth with Tourette syndrome**
Léa Dufort & Méliza Gagnon

Friday, 19 June

11:15–12:30

Glass Hall

Session II

- 8. Substance misuse in adults with Tourette syndrome**
Christelle Nilles
- 9. A neural basis for premonitory urge and tic suppression**
Stephen Jackson
- 10. Changes in self-esteem and quality of life following CoPs or CBIT therapy in youth with tics – Do tic-specific traits influence psychosocial outcomes?**
Julie Leclerc
- 11. When Comorbidity Matters: How Anxiety and Depression Shape Cognitive Functioning in Tourette Syndrome**
Marc Lavoie
- 12. Bridging Diagnostic Gaps and Increasing Awareness of Emerging Therapies in Tourette Syndrome Through Web-Based CME**
Donald Gilbert
- 13. Behavioral, Clinical, and Cognitive Predictors of Tic Suppression**
John Piacentini
- 14. Parent-Rated Functional Impairment Over Time in Youth with Tic and Other Movement Disorders: A Preliminary Electronic Health Record Study**
Donald Gilbert



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Poster rounds

Moderated by: Nanette Mol Debes

Thursday, 18 June

14:15-15:00

White Hall

Poster rounds, session I

- 1. Evidence for a developmental delay in brain maturation in Tourette syndrome: a multi-centre mega-analysis of TMS data**
Stephen Jackson
- 2. Enuresis and encopresis in patients with tic disorders: case report and review of the literature**
Wiktor Sliwinski
- 3. The experiential bases of the urge to tic in Tourette syndrome: Study protocol and preliminary qualitative findings**
Annalise Leopold
- 4. The premonitory urge revisited: a linking pin with autism spectrum disorders and ADHD?**
Danielle Cath
- 5. Drug-induced tics: a systematic review and meta-analysis**
Natalia Szejko
- 6. Neural responses to reward are associated with anger in youth with Tourette syndrome**
Simon Morand-Beaulieu
- 7. Neurocognitive correlates of response to cognitive and behavioral treatment in youth and adults with Tourette syndrome**
Simon Morand-Beaulieu
- 8. Characterizing premonitory urges in Tourette Syndrome**
Giulia Maio

9. **Explaining the genetics of tic disorders to children: development of a child-focused psychoeducational video addressing the limits of genetic testing**
Tarendeep Johal
10. **Examining mechanistic principles of behavioral interventions in GTS from a TEC-perspective**
Yifan Hao
11. **Experimental Investigation of the Effects of Rhythmic Movement Transmission on Tic Frequency in Tourette Syndrome: Horse Simulator vs. Therapy Horse**
Anna Katharina Alexandridis
12. **Motor Selection and Inhibition in Tourette Syndrome: Insights from Beta Oscillations**
Lyna Hanafi
13. **Tic Disorders & Psychomotor domain in schizophrenia spectrum disorders- a case report and literature review**
Laavanya Damodaran
14. **Tourettic Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder: Preliminary Clinical Outcomes of an Integrated Exposure and Response Prevention and Habit Reversal Intervention**
Dipesh Patel
15. **From Training to Practice: Evaluating a CBIT Programme's Impact on Clinician Confidence and Service Pathways**
Ione Georgakis
16. **When the Body Speaks: An Occupational Therapy-Led Sensory Approach to Tic Management in Tourette Syndrome and Functional Neurological Disorder - Case Study**
Ione Georgakis
17. **ASH1L-Related Neurodevelopmental Disorder Presenting With Tourette Syndrome, ADHD, and Epilepsy: A Case Report and Pathophysiological Integration**
Sabra Savarese
18. **Clinical and qEEG Correlates of Tic Severity and Short-Term Outcome in Pediatric Tic Disorders: A Prospective Study**
Sabra Savarese
19. **Premonitory Urge Network in Patients with Tic Disorders**
Katharina Schindlbeck

- 20. Navigating Digital Media Habits of children in a Paediatric Movement Disorder Clinic – A pilot study**
Jasmine Krieg
- 21. Neuromodulation as a new treatment option for tic disorders: a case report**
Christiane Licht
- 22. A Retrospective Analysis of Gastrointestinal Issues in Children with Tics and/or OCD**
Ineke Cordova
- 23. New-onset complex movement disorder in a patient with Tourette Syndrome: an unsolved case**
Ivan La Torraca
- 24. When Should We Medicate Tics? Evidence Gaps and a Proposed Pathway**
Lilian Ebner

Friday, 19 June

14:15–15:00

White Hall

Poster rounds, session II

- 25. From ORBIT to Impact: The Translational Journey of a Research Project to Real-World Implementation**
Olivia Hastings
- 26. Centring Tourettic Experiences in Technology: Tourette Syndrome, Median Nerve Stimulation, and the Role of Technoableism**
Daniel Jones
- 27. Growing Proficiency in Tic Disorder Care and Skills (GP-TICS)**
Adam Parker
- 28. Looking to the future of Tourette Syndrome Research**
Daniel Jones
- 29. The Hidden Burden: Caregiver experiences in childhood tic disorders and OCD. A qualitative systematic review and synthesis**
Camilla Soerensen
- 30. Tic disorders & OCD in childhood: a systematic review and qualitative synthesis**
Camilla Soerensen

- 31. Why do clinical Trials fail in Tourette Syndrome? A Systematic Review and Meta-Research Analysis**
Natalia Szejko
- 32. Shared Experience, Shared Support: Evaluating Peer Mentors in Tic Therapy Group.**
Tamsin Owen
- 33. A scoping review of psychoeducational interventions for Tourette syndrome and tic disorders**
Bethan Davies
- 34. Hair-Based Assessment of Exo- and Endocannabinoids in Tourette Syndrome: Association with Clinical Phenotype and Cannabis-based Treatment**
Natalia Szejko
- 35. Learning from lived experience: how young people's reports of living with functional tic like behaviours can shape service provision.**
Tamsin Owen
- 36. Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices in Community Care for Pediatric Tourette Syndrome: A Multi-Methods Study**
Julian Fletcher
- 37. Lessons learned from including Patient and Public Involvement members throughout research projects in remote Tic Disorder Research**
Camilla Babbage
- 38. The Role of Pain in Psychological Functioning and Quality of Life among Youth with Tic Disorders**
Agnieszka Małek
- 39. Are impulsions impactful? A single centre UK study of the movements seen in Tourettic OCD and their clinical significance**
Claire Eccles
- 40. Examining the relationship between lifetime trauma and tic severity in children with Tourette Syndrome**
Kaja Monique Wiberg Andersen
- 41. What do we currently know about functional tic-like behaviors: A topical review**
Kaja Monique Wiberg Andersen
- 42. Cognitive flexibility training in TS adult patients with OCD**
Carlotta Zanaboni Dina

43. Pilot Evaluation of Teacher-Assisted Tic Therapy for a Child and Family with Multiple Health Needs - A Widening Access Initiative

Raj Seraya Bhatia

44. A cross-sectional study of barriers to clinical implementation of guidelines in the assessment and treatment of persistent tic disorders

Christelle Nilles

45. Tic Attire: Exploring Tic-Related Pain, Injury and the Co-Design of Protective Clothing

Ione Georgakis

46. Making Work Work for Tourette syndrome: Developing a Strengths-Based Employment Passport

Ione Georgakis

47. Childhood trauma, life events and clinical presentation in functional tic like behavior and Gilles-de-la-Tourette syndrome: preliminary data from a non-interventional clinical study

Victoria Watzal