



18<sup>th</sup> 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><b>09:00–12:00</b></p> <p><b>Workshop in English for participants with basic training</b></p> <p>Trainers: Tara Murphy · Zsanett Tárnok · Jolande van de Griendt · Cara Verdellen · Katrin Woitecki</p> <p><b>“Basic principles and behavioural techniques for treating tic disorders”</b></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><b>09:30–10:30</b></p> <p><b>ENIGMA-TS</b></p> <p>Speaker: Peristera Paschou</p> <p><b>“Unravelling brain development and genetic background in Tourette Syndrome”</b></p> <p>20-minute talk followed by 40-minute discussion / ENIGMA-TS working group meeting.</p> <p>Moderated by: Kevin Black</p> <p><b>11:00–13:00</b></p> <p><b>Tics and Tourette Across the Globe (TTAG)-AM Session</b></p> <p><b>Patient associations and advocacy groups meeting</b></p> <p><b>“Tourette Across the Lifespan: Bridging Clinical Practice, Research and Real-Life Experience”</b></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><b>13:00–14:00</b></p> <p><b>Garden hall</b></p> <p><b>Light lunch</b></p>	

<b>14:00–17:00</b>	<b>14:00–17:00</b>
<b>Workshop in English for advanced participants</b>	<b>Tics and Tourette Across the Globe (TTAG) Annual Meeting-PM session</b>
<b>Trainers: Tara Murphy · Zsanett Tárnok · Jolande van de Griendt · Cara Verdellen · Katrin Woitecki</b>	<b>Patient associations and advocacy groups</b>
<p><b>"OCD and tic-related OCD"</b></p> <p>14:00 – Quiz</p> <p>14:10 – Introduction, background &amp; 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 &amp; 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 “Livre Blanc” – Jean-François Mittaine, France</p> <p>14:40–15:50 – Expert Panel Discussion: “Navigating Lifespan Challenges”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kirsten Müller-Vahl, Germany</li> <li>• Christine Conelea, USA</li> <li>• Elia Abi-Jaoude, USA</li> <li>• Sam de Boer, Netherlands</li> <li>• Maria Belen Prieto, TTAG Board, Spain</li> </ul> <p>15:50–16:00 – Coffee Break</p> <p>16:00–16:45 – Presentation &amp; Interactive Session: “Supporting Families and Caregivers – Psychoeducation and Beyond” – Donatella Comasini, TTAG Board, Italy</p> <p>16:45–17:00 – Key Takeaways &amp; Goodbye till 2027 – Roxana Apollonio Cabrera and Michele Dunlap, TTAG</p>

### Opening ceremony

<b>18:00–19:45</b>
<b>Glass Hall</b>
<b>I. Keynote</b>
<b>Speaker: Barbara J. Coffey</b>
<p><b>Title TBA</b></p> <p>Lecture (45') followed by discussion (15')</p> <p>Moderated by: Tammy Hedderly</p>
<b>II. Professor Mary Robertson Award 2026</b>
<b>Speaker: winner to be revealed!</b>
<p>Oral presentation (15')</p> <p>Moderated by: Natalia Szejko</p>
<b>III. Mary Robertson Travel Grant winners</b>
<p><b>Annalise Leopold-Australia, Méliza Gagnon-Canada, Ione Georgakis-UK, Christiane Licht-Germany, Giulia Maio-Italy, Wiktor Sliwinski-Poland</b></p> <p>(in alphabetical order)</p>
<b>19:45</b>
<b>Garden Hall</b>
<b>Cocktail time; getting together again!</b>

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&amp;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

13:30–14:15

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

14:15–15:00

White Hall

Poster rounds, session II

Moderated by: Nanette Mol Debes

15:00–15:30

Garden Hall

Coffee break

15:30–16:30

Glass Hall

Best papers of 2025 on tics and TS

Speaker: Kevin J. Black

Moderated by: Andreas Hartmann

16:30–17:00

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) Executive functioning and explosive outbursts among youth with Tourette syndrome  
b) Behavioral inflexibility and impulsivity are associated with explosive outbursts in 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

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 Bhatoo

**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