



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

Conference Programme

Wednesday, 17 June

09:00-12:00

White Hall

Workshop in English for participants
with basic training

Trainers: Tara Murphy · Zsanett Tárnok ·
Jolande van de Griendt · Cara Verdellen ·
Katrin Woitecki

**"Basic principles and behavioural
techniques for treating tic disorders"**

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

09:30-10:30

Glass Hall

ENIGMA-TS

Speaker: Peristera Paschou

**"Unravelling brain development and
genetic background in Tourette
Syndrome"**

20-minute talk followed by 40-minute
discussion / ENIGMA-TS working group
meeting.

Moderated by: Kevin Black

11:00-13:00

**Tics and Tourette Across the Globe
(TTAG)-AM Session**

Patient associations and advocacy groups
meeting

**"Tourette Across the Lifespan:
Bridging Clinical Practice, Research
and Real-Life Experience"**

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

13:00-14:00

Garden hall

Light lunch

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	
"OCD and tic-related OCD"	
14:00 – Quiz	14:00–14:30 – “Therapeutic Approaches Across the Lifespan – From Symptom Management to Life-Centered Care” – Roxana Apollonio Cabrera, TTAG Vice President, Spain
14:10 – Introduction, background & assessment of tics, OCD and tic-related OCD	14:30–14:40 – Preview: AFSGT Project “Livres Blanc” – Jean-François Mittaine, France
14:30 – Treatment overview including sequencing of treatment	14:40–15:50 – Expert Panel Discussion: “Navigating Lifespan Challenges”
14:55 – Systemic approach (school, work)	<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
15:10 – Neurobiology & update on medication	15:50–16:00 – Coffee Break
15:25 – Coffee Break	16:00–16:45 – Presentation & Interactive Session: “Supporting Families and Caregivers – Psychoeducation and Beyond” – Donatella Comasini, TTAG Board, Italy
15:45 – Case discussions in smaller groups	16:45–17:00 – Key Takeaways & Goodbye till 2027 – Roxana Apollonio Cabrera and Michele Dunlap, TTAG

Opening ceremony

18:00–19:45
Glass Hall
I. Keynote
Speaker: Barbara J. Coffey
"Tourette Disorder: Tears, Fears and Years"
The role and impact of anxiety and depression in TS, with recent data on suicidality.
Lecture (45') followed by discussion (15')
Moderated by: Tammy Hedderly
II. Professor Mary Robertson Award 2026
Speaker: winner to be revealed!
Oral presentation (15')
Moderated by: Natalia Szejko
III. Mary Robertson Travel Grant winners
Annalise Leopold-Australia, Méliza Gagnon-Canada, Ione Georgakis-UK, Christiane Licht-Germany, Giulia Maio-Italy, Wiktor Sliwinski-Poland (in alphabetical order)
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 (P1-P13) & Jana Kodrič (P14-P24)

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

Moderated by: 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

Moderated by: Kirsten Müller-Vahl

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 (P25-P36) & Jana Kodrič (P37-P48)

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