

Prof. Dr. med. Sebastian Walther, M.D.

German and Swiss nationality, married, 2 Children

Work address:

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Current positions:

- Head of the outpatient clinic, University Hospital of Psychiatry, Bern, Switzerland (director: Prof. W. Strik)
- Professor of Psychiatric Neuroscience (Extraordinariat) at the University of Bern
- Coordinator of psychiatric training for residents

Education:

1997 –2003 Medicine studies at Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena, Germany
Graduation as Dr. med. (thesis on alcoholism)

2007 – 2011 Postgraduate studies in psychotherapy at the University of Basel, Switzerland
26.08.2011 University professional of Cognitive Behavioral Psychotherapy, University of Basel
27.10.2011 Board certification: Psychiatry and Psychotherapy (FMH)

11.02.2014 Venia docendi for Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, University of Bern
01.09.2017 Assistant Professor with Tenure Track of Psychiatric Neuroscience, University of Bern
01.04.2020 Full Professor of Psychiatric Neuroscience, University of Bern

Appointments:

Jan. 1st 2004 – Dec. 31st 2004:

Resident at the Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany (head: Prof. Dr. med. A. Heinz)

Jan. 1st 2005 – Mar. 31st 2006

Resident at the University Hospital of Social and Community Psychiatry, Bern, Switzerland (head: Prof. Dr. med. Dr. phil. H. D. Brenner)

Apr. 1st 2006 – May 31st 2008

Resident at the University Hospital of Psychiatry, Bern, Switzerland (head: Prof. Dr. med. W.K. Strik)

Jun. 1st 2008 – May 31st 2009

Resident at the Department of Neurology, Inselspital, University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland (head: Prof. Dr. med. C.W. Hess)

Jun. 1st 2009 – Jun. 30th 2012

Consultant at the University Hospital of Psychiatry, Bern, Switzerland (head: Prof. Dr. med. W.K. Strik)

Jul. 1st 2012 – Dec. 31st 2016

Head of the section of Affective Disorders at the University Hospital of Psychiatry, Bern, Switzerland (head: Prof. Dr. med. W.K. Strik)

Jul. 1st 2013 – Dec. 31st 2016

Head of the inpatient department (Chefarzt) at the University Hospital of Psychiatry, Bern, Switzerland (head: Prof. Dr. med. W.K. Strik)

Since Jan. 1st 2017

Head of the outpatient clinic (Chefarzt) and emergency psychiatry at the University Hospital of Psychiatry, Bern, Switzerland (head: Prof. Dr. med. W.K. Strik)

Research interests:

- Motor symptoms and nonverbal communication in psychiatric disorders
 - Several projects in schizophrenia, depression, ADHD, autism and dementia applying motor rating scales, gesture tasks, actigraphy, and neuroimaging techniques (perfusion MRI, structural MRI, diffusion MRI, functional MRI, EEG).
- Psychopathological psychosis dimensions: e.g. formal thought disorder and paranoia
- Suicide prevention and crisis intervention

Memberships (selected):

ISNIP – International Society for Neuroimaging in Psychiatry (president since 09/2018)

SSBP – Swiss Society of Biological Psychiatry (Treasurer since 09/2017)

SIRS – Schizophrenia International Research Society (membership committee since 03/2020)

CNB – Clinical Neuroscience Bern (president of the executive board)

SFCNS – Swiss Federation of Clinical Neuroscience Societies (executive board since 10/2019)

Expert committee for the DSM-5 text revision: schizophrenia spectrum and other psychotic disorders

Expert for ICD-11 chapter on catatonia

Editorial board member of the journals Neuropsychobiology and Schizophrenia Bulletin (2018-2020)

Associate Editor European Archives of Psychiatry and Clinical Neuroscience

Associate Editor Frontiers in Psychiatry

Awards (selected):

- SSBP Young Investigator Award 2015 (Swiss Society of Biological Psychiatry)
- Swiss Brain League Research Award 2018
- DGPPN Research Award 2020 (German Society of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy)

Funding (selected, total amount > 6 Million CHF):

2014-2017 **Walther S**, Federspiel A, Bohlhalter S: “Gesture deficits in Schizophrenia: A combined functional MRI and diffusion tensor imaging study of disconnectivity to investigate the neural basis of limb praxis.” Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF), 152619

2019-2023 **Walther S**: “Overcoming psychomotor slowing in psychosis – a combined neuroimaging and transcranial magnetic stimulation study on the pathophysiology of motor slowing” Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF), 182469

2019-2024 Mittal VA, Shankman SA, **Walther S** (3-PI-Plan). An examination of psychomotor disturbance in current and remitted MDD – an RDoC Study. National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) R01 MH118741

2019-2023 **Walther S**: “Combined social cognitive remediation and neurostimulation to improve nonverbal communication in Schizophrenia: a longitudinal study on neurobiology, functional capacity, and social outcome” Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF), 184717

2020-2025 Gysin-Maillart A & **Walther S**: “ASSIP Home Treatment – suicide prevention project” Swiss Health Promotion Foundation

Peer-Reviewer for Journals/Grants

Ad-hoc reviewer for 70 journals, e.g. New England Journal of Medicine, JAMA Psychiatry, Lancet Psychiatry, Schizophrenia Bulletin, Biological Psychiatry, Cerebral Cortex, Human Brain Mapping Cochrane Dementia and Cognitive Improvement Group, The Cochrane Library

Medical Research Council (U.K.), Research Foundation Flanders, Fondation pour la Recherche Médicale (France), US-Israel Binational Science Foundation, German Ministry of Education and Research

Publications:

129 original peer-reviewed articles, see

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/myncbi/1ry3lcxAu01AX/bibliography/public/>

Bern, August 22nd 2022