

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

German and Swiss nationality, married, 2 Children

Work address:

University Hospital of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy

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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
- Head of the research group on communication disturbances in endogenous psychoses
- 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

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).
 - Research group with several co-workers, junior researchers with own projects
- Psychopathological psychosis dimensions: e.g. formal thought disorder and paranoia

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 (vice-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

Editorial board member of the journals Neuropsychobiology and Schizophrenia Bulletin

Associate Editor European Archives of Psychiatry and Clinical Neuroscience

Associate Editor Frontiers in Psychiatry

Awards (selected):

- ISNIP Membership Award 2011
- SSBP Young Investigator Award 2015
- Swiss Brain League Research Award 2018

Funding (selected):

- 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
- 2015-2018 Bohlhalter S, **Walther S**, Müri R, Nyffeler T: “Interference with gesture control and transcallosal white matter integrity: A theta---burst stimulation and diffusion tensor imaging study in apraxia after stroke.” Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF), 155954
- 2018-2020 Cignacco Müller E, Schenk K, **Walther S**, Ging A, Berger A: «Perinatal Mental health care in Switzerland: Unraveling the perspectives of affected women and health professionals (MADRE)» Stiftung Pflegewissenschaften Schweiz
- 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

Peer-Reviewer for Journals/Grants

Ad-hoc reviewer for 69 journals, e.g. JAMA Psychiatry, Lancet Psychiatry, Schizophrenia Bulletin, Biological Psychiatry, Cerebral Cortex, Human Brain Mapping, NeuroImage

Cochrane Dementia and Cognitive Improvement Group, The Cochrane Library

Medical Research Council (U.K.), Research Foundation Flanders, PSI Foundation, Ontario (Canada),

Fondation pour la Recherche Médicale (France), US-Israel Binational Science Foundation

Publications:

98 original peer-reviewed papers, see

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/myncbi/1ry3lxxAuO1AX/bibliography/public/>

Bern, April 23rd 2020