



SIRS

Schizophrenia International Research Society

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Iris E. Sommer MD PhD, Professor of Psychiatry University Medical Center Groningen

In September 2024 prof Ben Alderson-Day invited me as a keynote speaker at the satellite meeting of the International Consortium on Hallucination Research. This is a consortium that is really dear to me, as I was one of the founders back in 2009. Ben recently took over the chair position and teamed up with Ana Pinheiro, who is a senior researcher at the Lisbon faculty of psychology. Together they organized both the junior and the senior versions of the ICHR head-to-head in a lovely Lisbon autumn. I had to return early from our summer holiday for this lecture, but it was good value for holiday, as the hallucination researchers were all there. Not only Ben and Ana, but also Sohee Park, Pavo Orepic, Phil Corlett, Sonja Kotz and Emmanuelle Peters were there and presented their latest. Have a peak to see what happened in Lisbon: <https://sites.google.com/view/echr-ichr-2024/home?authuser=0>

For my keynote, I gave a transdiagnostic perspective discussing the different mechanisms that can underly hallucinations across the spectrum, going from people without medical problems, to those at high risk, psychiatric and neurological subgroups. I spend some special attention to hallucinations in Parkinson's disease (PD) and presented the latest work from Emile d'Angremont, soon to defend his PhD thesis in UMC Groningen. He showed that a deficit in acetylcholine is associated with hallucinations in PD, recently published in Brain: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/38864492/> and that cholinesterase inhibitors have a small but significant effect, recently published in JAMA Neurology: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37358841/>.