

iSPS-US

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY
FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL
APPROACHES TO PSYCHOSIS
UNITED STATES CHAPTER

ANNUAL REPORT

2024



www.isps-us.org



331-318-4041



contact@isps-us.org



OUR MISSION

ISPS-US promotes psychological and social approaches to states of mind often called "psychosis" by providing education, training, advocacy, and opportunities for dialogue between service providers, people with lived experience, family members, activists, and researchers.

LETTERS FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

MARIE BROWN, PHD, PRESIDENT: 2024 has been a big year for ISPS-US! We spent time reflecting on our infrastructure and went through the exacting task of reviewing and amending our bylaws. What this amendment brought about is a new way of organizing our Board of Directors, such to allow anyone from our membership to run for a position. For many years, opportunities for members to serve on the board were limited by the stipulations of our bylaws.

We are now so excited to have the ability to bring more of the talented, passionate, and empathic members of our community into governance roles. In fact, just this December we had our first-ever membership vote for the new Board members and I am delighted to announce the following people to our Board: Claire Bien, Elan Cohen, Sydney Harris, Candice NunnTelfort, and MV Perry.

Our new Board reflects the diversity of our organization, bringing together people with lived experience, mental health clinicians, and family members to lead our organization. I am so excited to see what 2025 brings. Thank you all for continuing to be members of ISPS-US and most importantly, for your commitment to promoting psychological and social approaches to psychosis.

LEAH GIORGINI, MS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude and pride for the incredible strides ISPS-US has made. In 2024, we hosted our most successful conference to date in Pittsburgh, PA, with packed rooms and high-energy that showcased the strength of our community and the growing momentum behind humane, psychosocial approaches to mental health care.

Our advocacy efforts also took a significant step forward as ISPS-US's Advocacy Committee joined the National Coalition for Mental Health Recovery for a Hill Day in Washington, DC, amplifying the voices of those pushing for transformative change. Education remains a cornerstone of our mission, and this year, we expanded our programming from 11 sessions to 23, including interactive workshops that delved deeply into psychosocial approaches to psychosis

Highlights included our courses "Diverse Psychotherapeutic Approaches to Psychosis" and "Psychosis, Occupation, and the Human Experience: Exploring the Role of Activity, Engagement, and Meaning," developed in partnership with the American Occupational Therapy Association's Community of Practice in Psychosis.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our movement in 2024. My opportunities to connect with ISPS-US members and supporters continue to inspire and energize me, as we build a brighter future of mental health care together.



Marie Brown (L) Leah Giorgini (R)

EDUCATION

In 2024, ISPS-US achieved remarkable growth in our educational programming, expanding by 109% to offer 23 webinars and workshops that reached over 80,000 people through registered attendance and YouTube views. While increasing education revenue by 66%, we remained committed to accessibility, awarding 988 scholarships for free or heavily discounted attendance.

Our programming covered a wide spectrum of topics, from amplifying marginalized voices in "**Beyond the Stereotypes: Homelessness, Community Coercion & Extreme Cases**," to exploring innovative perspectives in "**New Perspectives on Negative Symptoms: Incorporating Meaning-Centered Approaches and Lived Experience into Clinical Practice**," to cutting-edge research with Professor Joanna Moncrieff in "**Stopping Long-Term Antipsychotics: Reflections on the RADAR Trial**." These sessions reflect our dedication to fostering dialogue, advancing understanding, and empowering our community.

80,233

People Reached

23

Webinars & Workshops



EDUCATION

"Beyond just the content of these trainings being incredibly enriching and helpful, it was so refreshing to hear the presenters speak about voice-hearing in such a normalized and non-pathological way. This was one of the things... helped connect me (the therapist) with a confidence to approach voice-hearing from some new and creative ways instead of a DSM-based limited understanding of what is going on."

Course Attendee, 2024

WEBINARS

- **Creative Approaches to Voices, Visions and Other Sensory Phenomena** – Tami Gatta, LCAT
- **From Breakdown to Breakthrough: Psychoanalytic Treatment of Psychosis** – Danielle Knafo, PhD
- **From Pathology to Purpose: Reimagining the Past & Future of Mental Health** – Justin Garson, PhD
- **Constellations: Psychoanalysis, Psychosis, and the City** – Loren Dent, PhD, Matthew Oyer, PhD
- **Beyond Stereotypes: Homelessness, Community Coercion & Extreme Cases** – Patrick Mureithi, Rob Wipond, Philip T Yanos, PhD
- **New Perspectives on Negative Symptoms: Incorporating Meaning-Centered Approaches and Lived Experience into Clinical Practice** – Marie Brown, PhD, Nev Jones, PhD
- **Psychosis & Social Recovery: What is it and how can we support it?** – Joanna Hodgekins, PhD
- **Neurodiversity Gifts: A profound paradigm shift on psychosis potential** – Joshua Roberts, Oryx Cohen
- **Stopping Long-term Antipsychotics** – Joanna Moncrieff, PhD
- **Working with Psychosis Using the Internal Family Systems Model** – Sascha DuBrul, MSW
- **Why Psychosis Is Not So Crazy: A Road Map to Hope and Recovery** – Stijn Vanheule, PhD

COURSES

- **Diverse Psychotherapeutic Approaches for Voice Hearing** – Eric Morris, PhD, Charlie Heriot-Maitland, PhD, Lauren Gonzales, PhD, Michael Garrett, MD, Tami Gatta, LCAT, Stephanie Mitchell
- **Psychosis, Occupation, and the Human Experience: Exploring the Role of Activity, Engagement, and Meaning** – Justin Scanlan, PhD, Carmen Gloria de las Heras de Pablo, MS, OTR, Sophie Faulkner, PhD, Hilary Mairs, PhD

ISPS-US THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL APPROACHES TO PSYCHOSIS UNITED STATES CHAPTER

Creative Approaches to Voices, Visions and Other Sensory Phenomena
WITH TAMMI GATTA, MS, LCAT, NOT LICENSED CREATIVE ARTS THERAPIST
1/25/24 12-1:30PM ET
LIVE WEBINAR

From Breakdown to Breakthrough: PSYCHOANALYTIC TREATMENT OF PSYCHOSIS
New Book from Breakdown to Breakthrough: The Psychoanalytic Treatment of Psychosis and Mental Status by Danielle Knafo, PhD
2/22/24 1PM-2:30PM ET
LIVE WEBINAR

Diverse Psychotherapeutic Approaches for Voice Hearing Workshop Series
STARTING MARCH 5TH, 2024
Acceptance & Commitment Therapy
Compassion Focused Therapy
Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
Family Systems and Psychodynamic Perspectives
Creative Arts Therapy
Internal Family Systems
18 CE Hours Available

From Pathology to Purpose: REIMAGINING THE PAST AND FUTURE OF MENTAL HEALTH
3/4/24 12PM-1:30PM ET
LIVE WEBINAR

ISPS-US THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL APPROACHES TO PSYCHOSIS UNITED STATES CHAPTER

Constellations: Psychoanalysis, Psychosis, and the City
4/18/24 4PM-5:30PM ET
LIVE WEBINAR

New Perspectives on Negative Symptoms
INCORPORATING MEANING-CENTERED APPROACHES AND LIVED EXPERIENCE INTO CLINICAL PRACTICE
6/28/24 1PM-2:30PM ET
LIVE WEBINAR

ISPS-US THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL APPROACHES TO PSYCHOSIS UNITED STATES CHAPTER

Beyond the Stereotypes: HOMELESSNESS, COMMUNITY COERCION AND EXTREME CASES
5/24/24 1PM-2:30PM ET
LIVE WEBINAR

Neurodiversity Gifts: A PROFOUND PARADIGM-SHIFT ON PSYCHOSIS' POTENTIAL
8/29/24 2PM-3:30PM ET
LIVE WEBINAR

ISPS-US THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL APPROACHES TO PSYCHOSIS UNITED STATES CHAPTER

Stopping Long-term Antipsychotics: REFLECTIONS ON THE RESULTS OF THE RADAR TRIAL
11/26/24 1PM ET
LIVE WEBINAR

Why Psychosis Is Not So Crazy: A ROAD MAP TO HOPE AND RECOVERY FOR FAMILIES AND CAREGIVERS
11/26/24 1PM ET
LIVE WEBINAR

ISPS-US THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL APPROACHES TO PSYCHOSIS UNITED STATES CHAPTER

Working with Psychosis Using the Internal Family Systems Model
10/17/24 3PM-6PM ET
LIVE WEBINAR

Psychosis & Social Recovery: WHAT IS IT AND HOW CAN WE SUPPORT IT?
LIVE WEBINAR

ISPS-US THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL APPROACHES TO PSYCHOSIS UNITED STATES CHAPTER

Psychosis, Occupation, and the Human Experience: EXPLORING THE ROLE OF ACTIVITY, ENGAGEMENT, AND MEANING
A webinar series from ISPS-US and the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)'s Community of Practice in Psychosis
4 CEU Hours Available for AOTA & ASWB

SESSONS EVERY WEDNESDAY THROUGHOUT SEPTEMBER FROM 3PM-4:30PM EASTERN TIME

TOPICS

- 9/4 Self-management - sensory modulation, recovery, and voice hearing - Justin Scanlan, PhD
- 9/8 Validation and reactivation - Carmen Gloria de las Heras de Pablo, MS OTR
- 9/8 Sleep, quality of life and functioning - Sophie Faulkner, PhD
- 9/25 Revisiting negative symptoms - Hilary Mairs, PhD

BRINGING OCCUPATIONAL PERSPECTIVES TO THE WIDER MENTAL HEALTH COMMUNITY

CONFERENCE

The 2024 ISPS-US Conference *New Beginnings: Reimagining Psychosis Services & Systems in the US* took place from November 1-3rd, 2024 at the University of Pittsburgh and Duquesne University.

The event exceeded all expectations, bringing together nearly 180 in-person attendees and almost as many online. With close to 90 speakers from the US, Canada, and the UK, the event was filled with dynamic discussions, packed breakout sessions, and a renewed sense of energy. Many participants left inspired to continue building connections and advancing advocacy sparked at the conference.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we raised \$2,673.59 through our mid-year scholarship campaign, funding 26 free or heavily discounted spaces. This momentum is just the beginning—we're excited to see where it leads next.

328

Attendees

88

Speakers



CONFERENCE



MEMBERSHIP

Over 2024, ISPS-US saw a 21% growth in membership, reflecting our expanding community. Our membership remains diverse, with 32% identifying as low-income or having lived experience. This year, we enhanced opportunities for connection by introducing new member groups, *Spiritual Wellness Conversations* and *Life Writing*, fostering deeper engagement and support. Thank you to our volunteer group facilitators who make these spaces possible.

379

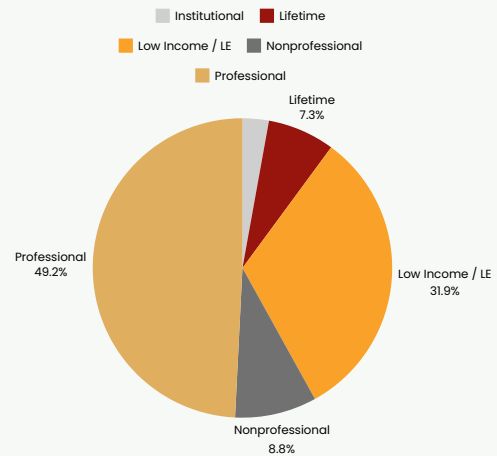
Memberships within 2024

21%

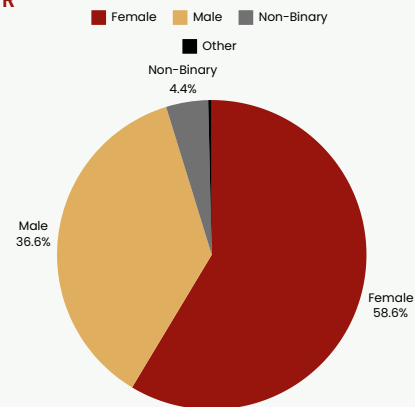
Increase from 2023

RACE	
White	82.1%
Asian	8.5%
Black / African American	1.6%
Mixed Race	3.3%
Other	4.5%

MEMBERSHIP TYPE



GENDER



MEMBERSHIP – CREATIVE GROUPS

ISPS-US's offers opportunities for connection, reflection and feedback for creatives through our groups *ISPS Creative Online Sharing Space (ICOSS)* and *Life Writing*. The following pieces are examples of those created by our group members. View more on our website, under membership.

**"THE MAD ENCHANTER DANCES
FOR SISTER ALICE"
(FOR PENELOPE DUGAN, AND FOR ERIC
WALLACE)**

"the Past"

Sister, somewhere...land is burning...
the people grow... out of agony...
Somewhere strange, wondrous:
other voices, sunlit cadence...
...folk rejoice.

"the Hope"

Corn of the soil, doorways of childhood.

...Youth!

...What place we might envision...

"the Dancing"

There are fires, there be Autumn, and the land
has spun about...

...About! Again!...

We might walk, shift our way, around fires,
through the land,

...Again! Again!...

Sister we may: leap!... transcend the fires...

...Walk about, though the land...

...About!...Again!...

(Scott Norman, Spring '87)

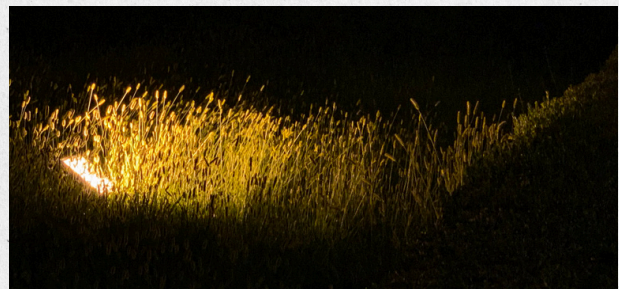


**MIKE PANASITTI, BEFORE THE DELUGE
OIL ON CANVAS**

Before the Deluge is an oil on canvas painting of a streetscape in Corona del Mar, California, where I lived with my father before being re-committed to the Department of State Hospitals in 2008. The painting depicts suburbia on the verge of transition, before real estate speculation transforms quaint bungalows into stylish, expensive, multi-story houses, a process that could arguably be described as "psychotic" since it destroys traditional, perfectly habitable homes for structures that often are not suited to the community's scale and also beyond the economic reach of all but the financially very well-off.

**CLAIRE BIEN, LIGHT IN DARKNESS
SEPTEMBER 2022**

This photograph was taken in September 2022, at the end of the opening reception of the ISPS International Conference in Perugia, Italy, held at the National Archaeological Museum of Umbria. As my group was gathering to leave, I was captivated by the golden light and patterns created by the well lights and decorative grasses in the courtyard.



ADVOCACY

In 2024, ISPS-US advanced critical mental health advocacy by endorsing key policy initiatives and engaging directly with policymakers. We signed on to important letters, including the *APA Policy and Position Statement on the Use of Seclusion and Restraint: Avoiding Institutional Harm and Promoting Evidence-Based Practices in Psychiatric Settings*, as well as the *Stop Institutional Child Abuse Act*. Additionally, several members of our Advocacy Committee actively participated in Hill Day organized by the *National Coalition of Mental Health Recovery*, engaging with elected officials on priorities such as expanding non-coercive treatment options, enhancing access to therapy, and including individuals with lived experience in leadership roles.

We are proud of these accomplishments and remain committed to building on these successes to strengthen our advocacy efforts and influence systemic change in mental health care.



YULIA MIKHAILOVA, ISPS-US ADVOCACY COMMITTEE CHAIR (TOP LEFT) AND MEMBERS OF THE NCMHR HILL DAY DELEGATION



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

In 2024, ISPS-US increased its gross revenue by \$54,223, a 37.2% rise driven by expanded educational programs and a well-attended conference. Our strengthened relationships with supporters and funders resulted in higher individual giving, increased event sponsorship, and continued foundation contributions, while generous in-kind donations such as free conference space further bolstered our success. It's worth noting that some conference charges from 2023 were processed in 2024, skewing our expenses for this year. However, our revenue growth reflects our expanding impact and organizational sustainability.

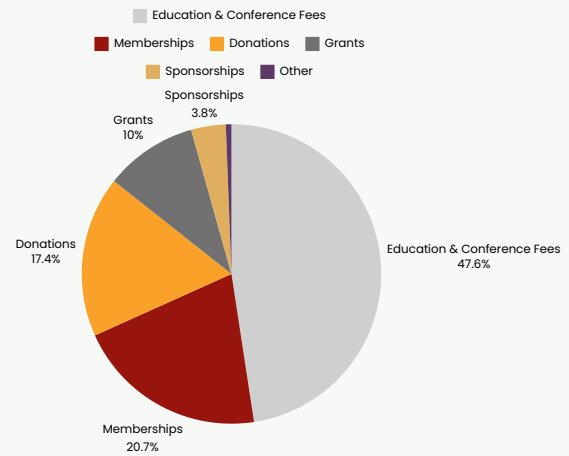
37.2%

Increase in gross revenue from 2023

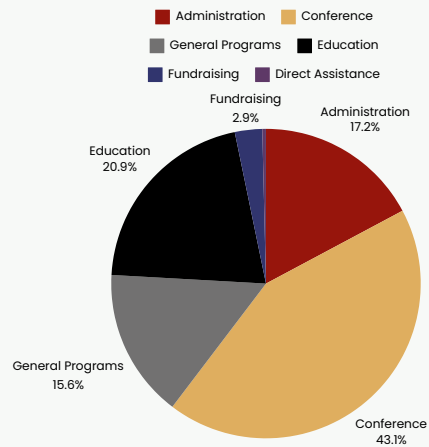
274%

Increase in sponsorships and corporate contributions from 2023

2024 INCOME BY SOURCE



2024 EXPENSES BY CATEGORY



Statement of Financial Position as of 12/31/2024

ASSETS

Bank Accounts	\$82,095
Investments	\$94,740
Other Assets	\$2,284
Depreciation - Fixed Operating Assets	(\$1,219)
TOTAL ASSETS	\$177,890
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$0
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$177,890

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

ISPS-US 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marie Brown – President, Nancy Burke – Vice President, Lindsey Doyle – Secretary, Andrea Finnegan – Treasurer, Bret Fimiani, Kathleen Herling, Julie Kipp, Denise Maratos

2024 LIFETIME MEMBERS

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We thank you for your continued support.