

Prof. Dr. Sebastian Walther, M.D.

Name: Sebastian Walther
Date of birth: 17.12.1976, in Greifswald, Germany
Marital status: married, two children, German and Swiss nationality

Education

1997-2003 Studies of Human Medicine at Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena, Germany
Graduation as Dr. med.

2007-2011 Postgraduate studies in psychotherapy at the University of Basel, Switzerland

2011 University professional of Cognitive Behavioral Psychotherapy, University of Basel

2011 Board certification: Psychiatry and Psychotherapy (FMH)

2019 Specialist certificate Interventional Psychiatry (SIWF)

Academic qualifications

2014 Venia docendi for Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, University of Bern

2017 Assistant Professor with Tenure Track of Psychiatric Neuroscience, University of Bern

2020 Associate Professor of Psychiatric Neuroscience, University of Bern

Postgraduate career

2004 Resident at the Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, Charité Berlin

2005-2008 Resident at the University Hospital of Psychiatry, Bern, Switzerland

2008-2009 Resident at the Department of Neurology, Inselspital, University of Bern, Switzerland

2009-2012 Consultant at the University Hospital of Psychiatry, Bern, Switzerland

2012-2016 Head, section of Affective Disorders at the University Hospital of Psychiatry, Bern

2013-2016 Head of inpatient department (Chefarzt) at the University Hospital of Psychiatry, Bern

2017-2024 Head of outpatient clinic (Chefarzt) and emergency psychiatry at the University Hospital of Psychiatry, Bern, Switzerland

2024 Director of the University Hospital of Psychiatry, Psychosomatics, and Psychotherapy University of Würzburg, Germany

Honors and awards

2015	SSBP Young Investigator Award (Swiss Society of Biological Psychiatry)
2015	SIWF award for excellence in clinical teaching for residents
2018	Swiss Brain League Research Award
2020	DGPPN Research Award 2020 (German Society of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy)

Research funding (selection of >7 Mio € total)

2014-2017	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	Overcoming psychomotor slowing in psychosis – a combined neuroimaging and transcranial magnetic stimulation study on the pathophysiology of motor slowing. SNF, 182469
2019-2025	An examination of psychomotor disturbance in current and remitted MDD – an RDoC Study. National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) R01 MH118741
2019-2024	Combined social cognitive remediation and neurostimulation to improve nonverbal communication in Schizophrenia: a longitudinal study on neurobiology, functional capacity, and social outcome. SNF, 184717
2020-2025	ASSIP Home Treatment – suicide prevention project. Swiss Health Promotion Foundation
2024-2027	The motor activity - subjective energy (MASE) project: Neurobiological and digital phenotyping towards digital mental health interventions in depression. EraNET-NEURON

Editorial boards

Since 2019	European Archives of Psychiatry and Clinical Neuroscience (Associate Editor)
2018-2020	Schizophrenia Bulletin
Since 2013	Neuropsychobiology
2023-2025	Biological Psychiatry Global Open Science

Scientific boards (selection)

ISNIP	International Society for Neuroimaging in Psychiatry (president since 09/2018)
SSBP	Swiss Society of Biological Psychiatry (President since 11/2023)
SIRS	Schizophrenia International Research Society (membership committee 2020-2024)
CNB	Clinical Neuroscience Bern (president of the executive board 2020-2024)

SFCNS Swiss Federation of Clinical Neuroscience Societies (executive board 2019-2024)

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

Expert for ICD-11 chapter on catatonia

Top 5 publications (total of 208 peer-reviewed articles)

1. Heckers S, Walther S (2023). Catatonia. *New England Journal of Medicine* 389:1797-1802
2. Walther S, Stegmayer K, Wilson JE, Heckers S (2019). Structure and neural mechanisms of catatonia. *Lancet psychiatry* 6(7):610-619
3. Walther S et al. (2024). Inhibitory repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation ameliorates psychomotor slowing in psychosis – A Randomized Clinical Trial. *JAMA Psychiatry* 81(6):563-571
4. Lefebvre S, ..., Walther S (2024). The pathobiology of psychomotor slowing in psychosis: altered cortical excitability and connectivity. *Brain* 147(4):1423-1435
5. Wüthrich F, ..., Walther S (2024). The neural signature of psychomotor disturbance in depression. *Molecular Psychiatry* 29(2):317-326

Publications

- National Library of Medicine: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/myncbi/1ry3lc-xAuO1AX/bibliography/public/>
- ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4026-3561>