



SOBP

SOCIETY OF
BIOLOGICAL
PSYCHIATRY

1945–2025 Celebrating 80 years of advancing science for mental health



Strategic Plan 2025-2030

INTRODUCTION

Contents

[Introduction](#)

[Mission, Vision, Values](#)

[10 Things we are proud of](#)

[Our Five Pillar](#)

[Pillar 1: Science](#)

[Pillar 2: Membership
Engagement and Diversity](#)

[Pillar 3: Education](#)

[Pillar 4: Advocacy and
Outreach](#)

[Pillar 5: Organizational
Capacity](#)

[Implementation Cycle](#)

[2024 Membership Survey
Results](#)

The Society of Biological Psychiatry (SOBP) has been at the forefront of promoting scientific advances in the field of psychiatry for eight decades. To continue driving progress and meeting the evolving challenges in mental health, this 5-year strategic plan outlines our vision and priorities for the future and serves as a roadmap to guide our initiatives and ensure our sustained impact.

The 2025 Strategic Plan reflects SOBP's commitment to excellence through self-reflection, growth, and change. Fulfillment of our vision requires continual re-examination of our progress and identification of new initiatives to advance our mission and support the community engaged in mental health care, research, education, and advocacy. The 2025 Strategic Plan addresses key areas in each of 5 pillars: (1) science, (2) member engagement, (3) education, (4) public outreach and advocacy, and (5) organizational capacity. Each pillar is designed to build on the strengths of our community while addressing emerging challenges and opportunities across the fields of science related to biological psychiatry.

Through this plan, the SOBP reaffirms its dedication to empowering researchers, clinicians, and stakeholders globally, ensuring that our collective efforts translate into meaningful improvements in mental health care and scientific discovery. Together, we will shape a future where scientific breakthroughs lead to better lives for individuals affected by brain disorders.

The Strategic Plan Task Force

Sophia Frangou, President

Carrie Bearden, President Elect

Deanna Barch, Member

Karen Berman, Member

Linda Carpenter, Member

Tamar Gur, Member

Manish Jha, Member

David Lewis, Member

Tiffany Ho, Member

Mary Phillips, Member

Dost Öngür, Member

Scott Rauch, Secretary

Trey Sunderland, Treasurer

MISSION

The mission of the Society of Biological Psychiatry is to promote scientific research and education that advance the understanding, prevention, and treatment of psychiatric disorders. By fostering collaboration, innovation, and dissemination of cutting-edge findings in the biological sciences, the Society seeks to improve mental health care and enhance the lives of individuals affected by these conditions.

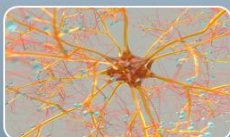
VISION

The vision of the Society of Biological Psychiatry is to be the leading professional organization in the integration, advancement, and promulgation of science relevant to psychiatric disorders, with the goal of reducing or preventing the suffering of those with these disorders.

VALUES

Collegiality	Community Engagement	Lifelong Learning
Fostering a collaborative and respectful community that supports shared efforts to advance science for mental health	Embracing and valuing the unique perspectives, backgrounds, and contributions of all individuals working to advance science for mental health	Commitment to the continuous pursuit of knowledge and skills to science for mental health
Highest Ethical Standards of Professional Conduct	Integrity	Leadership
Demonstrating respect, fairness, accountability, and excellence in psychiatric research, education, and clinical care	Upholding the highest standards in research and education to ensure trust and transparency in advancement of science for mental health	Guiding the field by fostering innovation, collaboration, and excellence in the advancement of science for mental health

10 THINGS WE ARE PROUD OF



Promoting Research Advancements

The SOBP has been at the forefront of promoting discoveries in biological psychiatry, shaping the understanding of brain function in health and disease



Global Membership Community

The SOBP boasts an international membership of leading scientists, clinicians, and researchers dedicated to improving mental health care and treatment.



Prestigious Annual Meeting

The SOBP Annual Meeting is a premier platform for sharing cutting-edge research, fostering collaboration, and inspiring innovation in the field.



Impactful Journals

The Society's journals are highly regarded for publishing influential research and advancing the field's knowledge base.



Promotion of Early Career Scientists

The SOBP actively supports early-career researchers through awards, mentorship programs, and dedicated opportunities to present their work and connect with experts in the field.



Focus on Translational Research

The SOBP is focusing on research that bridges the gap between basic neuroscience and clinical application, ensuring research findings translate into improved patient outcomes



Educational Excellence

Through a range of initiatives and workshops, the SOBP provides members and the broader community with tools and knowledge to advance mental health research and practice



Enduring Collaborations

The SOBP fosters a culture of collaboration across disciplines and institutions, bringing together neuroscientists, psychiatrists, and mental health professionals to tackle complex challenges in mental health.



Commitment to Community Engagement

The SOBP is committed to fostering a dynamic and engaged community, ensuring broad participation and creating opportunities for diverse voices in psychiatry and neuroscience.



Advocacy for Mental Health

SOBP promotes the importance of mental health research through public awareness campaigns, and collaboration with advocacy organizations and other learned societies.

OUR FIVE PILLARS

*Our Pillars Offer Strategic Clarity and Guide
Our Goals and Actions*

Our Vision and Mission

1

Science

2

Member
Engagement

3

Education

4

Public
Outreach
and
Advocacy

5

Organizational
Capacity

Our Values

1

Science

Objective

To promote impactful research in biological psychiatry and foster innovation in understanding and treating psychiatric disorders.

Initiatives

Maintain and expand the influence of the annual meetings by showcasing groundbreaking research, fostering meaningful collaborations, and providing a platform for the exchange of ideas
Implementation: Program Committee; SOBP President

Organize and support symposia, workshops, and other initiatives that focus on emerging and topical themes in biological psychiatry both at and beyond the annual meeting
Implementation: Program Committee; Council

Launch initiatives (e.g., task forces) to address topical issues such as the role of emerging technologies for mental health
Implementation: President; Executive Committee; Council

Maintain the highest quality standards for the journals through rigorous peer review, cutting-edge research, while upholding ethical publication practices
Implementation: Editors Committee

Key Performance Indicators

Increased engagement and enthusiasm for the annual meetings

Growth in submissions and impact factor of the SOBP journals

High quality pre-conference events

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

2

Member Engagement

Objective

To create a welcoming and collaborative environment for members from different backgrounds and perspectives

Initiatives

Maintain activities to recruit, retain and engage members from diverse backgrounds and with a wide geographical distribution

Implementation: Community Engagement Committee; Membership Committee

Maintain membership pricing, and conference registration fees at a range that is affordable for all members

Implementation: Council

Improve communication by strengthening the Society's digital presence through the website, newsletter, and social media, ensuring accessibility, timely information sharing, and greater engagement.

Implementation: President; Parthenon Management Group

Maintain mentorship opportunities during the annual meeting

Implementation: Education Committee; Community Engagement and CAWL Committees

Increase networking and educational opportunities beyond the annual meeting with in-person and on-line meetings

Implementation: President; Education, Membership, Community Engagement and CAWL Committees

Enhance information content on funding and job opportunities

Implementation: President; Executive Committee, Parthenon Management Group

Key Performance Indicators

Website and newsletter redesign to be released in 2025

Committees to propose at least 3 specific projects to support these initiatives by 2029

EDUCATION

3

Education

Objective

To equip members and the broader community with knowledge and tools to advance mental health research and practice.

Initiatives

Increase educational offerings on cutting-edge techniques in neuroscience and psychiatry organized directly by the Society or in partnership with other organization/institutions

Implementation: Executive Committee, Education Committee

Expand educational offerings on cutting-edge neuroscience and psychiatry techniques, through SOBP-led initiatives and strategic partnerships with other Societies and Institutions

Implementation: Executive Committee, Education Committee

Expand educational offerings on essential professional skills for career development through SOBP-led initiatives and strategic partnerships

Implementation: Executive Committee, Education Committee, Community Engagement Committee and CAWL

Key Performance Indicators

Increase online, hybrid and in-person educational offerings through the special projects' funding mechanism

Committees to propose at least 3 specific projects for expanding educational initiatives by 2029

Aim for over 10,000 participants to online educational initiatives by 2029

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY

4

Public Outreach and Advocacy

Objective

Explore and define SOBP's approach to advocacy and public outreach, including areas of engagement and strategic partnerships.

Initiatives

Increase connections with advocacy groups to promote mental health awareness campaigns.

Implementation: President; Executive Committee, Council

Explore opportunities to enhance contributions to policy by fostering collaborations with other professional societies.

Implementation: President; Executive Committee, Communication Task Force, Council

Broaden the reach and impact of the annual pre-conference open lecture by partnering with advocacy organizations and academic institutions in each host location.

Implementation: President; Program Committee; Communication Task Force; Parthenon Management Group

Explore the option of publishing policy briefs or position papers on the societal impact of psychiatric disorders, emerging technologies and the importance of research funding.

Implementation: President; Executive Committee, Council

Develop multimedia content, including podcasts and videos, to communicate research findings to non-scientific audiences.

Implementation: President; Executive Committee, Communication Task Force, Council

Key Performance Indicators

One open lecture per year

1-2 Podcasts per year

1-2 Advocacy/Policy briefs /op eds

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

5

Organizational
Capacity

Objective

To ensure the sustainability and efficiency of SOBP's operations and governance.

Initiatives

Diversify annual revenue streams, such as sponsorships and partnerships

Implementation: President; Executive Committee, Council

Foster greater member participation in governance through open forums and surveys.

Implementation: President; Executive Committee, Council

Foster greater member participation in governance

Implementation: President; Executive Committee, Council

Strengthen the role of the SOBP committees

Implementation: Executive Committee, Council, All committees

Key Performance Indicators

Annual membership satisfaction survey

Highlight the work of the committees in the quarterly newsletter

Annual Implementation Cycle

Annual Implementation Cycle

June

- Committees and President plan specific tasks aligned with initiatives of each pillar
- Tasks can use the Projects mechanism for financial support

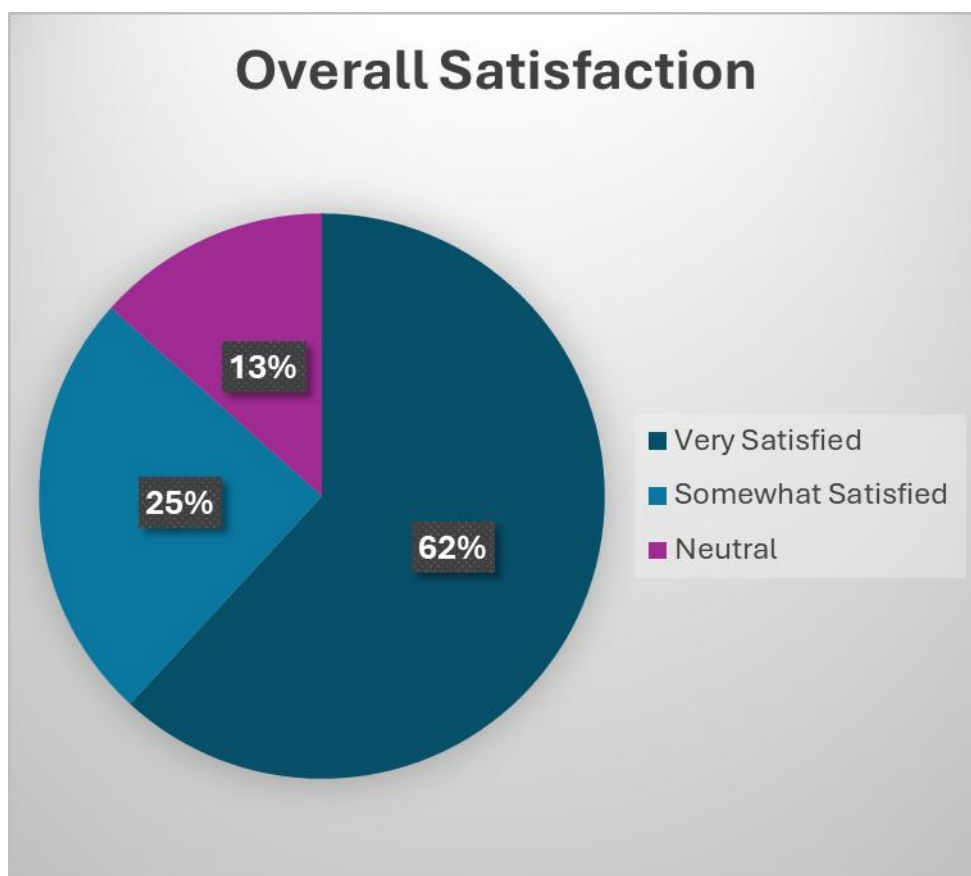
July-April

- Approval by Council
- Implementation [Standing Committees; Task Forces]
- Monitoring by the Executive Committee monthly standing meetings

May

- Council Review of implementation success
- Recommendations for the next cycle

2024 MEMBERSHIP SURVEY RESULTS



Reasons for Satisfaction

1. Positive experiences with the annual conference and the journals
2. Support for early career researchers

Areas of Improvement

1. Limited involvement outside the annual meeting
2. More educational offerings beyond the conference, like webinars, podcasts, and social events
3. Improve engagement with society's digital media
4. Widen opportunities for member to participate in leadership events
5. Expand outreach to broader audiences, including general public and non-academic clinicians
6. Include more lived experience events

