

## **Spanish Society of Psychogeriatrics**

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Interest in mental healthcare for older adults has not been a primary priority

### Key highlights:

- Spain has had a professional society in geriatric psychiatry (SEPG) for almost 40 years.
- The specialty is not yet recognized in the Spanish specialist training system, but the SEPG is working in this direction.
- The SEPG maintains collaborations with other societies, IPA, EAGP and the geriatric psychiatry section of the Portuguese Psychiatry Society
- The SEPG has a growing link with many professionals from Latin America

for Spanish health planning until very recent times. On the one hand, the epidemiological reality of the aging population (in Spain over 20% of the population is over 65 years of age, which has wide territorial variations) and, more recently, the health and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, have increased focus on older adults affected by mental disorders and their unmet needs. Despite this reality, the Spanish Society of Psychogeriatrics (SEPG) has existed since 1986, and since its founding by a group of psychiatrists, has held an annual, uninterrupted congress (except in 2020, due to the pandemic). These conferences spread the interest of clinical psychogeriatrics among a wide variety of professionals in psychiatry, geriatrics, neurology, psychology, neuropsychology, nursing, and other related professions. The next annual congress will take place in the city of Zaragoza, in 2024. In addition to organizing conferences, the SEPG has also carried out numerous activities, among them, the edition of the book “Essential Guide to Psychogeriatrics” (currently preparing its third edition), which is widely distributed among professionals in training and widely accepted among Spanish-language readers. Other publications have also been well received, such as the “Guide on the use of antipsychotics in the elderly” or the “Spanish Consensus on Depression in the Elderly,” which has already had two editions. Along with the annual conferences, other activities take place at other times of the year, such as the “Course on intervention and multidisciplinary care in dementia”, currently in its 4th edition, which is carried out on an itinerant basis in different Spanish cities. In addition, the

SEPG endorses other training activities aimed at resident doctors and other professionals, such as its pre-congress courses, monographic courses in affective disorders or the Master in Psychogeriatrics, a postgraduate specialization in Psychogeriatrics from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and the Hospitaller Sisters of the Sacred Heart hospital, based in Martorell, Barcelona.

Along with all these activities, the SEPG has been publishing the journal “Psicogeriatría” for years, currently in electronic format, in Spanish and with free access, which is in the process of getting indexed and has great acceptance among Spanish and Latin American professionals.

On the other hand, the SEPG maintains links with other societies such as the European Association of Geriatric Psychiatry (EAGP), so that all members of the SEPG are also members of the EAGP. There have also been collaborations with the International Psychogeriatrics Association (IPA), with joint activities and conferences held, such as the 2010 European regional congress in Santiago de Compostela, and joint conferences in 2019, again in Santiago de Compostela, and, in 2023 at the joint congress between both societies together with the Psychogeriatric Section of the Portuguese Society of Psychiatry.

Currently, the SEPG is working to consolidate and increase its members (about 300 at present). Also, in Spain where the specialty of Geriatric Psychiatry is not recognized, SEPG is working to ensure that a specific training area in Psychogeriatrics will be recognized in the new specialization program in Psychiatry; the training lasts five years, with the possibility of recognizing this training after the last year of monographic rotation in units accredited for training in Geriatric Psychiatry.

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**For further reading:**

Sociedad Española de Psicogeriatría, SEPG. <https://www.sepg.es/>

Consenso de la SEPG sobre Depresión en el anciano.  
[https://www.sepg.es/assets/img/web/COSENSO\\_SEPG\\_DEPRESION\\_ANCIANO.pdf](https://www.sepg.es/assets/img/web/COSENSO_SEPG_DEPRESION_ANCIANO.pdf)

Documento de la SEPG sobre el uso de antipsicóticos en la edad avanzada.  
<https://www.sepg.es/documentoantipsicoticos>

Revista PSICOGERIATRIA. <https://www.sepg.es/revistassepg>

Guía Esencial de Psicogeriatría. SEPG.  
<https://www.medicapanamericana.com/es/libro/guia-esencial-de-psicogeriatria>

Consenso sobre demencias de la SEPG y la SEP.  
<https://www.sepg.es/consensosobredemencias>



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[A 1-2 sentence **self-introduction**; please include your email address if you would like readers to be able to contact you]

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