Panel session 'What can philosophy do for mental health care?'
How do we move mental health care forward? Ask four experts. Get four different answers. You pick the best one!

This closing session of INPP 2026 is part debate, part brainstorm, and part live vote. A panel of experts from across the field representing science and research, training and education, and improvements in care each come prepared with their plan for improving mental health care. Bold ideas, different perspectives, and inevitably: some overlap, some friction, and hopefully a few surprises.

The audience doesn't just watch. You respond, challenge, suggest alternatives and…vote.
By the end, the room will have collectively decided which ideas make the final cut.

How it works?
The session runs for 60 minutes and moves fast:

- Each panelist pitches their plan (max 8 minutes each), covering one or more of the themes: science & research (including classification), training & education, or improvements in care.
- The floor opens to the audience to respond: questions, comments, and alternative proposals are all welcome. Put forward your own ideas and make your case.
  If you do not feel comfortable to pitch an idea in public, no worries! In the conference bag you will find pots-it's. Use them to stick up your idea on the wall of inspiration! Your ideas to bridge the gap between philosophy and mental health care or your idea what philosophy can do for mental health care. We would love to hear them and maybe the panelist will use your post it in their pitch.

- Closing discussion on what it would actually take to implement the best proposals.
- You vote for the best idea.

Moderator:
Dr. Alan Ralston, MD
is a philosopher, psychiatrist and also a board member of the Foundation for Psychiatry and Philosophy (*Stichting Psychiatrie en Filosofie*). He focuses on the intersection of empirical research and philosophical frameworks in mental health care.

Panelists:
Dr. Awais Aftab, MD
is a clinical associate professor of psychiatry at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, Cleveland, OH, USA. He focuses on diagnosis, psychopharmacology, and the intersection of philosophy and clinical practice.
Dr. Anna Bergqvist
is Reader in Philosophy at Manchester Metropolitan University and Visiting Fellow at St Catherine's College University of Oxford. Her research spans metaethics, aesthetics, philosophy of psychiatry, and public mental health.
Dr. Elnathan Prinsen, MD
is a psychiatrist and member of the Board of Directors of Parnassia Group, the Netherlands. He focuses on the organization of mental health care, the role of psychiatry in society, and the future of the psychiatric profession.
Prof. dr. Floortje Scheepers, MD PhD
is professor of innovation in psychiatry at Utrecht University Medical Center (UMC Utrecht), the Netherlands. She focuses on the application of technology and data-driven approaches to transform mental health care and clinical practice.