

Psychiatry Grand Rounds

WCM Department of Psychiatry

Psychology CE Announcement



**Weill Cornell
Medicine**
Psychiatry

CATATONIA

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WILLIAM P. AND HENRY B. TEST CHAIR IN SCHIZOPHRENIA RESEARCH

Zoom:

<https://weillcornell.zoom.us/j/92812036154>

Meeting ID: 928 1203 6154

Password: 12345

1 CE credit available to WCM Department of Psychiatry full time and voluntary faculty Psychologists, Social Workers and LMHCs, who sign in with their full name, attend the majority of the lecture and complete a survey which will be emailed following the completion of the lecture. Note the survey must be completed within 30 days of the lecture. Please contact wcmpsychiatryce@med.cornell.edu for additional CE information



October 8, 2025



11 AM - 12 PM



Live Online

ABSTRACT

Catatonia was described before schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. However, it is still common for catatonia to go unnoticed. Even when the signs of catatonia are recognized, they are often interpreted and labeled as something different (e.g., thought blocking, volitional acting out, agitation). Even when catatonia is diagnosed, treaters are often conflicted (lorazepam or an antipsychotic?). The lecture will review the history of catatonia, provide a stepwise introduction to the catatonia exam and review current concepts of catatonia as a neuropsychiatric syndrome.

SPEAKER

Stephan Heckers, MD, MSc attended medical school at the University of Cologne, Germany, and completed his clinical training in Psychiatry at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, MA. He was a faculty member at Harvard Medical School from 1997 until 2005 and the Director of the Schizophrenia and Bipolar Disorder Program at McLean Hospital from 2003 until 2005. He has been serving as Chair of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Vanderbilt University since 2006. Dr. Heckers studies the neural basis of schizophrenia and bipolar disorder and has explored the mechanism of memory deficits in psychotic patients. He is the recipient of several awards, including the Dr. Paul Janssen Schizophrenia Research Award and the A.E. Bennett Award. Dr. Heckers is a member of several editorial boards and of the Scientific Council for the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation. He served as editor of JAMA Psychiatry for 3 years, 2015-2017.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Summarize the classification of catatonia.
2. Describe the signs and symptoms of catatonia.
3. Describe the treatment of catatonia.

REFERENCES

1. Heckers, S., & Walther, S. (2023). Catatonia. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 389(19), 1797–1802. <https://doi.org/10.1056/nejmra2116304>
2. Heckers, S., & Walther, S. (2021). Caring for the patient with catatonia. *JAMA Psychiatry*, 78(5), 560. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2021.0096>
3. Walther, S., Stegmayer, K., Wilson, J. E., & Heckers, S. (2019). Structure and neural mechanisms of catatonia. *The Lancet Psychiatry*, 6(7), 610–619. [https://doi.org/10.1016/s2215-0366\(18\)30474-7](https://doi.org/10.1016/s2215-0366(18)30474-7)
4. Wilson, J. E., Niu, K., Nicolson, S. E., Levine, S. Z., & Heckers, S. (2015). The diagnostic criteria and structure of catatonia. *Schizophrenia Research*, 164(1–3), 256–262. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.schres.2014.12.036>

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