

UNIVERSITY  
OF MIAMI



# CONCLUDING REMARKS

## FOCUS on APATHY

Luca Pani, MD.

CHMP and SAWP Member – EMA, London, UK

Professor of Psychiatry, Clinical Track

Dept. of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

University of Miami, Miami , USA

[Lpani@miami.edu](mailto:Lpani@miami.edu)

@Luca\_\_Pani

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# Apathy – Amotivation – Anhedonia

## Is this only a semantical issue?

### Not really

- Definition of the term Apathy is confusing. Its correct etymological derivation comes from the greek *a-pathós* [απαθής] (literally privative alpha in front of *pathós* meaning without sufferance). From *pathós* comes the term pathology or in a broader term the participated compassion and emotional feeling expressed in the word empathy.
- The term must be defined in an uncontroversial manner while here is confused with amotivation (privative alpha in front of *motus* or transliterally in front of *moveo ut acto* latin for moving to act)
- Perhaps even worse is the confusion with anhedonia (privative alpha in front of ἡδονή greek for pleasure from physical act, not to be exchanged with pleasure from pure spiritual pleasure = τερψις).

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# Non semantical consequences

- The current “Diagnostic Criteria” for Apathy are also confusing, mixing behavior, cognition and emotion
- Once the term is defined, population must be carefully identified and rating scales for endpoints must be regulatory validated in order to disentangle mood component (something still unclear in the literature / presentations)
- The wrong synonymy with anhedonia has brought confusion to the field from definition to biomarkers to criteria to scales to outcome measure / endpoints to mechanism of action to claims and it should be clarified through scientific advices or conferences like this one and white papers
- At this stage of indecision / controversy any regulatory positions will be most likely that of “watch and tell” warranting better delineation of the trait vs. status and better understanding of the field.

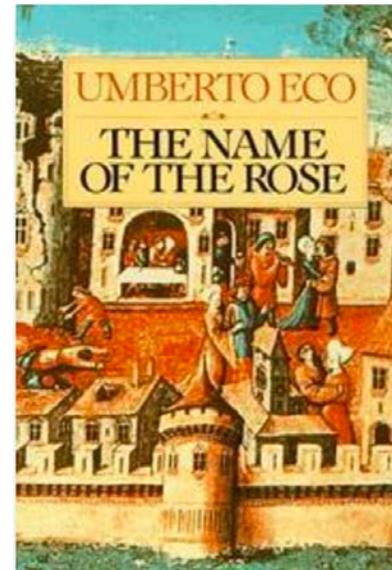
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# Words are important, aren't they?

*Stat Rosa pristina nomine; nomina nuda tenemus\**



Umberto Eco (1932-2016)



\*The Name of the Rose, Published June 9<sup>th</sup> 1983 by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich (NYC)  
Really from *De contemptu mundi* by Bernard of Cluny, Benedictine Monk, XII century