



EPA SCHIZOPHRENIA SECTION REPORT 2020

SECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Chairperson: Prof. Silvana GALDERISI
Co-chairperson: Prof. Wolfgang GAEBEL
Secretary: Prof. Armida MUCCI
Councillor:

LAST SECTION COMMITTEE ELECTIONS HELD:

Date: The election was planned during the 2019 business
Venue: Following the procedure, the election will be notified 2 months before the next business meeting and names of candidates will be notified 1 month before the meeting

ACTIVITIES OF THE SECTION IN 2020:

Meetings/events

Schizophrenia Section business meeting

Description: 2020 Schizophrenia Section business meeting

Chairs: Silvana Galderisi, Italy; Wolfgang Gaebel, Germany

01. Introduction and Welcome
02. Adoption of the agenda
03. Officers' Reports
04. Future activities planning
05. Other business

Partners:

The report was approved. It was decided to postpone the elections at the next virtual meeting of April 10-13, 2021. Wolfgang Gaebel proposed to take the lead with Peter Falkai



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of a guidance paper on Schizophrenia management. The Section also proposed to stimulate for the next EPA congress a ICD 11 training course.

Location: Virtual meeting on Zoom platform

Start date: 09/09/2020

End date: 09/09/2020

Attendance: Twelve members participated in the meeting: Present Silvana Galderisi; Wolfgang Gaebel; Celso Arango; Istvan Bitter; Paola Bucci; Michael Davidson; Giorgio Di Lorenzo; Sonia Dollfus; Stefan Kaiser; Armida Mucci; Merete Nordentoft; Umberto Volpe.

Cognitive Impairment Across the Schizophrenia Spectrum: Focus on Assessment and Treatment

Description: A mild to severe cognitive impairment is present in the large majority of subjects with schizophrenia and is frequent in subjects with other psychotic disorders. It has a negative impact on real-life functioning and quality of life across the disorders. Cognitive dysfunctions are present since the first manifestations of the disease and in subjects at ultra-high risk for psychosis (UHR) and have a significant impact on their level of functioning, greater than symptom severity. Despite the functional consequences of cognitive impairment, its assessment and treatment represent, to date, unmet needs of most people with psychotic disorders. There is considerable evidence that cognitive remediation (CR) is effective in subjects with schizophrenia and other severe mental disorders. However, a limited number of studies reported beneficial effects also in UHR subjects. This symposium provided data on cognitive assessment instruments, their diffusion and applicability in both clinical and research settings, and availability of multinational and multicultural validation for each instrument. In this symposium the state of the art of the therapeutic effects of cognitive remediation programs in subjects with first-episode and chronic schizophrenia, mood disorders, and in UHR people. Data relevant to generalization of cognitive improvement to real-world functioning, personalization of CR, integration with other treatments and dissemination in clinical practice settings were also presented.

Location: Virtual platform

Start date: 29/03/2020

End date: 29/03/2020

Negative Symptoms in Subjects With Schizophrenia and at High Risk for Psychosis: The State of the Art of Assessment and Treatment



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Description:

Negative symptoms are highly prevalent, with an estimated frequency of 50-60% in clinically stable subjects with schizophrenia. Some of these symptoms improve over time, while other are enduring and tend to even worsen in the chronic phase of schizophrenia. Enduring negative symptoms are associated with poor quality of life, increased burden for affected people and their relatives and impaired real-life functioning.

Primary negative symptoms of schizophrenia (i.e., those due to the disease process) do not respond to available antipsychotic treatment, and research is still in progress for the development of new treatments. Non-pharmacological management of primary negative symptoms is still under scrutiny. However, it is increasingly acknowledged that the recognition and management of secondary negative symptoms is possible and, in most cases, successful.

The assessment of negative symptoms in the research context has a long history and improved significantly in the last decade with the refinement of standardized instruments. However, in clinical practice, most psychiatrists are less skilled in the assessment of these symptoms, as compared to positive and disorganized ones.

In this symposium guidance for the assessment and treatment of negative symptoms was provided, with particular reference to the diagnosis of negative symptoms, distinction between primary and secondary ones, treatment strategies and research needs.

Location: virtual platform

Start date: 29/03/2020

End date: 29/03/2020

The Schizophrenia Label: Patient, Family and Professional Perspectives

Description:

The schizophrenia label, more than a century after its introduction, continues to be debated by researchers, clinicians, patients and family members. In particular, it is argued that the name “Schizophrenia” causes stigma to the patients, their families and professionals that are involved in the care of people living with schizophrenia. In light of these observations, some Asian countries changed the term “schizophrenia”; in Japan, for instance, the previously used name of schizophrenia was changed into the new name of Integration disorder. In the same vein, researchers, clinicians and user groups in Europe



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made some proposals (e.g., “Salience disorder”) to change the schizophrenia label. However, to date, the scientific community in Europe has not yet reached an agreement and no alternative name came into use. In this workshop the impact of the name “schizophrenia” on the stigma and, therefore, on the life of subjects suffering from this disorder has been discussed. Patients’ and families’ views, as well as the perspective of professionals were discussed.

Location: Virtual platform

Start date: 30/03/2020

End date: 30/03/2020

FUTURE ACTIVITIES:

Publications

Guidance papers:

"EPA Guidance on Assessment of Negative Symptoms in Schizophrenia"

Journal:

European Psychiatry Accepted for publication

Authors:

S. Galderisi, A. Mucci, S. Dollfus, M. Nordentoft, P. Falkai, S. Kaiser, G. M. Giordano, A. Vandavelde, M. Ø.

Nielsen, L. B. Glenthøj, M. Sabé, P. Pezzella, I. Bitter, W. Gaebel

(Expected) Publication date: 31/03/2021

Acknowledged as official Section publication? Yes

EPA Guidance on Treatment of Negative Symptoms

Journal:

European Psychiatry, accepted for publication

Authors:

S. Galderisi, S. Kaiser, I. Bitter, M. Nordentoft, A. Mucci, M. Sabé, G. M. Giordano, M. Ø. Nielsen, L. B.

Glenthøj, P. Pezzella, P. Falkai, S. Dollfus, W. Gaebel

(Expected) Publication date: 30/04/2021

Acknowledged as official Section publication? Yes



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