



EPA SCHIZOPHRENIA SECTION REPORT 2024

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Chairperson: Prof. Merete NORDENTOFT

Co-chairperson: Prof. Antonio VITA

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EPA SCHIZOPHRENIA SECTION REPORT 2024

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EPA SCHIZOPHRENIA SECTION REPORT 2024

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EPA SCHIZOPHRENIA SECTION REPORT 2024

LAST SECTION COMMITTEE ELECTIONS HELD:

Date: 27/03/2023

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 2024:

Meetings/events

Schizophrenia Section business meeting

Description:

Agenda Chairpersons: Prof. M. Nordentoft, Prof. A.Vita 01. Introduction and Welcome 02. Adoption of the agenda 03. Officers Reports 04. Future activities planning 05. Proposals for section symposia, workshops, and courses for the next EPA Congress 2025. 06. Other business.

Location: Budapest

Start date: 09/04/2024

End date: 09/04/2024

Attendance: Present: Merete Nordentoft (chair), Gabriele Sachs (secretary) and in alphabetical order: István Bitter, Andreas Erfurth, Eda Uzun Uysa

Can familial high risk studies help us to prevent mental illness

Description:

There is a long tradition for familial high risk studies in Europa, and recently results of very strong cohort studies have been published. The speakers are involved in studies in the field and will give updates on clinical findings and results of brain scans. Currently, family interventions in high risk families seems to be a fruitful way of preventing future mental illness in the children and alleviating suffering Chair: Merete Nordentoft, Denmark, Co-Chair: Andrea Raballo, Switzerland. What can we learn from familial high risk studies in order to prevent mental illness among offspring; results from the Danish High Risk and Resilience Study and ideas for intervention. Speaker: Anne Thorup, Denmark. Family and Clinical High Risk: going beyond the chicken and egg riddle in preventive psychiatry. Speaker: Andrea Raballo, Switzerland. Brain developmental trajectory is offspring of parents with schizophrenia or bipolar disorder. Speaker: Neeltje Van Haren, The Netherlands.; Changes in brain structure and function in youth at familial risk for schizophrenia or bipolar disorder: implications for early intervention. Speaker: Gisela Sugranyes, Spain.



EUROPEAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION



EPA SCHIZOPHRENIA SECTION REPORT 2024

Location: Budapest

Start date: 09/04/2024

End date: 09/04/2024

Recovery in schizophrenia: is it possible?

Description:

Chair: Antonio Vita (Italy); Merete Nordentoft (Denmark), Recovery in schizophrenia: conceptualization and factors implicated. Speaker: Antonio Vita (Italy). Recovery in schizophrenia: the role of early intervention. Speaker: Merete Nordentoft (Denmark). Recovery in schizophrenia: the role of antipsychotic treatment. Speaker: Istvan Bitter (Hungary). Recovery in schizophrenia: the role of psychosocial interventions. Speaker: Til Wykes (United Kingdom)

Location: Budapest

Start date: 08/04/2024

End date: 08/04/2024

FUTURE ACTIVITIES:

Meetings/events

How to work with psychoeducational multifamily groups

Description:



EPA SCHIZOPHRENIA SECTION REPORT 2024

There is strong scientific evidence for the effectiveness involving families in treatment of schizophrenia and related disorders and for early intervention services in first episode psychosis. In this course, the evidence for Early Intervention Services will be presented together with the principles and rationale for involving families. The format of psychoeducational multifamily groups will be explained in detail. Participants will be involved actively with polls, and participants will train the problem solving live. We have very good experiences with this format. Director: Merete Nordentoft (Denmark) Co-Director: Tina Iversen; (Denmark)

Location: Madrid

Start date: 05/04/2025

End date: 05/04/2025

Screening and monitoring of cognitive impairments in psychosis using the cognitive assessment interview (CAI)

Description:

The aim of this interactive course is to train participants through the presentation of didactic material and live demonstration, in conducting a brief, interview-based assessment of cognitive functioning using the Cognitive Assessment Interview (CAI). The CAI was designed for use in routine clinical settings or as a co-primary measure in clinical trials to obtain baseline severity levels of cognitive deficits, determine their impact on daily functioning, and to screen and assess change in cognitive functioning over time. Course methods and materials will involve small group discussion; power point slides; use of the CAI Manual and CAI Rating Form; video-taped interviews of patients being assessed with the CAI. The course content will involve: 1) a review cognitive deficits such as problems with working memory, reasoning and problem-solving in psychotic disorders; 2) a review of the functional impact of cognitive deficits; 3) interactive training in the use of the CAI using video-taped interviews and discussion compared to consensus ratings; and 4) how the CAI can be used in screening of cognitive functioning, treatment planning, and the ongoing assessment of change in cognition. Director: Joseph Ventura (United States).

Location: Madrid

Start date: 07/04/2025

End date: 07/04/2025

Assessing and treating cognitive impairment associated with schizophrenia (CIAS)

Description:



EPA SCHIZOPHRENIA SECTION REPORT 2024

Schizophrenia is one of the central challenges in clinical psychiatry. In addition to positive and negative symptoms, cognitive impairment has become a focus of attention in recent years, not least in the hope of finding new treatment options. In our workshop, clinically relevant aspects will be highlighted and discussed. Antonio Vita (Brescia) will introduce the state of the art in neurocognition and present the EPA guidance publications and their results. Armida Mucci (Naples) will discuss the complex relationships between cognitive impairment, negative symptoms and real life functioning. Andreas Erfurth (Vienna) will look at how cognitive function can be assessed in the everyday clinical routine of a psychiatric hospital. Istvan Bitter (Budapest) will show how the choice of antipsychotic medication is important for cognition and that second-generation antipsychotics are preferable to first-generation antipsychotics in this respect. Gabriele Sachs (Vienna) addresses the question of which add-on strategies are available in addition to basic antipsychotic treatment. These include cognitive remediation and the development of monoaminergic pharmacological adjunctive strategies. Chair: Antonio Vita (Italy); Gabriele Sachs (Austria). The EPA guidance publications on neurocognition in schizophrenia. Speaker: Antonio Vita (Italy). Negative symptoms and social cognition as mediators of the relationship between neurocognition and functional outcome in schizophrenia. Speaker: Armida Mucci (Italy). Assessing CIAS in clinical routine. Speaker: Andreas Erfurth (Austria). Choosing an adequate antipsychotic - why SGAs are better than FGAs to minimise cognitive impairment. Speaker: Istvan Bitter (Hungary). The role of add-on strategies (cognitive enhancers, cognitive remediation). Speaker: Gabriele Sachs (Austria).

Location: Madrid

Start date: 08/04/2025

End date: 08/04/2025

Long-term follow-up of european schizophrenia cohorts

Description:

In this symposium we will present data from four European cohorts of patients with first episode schizophrenia which have all been followed for 20 years or more. These four cohorts represent some of the longest duration of follow-up in the world, with incidence patients included after the introduction of neuroleptics. The presenters will focus on the long term course of illness, real world outcomes and recovery. We will present results of four different European cohort studies. From Ireland, professor Mary Clarke will present What can long-term studies tell us about recovery in psychosis; From Spain, Javier Vazquez Bourgon will present Early development of physical co-morbidity and premature death in long-term first-episode psychosis cohort; From Denmark, post doc Helene Gjervig Hansen will present 20 year follow-up of the OPUS cohort- long-term outcome and course of illness; and from Norway associate professor Wenche Ten Velden will present: The 20-year outcomes in the TIPS early detection and intervention study: Focus on recovery; Craig Morgan (AESOB Study UK will be discussing, Nikolai Albert and Marie Starzer from Denmark will be chair and co-chair). Chair: Marie Starzer (Denmark); Nikolai Albert; (Denmark) What can long-term studies tell us about recovery in psychosis Speaker: Mary Clarke



EUROPEAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION



EPA SCHIZOPHRENIA SECTION REPORT 2024

(Ireland) Early development of physical co-morbidity and premature death in long-term first-episode psychosis cohorts Speaker: Javier Vazquez-Bourgon (Spain) 20 year follow-up of the OPUS cohort-long-term outcome and course of illness Speaker: Helene Gjervig Hansen (Denmark) The 20-year outcomes in the TIPS early detection and intervention study: Focus on recovery Speaker: Wenche Hegelstad (Norway).

Location: Madrid

Start date: 07/04/2025

End date: 07/04/2025

FUNDING IN 2024

Income: None

Source(s) of funding:

None

Expenditure: None

Balance: None

EPA Treasurer audit: No

Confirmation that income / expenditure is via EPA: No