



EPA SCHIZOPHRENIA SECTION REPORT 2019

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 meeting
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 2019:

Meetings/events

Schizophrenia Section business meeting

Description:

2019 Schizophrenia Section business meeting

Chairs: Silvana Galderisi, Italy; Wolfgang Gaebel, Germany

1. Introduction and Welcome
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Officers' Reports
4. Future activities planning
5. Other business



Venue: Meeting room 1 - Warsaw Expo XXI

Date: April 8th, 2019

Attendance: Eight members participated in the meeting: S. Galderisi and W. Gaebel (Chairs of the Section); Istvan Bitter, Giorgio Di Lorenzo, Sonia Dollfus, Stefan Kaiser, A. Mucci, Antonio Vita

Section Educational Course "Screening Cognitive Impairments in Psychosis Using the Cognitive Assessment Interview (CAI)"

Description:

Section Educational Course

Screening Cognitive Impairments in Psychosis Using the Cognitive Assessment Interview (CAI)

Chairpersons: Joseph Ventura, USA; Armida Mucci, Italy

The increased awareness that cognitive deficits in psychotic disorders are highly prevalent and have devastating functional consequences has expanded the target of therapeutic interventions beyond symptom management. The change in the focus of treatment for these disorders requires the implementation of cognitive assessment in routine clinical practice. However, the use of a standardized neuropsychological battery is difficult to implement as the administration of a test battery requires more time than is typically available in clinical settings. In addition, in clinical trials obtaining patient oriented information on cognitive functioning might supplement objectively collected data. Interview-based measures of cognition such as the Cognitive Assessment Interview (CAI), a method for assessing cognitive functioning in patients with schizophrenia, were recently shown to be reliable, valid, and sensitive to treatment effects.

Recent validity work has also shown good relationships for the CAI with objective cognitive assessment and multiple domains of role functioning such as independent living, social interactions, family relationships, and school/work functioning. The interview-based approach to the assessment of cognition can also serve a useful role as co-primary measure in clinical trials.

The course included: 1) review of cognitive deficits commonly observed in schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders and their functional impact; 2) illustration of the development of interview-based assessment of cognitive deficits; 3) training of the participants in the use of the Cognitive Assessment Interview using video-taped interviews and discussion of participant's ratings compared to consensus ratings.



Participants skills after the course include: 1) to recognize cognitive deficits frequently observed in psychotic disorders; 2) to understand the functional impact of these deficits in everyday life; 3) to properly screen for these deficits in their routine clinical evaluation of patients.

Venue: Hall L- Warsaw Expo XXI

Date: April 6th, 2019

Attendance: 20 participants

Section Symposium "Virtual Reality in the Assessment and Treatment of Psychotic Disorders"

Description:

Virtual Reality in the Assessment and Treatment of Psychotic Disorders

Chairpersons: Silvana Galderisi, Italy; Merete Nordentoft, Denmark

Virtual reality (VR) can simulate real-life situations in highly controlled laboratory setting. VR has become established as a tool for assessment and treatment of anxiety disorders. Innovative VR applications have targeted assessment of paranoid ideation, promotion of well-being and resilience in adolescents, enhancement of motivation, assessment of autonomic deregulation, to list just a few examples. Recent achievements of VR for the assessment and treatment of psychotic disorders were reviewed in the symposium. Gaps in the current literature and future directions were outlined. In particular, M. Nordentoft (Denmark) illustrated the role of virtual reality in early detection and treatment programs. W. Weling (The Netherlands) illustrated the role of virtual reality in the assessment and treatment of paranoid ideation. M. Cella (United Kingdom) discussed the role of wearable devices for the assessment of autonomic deregulation in psychosis, an index of poor prognosis. P. Garety (United Kingdom)

described the utilization of AVATAR therapy for distressing auditory hallucinations.

Venue: Hall A- Warsaw Expo XXI

Date: April 7th, 2019

Attendance: More than 60 people attended the symposium

Section Symposium "Early Intervention in Psychoses: the State of the Art"



Description:

Early Intervention in Psychoses: the State of the Art

Chairpersons: Silvana Galderisi, Italy; Wolfgang Gaebel, Germany

Although most subjects with first-episode psychosis achieve clinical remission, they frequently have poor functional outcomes. Predictors of the functional impairment include duration of untreated psychosis, negative symptoms and cognitive dysfunction. Early intervention programs have shown an impact on these variables. There is now enough evidence from research and clinical practice to justify the implementation of early detection and intervention in at-risk mental state and first episode psychosis for improving the mental health of many European citizens. The symposium reviewed achievements and challenges of the field.

Anita Riecher-Rossler (Switzerland) illustrated evidence supporting the implementation of early detection and intervention services with low threshold access for patients all over Europe. She demonstrate that implementation of such services is unevenly distributed over Countries, and a lot of effort will have to be taken to establish early detection and intervention for all European patients.

Merete Nordentoft (Denmark) reviewed data on early intervention programs and the long-term reduction of suicide risk for young people, in Europe and Asia. This represented a significant achievement and if replicated in further studies might promote the implementation of early assessment and treatment centers all over the world.

Johanna T.W. Wigman (The Netherlands) discussed the rationale, design and some preliminary results of the Mapping Individual Routes of Risk and Resilience (Mirorr) study, that takes a transdiagnostic, personalized and developmental approach to psychopathology.

Sarah Tosato (Italy) presented the Italian experience on early intervention programs, with particular reference to major achievements and challenges.

Venue: Hall D- Warsaw Expo XXI

Date: April 7th, 2019

Attendance: More than 50 people attended the symposium

Publications

Proposed guidance paper:

"Assessment and treatment of negative symptoms"

Journal:



European Psychiatry

Authors:

S. Galderisi, A. Mucci, M. Nordentoft, S. Dollfus, S. Kaiser, I. Bitter, P. Falkai, W. Gaebel

Acknowledged as official Section publication? Yes

Proposed guidance paper: "Assessment and treatment of cognitive impairment" Journal:

European Psychiatry

Authors:

A. Vita, W. Gaebel, A. Mucci, M. Nordentoft, G. Sachs, T. Wykes, S. Galderisi S.

Acknowledged as official Section publication? Yes

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES FOR FUTURE YEARS:

2020 Section Business Meeting

Sunday, March 29, 2020; Meeting room 3- IFEMA Municipal Palace; Avenue Capital de España Madrid, 7 28042 Madrid, Spain

2020 Section Symposia

Negative symptoms in subjects with schizophrenia: The state of the art of assessment and treatment, within the 28th European

Congress of Psychiatry, EPA 2020, Madrid Spain

Cognitive impairment across the schizophrenia spectrum: Focus on assessment and treatment, within the 28th European Congress of Psychiatry, EPA 2020, Madrid Spain

2020 Section Workshop

The Schizophrenia Label: Patient, Family and Professional Perspectives, within the 28th European Congress of Psychiatry, EPA 2020, Madrid Spain

FUNDING IN 2019



Income: None

Source(s) of funding: None

Expenditure: None

Balance: None

EPA Treasurer audit: No

Confirmation that income / expenditure is via EPA: No