



## **EPA CONSULTATION LIAISON PSYCHIATRY AND PSYCHOSOMATICS SECTION REPORT 2023**

### **SECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Chairperson: Prof. Diogo TELLES-CORREIA

Co-chairperson: Dr. Dan GEORGESCU

Secretary: Dr. Giorgio MATTEI

### **LIST OF SECTION MEMBERS:**

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Luis ALAMEDA, London, United Kingdom

Julian Neil BEEZHOLD, Great Yarmouth, United Kingdom

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Camille NOËL, Brussels, Belgium  
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Lucian - Ioan POP, Kalmar, Sweden  
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Andreja VUCHKOV, Toorak, Australia  
Damla YILDIRIM



## **EPA CONSULTATION LIAISON PSYCHIATRY AND PSYCHOSOMATICS SECTION REPORT 2023**

### **LAST SECTION COMMITTEE ELECTIONS HELD:**

Date: 12/09/22

Venue: Online Meeting due to the CoViD-19 emergency

### **ACTIVITIES OF THE SECTION IN 2023:**

#### **Meetings/events**

#### **Paper submission**

##### **Description:**

Future Activity:

Submission of a paper by the EPA CLP Section, containing results from a research carried out in six European Countries:

Impact of the CoViD-19 pandemic on consultation-liaison activity: changes in everyday clinical practice and work-related factors associated with the psychiatrist's need for seeking help.

Introduction and aim are below:

##### Introduction

On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the novel Corona Virus-19 Disease (CoViD-19) a pandemic, the virus being present in 160 nations and in all continents (WHO, 2020). Since then, the world has been experiencing an unprecedented public health crisis, with consequences not only for physical health but also for the mental health of the population. A particularly vulnerable group is health care professionals. From the very beginning, concerns arose with respect to the health outcomes of the pandemic on professionals working in health care facilities (Torales et al., 2000).

The CoViD-19 epidemic started in the last months of 2019 in China. The WHO Chinese Office informed the WHO of the first case of pneumonia of unknown origin in Wuhan on 31 December 2019. Following this, the WHO informed the world on 9 January 2020. The cause of this new type of pneumonia was soon recognized in a novel virus initially named 2019-nCoV, then called Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), which causes the Corona Virus Disease (CoViD or CoViD-19, from the year of the discovery, 2019) (WHO, January 2020; Xiang et al., 2020; Zhu et al., 2020).

SARS-CoV-2 is the seventh known virus belonging to the family of coronavirus (Zhu et al., 2020). The latter are RNA viruses that generally cause infections to the upper respiratory tract, e.g. cold. Though CoViD may be featured by fever, cough, pulmonary involvement, the majority of cases seems asymptomatic. In the first cases identified in China, mean incubation time was 5 days (IC95%: 4-7 days), with the 95° percentile equal to 12.5 days (The Lancet, 2020).



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Italy has been the first democracy and the first European study to face the epidemic. The first case was reported on 21 February 2020 (Mutti, 2020). In the following weeks, the virus quickly spread throughout the other European Member States. In all countries, the CoViD-19 epidemic led to a condition of uncertainty, fostered by the fear to be infected as well as to infect other people. Moreover, the epidemic has pointed out the co-existence of medieval strategies implemented to contain the contagion (eg., quarantine and lockdown) together with ultratechnological systems (e.g. intensive care units, the ability of developing vaccine in a very short time, etc.; Moscara et al., 2020).

The present study aims to describe the activity of Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry (CLP) Services throughout Europe during the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. CLP (also known as psychiatry of the medically ill, liaison psychiatry, or psychosomatics) is a sub-specialty of psychiatry dealing with the interface between somatic and psychological disciplines. It is framed within the bio-psychosocial paradigm, which aims to a holistic approach to illness, rather than to a biomedical one (Engels, 1977; Diefenbacher & Burian, 2015; Ferrari et al., 2016). To the best of our knowledge, no similar studies have been carried out in this field. Yet, research pointed out that delirium, one of the main reasons for psychiatric referral within general hospitals, frequently occurs among people affected by CoViD-19, even when respiratory symptoms are not present (Baller et al., 2020). Also, pharmacological issues may stem out when people who receive psychopharmacological treatments are hospitalized due to CoViD-19. Finally, it is important to recognize early signs and symptoms of psychiatric disorders (e.g. depression or post-traumatic stress disorder) among patients hospitalized due to CoViD-19 who develop psychopathological impairments during hospital stay.

This study was carried out within the European Psychiatric Association Section (EPA) on Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry and Psychosomatics (CLPP), established in 2007 with the aim of representing a meeting point for all European psychiatrists working in this field. The Section promotes training and research initiatives throughout Europe, has promoted symposia and seminars during the EPA annual Congresses as well as during other training initiatives in several European countries. On 31 December 2022, the Section was made up of fifty psychiatrists, from the following Countries: Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Croatia, Egypt, Finland, Greece, India, Ireland, Italy, Pakistan, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States.

### Aim

Aim of this study was to assess the activity of psychiatrists working in the field of CLP throughout Europe during the CoViD-19 pandemic, and to identify specific work features associated with distress, as perceived by the professional.

**Location:** Publication

**Start date:** 01/01/2023

**End date:** 31/01/2023



## **EPA CONSULTATION LIAISON PSYCHIATRY AND PSYCHOSOMATICS SECTION REPORT 2023**

### **Revisiting Critical Issues in Psychiatric Diagnosis**

#### **Description:**

Faculty:

Michael First

Kenneth Fulford

John Sadler

Giovanni Stanghellini

**Location:** Lisbon

**Start date:** 01/07/2023

**End date:** 01/07/2023

#### **Publication**

#### **Description:**

Collective online revision of the final version of the paper:

Mattei G, Krysta K, Clerici M, Colmegna F, Korostiy V, Karlović D, Krzystanek M, Lemmens GMD, Geerts PJ, Novais F, Peitl V, Santambrogio J, Georgescu D, Telles-Correia D. Impact of the CoViD-19 pandemic on consultation-liaison activity: changes in everyday clinical practice and work-related factors associated with the psychiatrist's need for seeking help. *Eur Psychiatry*. 2023 Oct 26:1-22. doi: 10.1192/j.eurpsy.2023.2456. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 37881840.

**Location:** online

**Start date:** 01/09/2023

**End date:** 26/10/2023

#### **Section meeting**

#### **Description:**

Online Section Meeting, with the following agenda:

1. Proposals for the EPA Congress 2024
2. Section Paper on the Covid-19 pandemic
3. Any other business



## **EPA CONSULTATION LIAISON PSYCHIATRY AND PSYCHOSOMATICS SECTION REPORT 2023**

**Location:** online meeting  
**Start date:** 02/05/2023  
**End date:** 02/05/2023

### **Section business meeting, 7 pm CET**

#### **Description:**

##### Agenda:

- 1) Symposium to submit to the 2024 EPA Congress
- 2) Course to submit to the 2024 EPA Congress
- 3) Clinical case symposium to submit to the 2024 EPA Congress
- 4) Talk to expert: involvement of the Section in this activity (topic: "problems in liaison psychiatry")

**Location:** online meeting  
**Start date:** 19/04/2023  
**End date:** 19/04/2023

### **Annual meeting of the EPA Section on Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry and Psychosomatics Wednesday 29 March 2023 at 7:00 pm CET.**

#### **Description:**

Annual meeting of the EPA Section on Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry and Psychosomatics

Wednesday 29 March 2023 at 7:00 pm CET.

The discussion is mainly focused on the ongoing research projects of the Section and on proposals for the 2024 EPA Congress

**Location:** online meeting  
**Start date:** 29/03/2023  
**End date:** 29/03/2023



## **EPA CONSULTATION LIAISON PSYCHIATRY AND PSYCHOSOMATICS SECTION REPORT 2023**

### **Publications**

**Publication released by section members and published on European Psychiatry**

**Impact of the CoViD-19 pandemic on consultation-liaison activity: changes in everyday clinical practice and work-related factors associated with the psychiatrist's need for seeking help.**

**Journal:**

European Psychiatry

**Authors:**

Mattei, G., Krysta, K., Clerici, M., Colmegna, F., Korostiy, V., Karlović, D., Krzystanek, M., Lemmens, G. M. D., Geerts, P. J., Novais, F., Peitl, V., Santambrogio, J., Georgescu, D., & Telles-Correia, D.

**(Expected) Publication date:** 26/10/2023

**Acknowledged as official Section publication?** Yes

### **FUTURE ACTIVITIES:**

#### **Meetings/events**

##### **Syllabus – European Board Examination in Psychiatry**

**Description:**

Participation of the EPA Section on Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry to the Project:

Syllabus – European Board Examination in Psychiatry

**Location:** online

**Start date:** 01/01/2024

**End date:** 31/12/2024



## **EPA CONSULTATION LIAISON PSYCHIATRY AND PSYCHOSOMATICS SECTION REPORT 2023**

### **Publication of the chapter: Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry and Psychosomatics From Subspecialty to Forma Mentis**

#### **Description:**

Publication of the Chapter written by Giorgio Mattei and Diogo Telles-Correia:

Mattei G, Telles-Correia D. Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry and Psychosomatics From Subspecialty to Forma Mentis. In: Fiorillo A., Falkai P., Gorwood P. (Eds.): Mental Health Research and Practice: from evidence to experience. Cambridge University Press. Cambridge; 2024.

**Location:** online

**Start date:** 01/02/2024

**End date:** 29/02/2024

#### **FUNDING IN 2023**

Income: None

Source(s) of funding: None

Expenditure: None

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Confirmation that income / expenditure is via EPA: No