



EPA NEUROIMAGING SECTION REPORT 2024

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LAST SECTION COMMITTEE ELECTIONS HELD:

Date: 3 July 2023

Venue: online

ACTIVITIES OF THE SECTION IN 2024:

Meetings/events

32nd European Congress of Psychiatry; 6-9 April 2024, Budapest, Hungary

Description: Organized by the sections of neuroimaging and Psychotherapy Title: Neuroscience and new technologies to improve the practice of psychotherapy. Description: The practice of psychotherapy has historically been developed from the perspective of clinicians with a limited understanding of the underlying mechanisms and difficulties in measuring its reliability, resulting in a mismatch between theory and practice and poor accessibility. With the development of neuroscience and new technologies, it is now possible to measure how psychological and emotional functioning is impaired (e.g., social cognition, memory, attention, inhibition, thoughts, emotion dysregulation) and what is actually happening during psychotherapy processes at different levels. Specifically, neuroscience could inform psychotherapy at the cellular (e.g. plasticity), cerebral (e.g. functional activity), psychophysiological (e.g. heart rate, electrodermal activity) and behavioural (e.g. motor activity) levels. In this workshop, we will provide examples of how different neuroscience-related techniques can help to better understand the bio-behavioral processes underlying psychotherapy and how psychotherapy could be enhanced by technology.

Partners: Chair: Marcella Bellani; Co-Chair: Thomas Gargot Speakers: - Laura Bon (France), presentation title: Cognitive remediation effects on cerebral activity in schizophrenia: current state of the literature depending on therapeutic strategies; - David Nutt (United Kingdom), presentation title: Implications for psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy; - Cinzia Perlini (Italy), presentation title: The Impact of cognitive remediation combined with mindfulness and social skills training on social functioning and neural plasticity in early psychosis: preliminary results from a randomized clinical multicentric trial in Italy. - Wolfgang Tschacher (Switzerland); Motor and Physiological Synchrony in Psychotherapy - Martin Kraepelien (Sweden), Scaling up internet-based cognitive behavioural therapy while maintaining quality

Location: Budapest

Start date: 07/04/2024

End date: 07/04/2024



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32nd European Congress of Psychiatry; 6-9 April 2024, Budapest, Hungary

Description: Organized by the EPA Sections of Neuroimaging and Suicidology and Suicide Prevention

Title: Novel approaches to understanding and treatment of youth with borderline personality traits

Description: Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD) is a severe mental disorder marked by persistent patterns of unstable and intense interpersonal relationships, efforts to avoid real or perceived abandonment, emotional instability, identity disturbance and self-destructive impulsive behaviour. People with BPD experience chronic mood disturbances with depressed mood, suicidal ideation and severe social difficulties, and they comprise up to 40% of high utilizers of psychiatric services. The mainstay of treatment for BPD is evidence-based psychotherapy, which supports improvements in BPD symptoms and psychological well-being, but neurobiological mechanism of action is unknown, benefits are slowly achieved and dissemination to the large number of affected patients has not been possible. Biologically, BPD has been associated with morpho-functional and metabolic dysfunction in brain regions related to emotion regulation and mentalizing and functional/epigenetic alterations in the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis. However, the exact neurobiological mechanisms and biomarkers underlying the core features of BPD are still under debate, which hampers rational disease-specific drug development. In this symposium, we will discuss the current state of knowledge on BPD-related biological and neurobiological markers and will discuss some ideas for translation to novel treatment strategies. Our focus on youth with BPD symptoms will open critical discussion about risk factors and prevention strategies.

Partners: Chair: Paolo Brambilla Co-Chair: Philippe Courtet Speakers: - Sarah Fineberg (USA); Ketamine for borderline personality disorder - Sabine Herpertz (Germany); Shared brain mechanisms in trauma-related mental disorders: Targets for psychotherapy - Jussi Jokinen (Sweden); Epigenetic biomarkers of borderline personality disorder with severe suicidal behaviours - Paolo Brambilla (Italy); Cerebral metabolism of juvenile borderline personality disorder

Location: Budapest

Start date: 09/04/2024

End date: 09/04/2024

32nd European Congress of Psychiatry; 6-9 April 2024, Budapest, Hungary

Description: Organized by the sections of Neuroimaging and Emergency Psychiatry **Title:**

Inflammatory-based psychotic symptoms: when psychosis means encephalitis **Description:** A proportion of subjects with acute psychosis admitted to psychiatric facilities could actually be affected by inflammatory diseases of the central nervous system, often associated with the presence of neuronal synaptic antibodies (NSAbs), i.e., Autoimmune encephalitis (AEs). Most patients with EA show psychotic features, sometimes as the sole manifestation, with risks of delayed diagnosis or misdiagnosis. The identification of AEs in the psychiatric ward is particularly problematic, both because psychiatrists are often unfamiliar with these nosological entities, and AE diagnostics (i.e. antibody dosage, lumbar puncture and magnetic resonance) are often difficult to administer in subjects with psychotic symptoms. To guide the diagnostic process of AEs patients, a series of clinical-anamnestic elements (called "red flags") have been recently proposed,



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waiting for validation. If present, the red flags would indicate the need for further diagnostic tests such as EEG, brain MRI, lumbar puncture and dosage of NSAbs on serum and CSF. However, the relevance of the red flags has never been evaluated in clinical practice. In this symposium, we will summarize and discuss the challenges of current differential diagnosis between AEs and psychiatric disorders as well as the pros and cons of a new trial on the impact of a systematic diagnostic approach on the frequency of AE diagnosis in acute psychotic patients referred to adult and pediatric psychiatric care.

Partners: Chair: Marcella Bellani Co-chair: Julian Beezhold Speakers: - Alessandro Pigoni (Italy), Neuronal synaptic autoantibodies and psychosis: Prognostic factors for the diagnosis of autoimmune encephalitis in patients with psychotic spectrum disorders - the PHLAMES Study - Dominique Endres (Germany), Patients with autoimmune psychosis and beyond - Diagnostic findings and treatment experiences from paradigmatic cases and first case series - Martina Rojnic Kuzman (Croatia), Inflammatory psychosis in everyday clinical practice in mental health services for patients with psychotic disorders - Thomas Pollak (United Kingdom), Autoimmune psychosis: towards improved diagnosis and treatment

Location: Budapest

Start date: 08/04/2024

End date: 08/04/2024

FUTURE ACTIVITIES:

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