

tural Psychiatry; Urban Mental Health; and Women's Mental Health.

HIV/AIDS psychiatry provides a paradigm for consultation-liaison psychiatry and integrated compassionate care. Our Section members are dedicated to academic, clinical, research and administrative aspects of HIV and AIDS. They use consensus surveys to inform research on best practices of HIV psychiatric care and have published work on use of psychotropic medications. They explore ways to improve doctor-patient communication skills and diminish stigma in the care of persons with HIV and AIDS.

HIV/AIDS psychiatry has broadened the depth and scope of consultation-liaison psychiatry to include prevention, public health, and global psychiatry¹.

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Current goals of neuroimaging for mental disorders: a report by the WPA Section on Neuroimaging in Psychiatry

The WPA Section on Neuroimaging in Psychiatry was established in 1996 in Madrid, during the 10th World Congress of Psychiatry. The main goals of the Section include the dissemination of innovative methodological approaches as well as research findings from different applications of neuroimaging techniques in psychiatry; the sound integration of clinical and neuroimaging research; and the promotion of collaborations with other WPA Scientific Sections and among researchers interested in the field across the world.

In line with these goals, the Section organized, throughout the years, symposia in World Congresses of Psychiatry and International WPA Meetings, and promoted joint initiatives with other WPA Scientific Sections (e.g., with the WPA Schizophrenia Section during the WPA International Congress in Prague in 2012, and with the WPA Psychophysiology Section during the World Congress of Psychiatry in Madrid in 2014).

In 2015, the Section officers (S. Galderisi, L. DeLisi and S. Borgwardt) discussed the opportunity to review decades of research on neuroimaging in schizophrenia and primary psychotic disorders, in the light of many findings suggesting that

abnormalities of brain structure and function are associated with psychiatric disorders but do not reflect boundaries of current diagnostic categories.

They envisaged the need to acknowledge that neuroimaging research, up to now, failed to meet the expectations of scientists and clinicians looking for the discovery of biomarkers of current diagnostic categories, but opened important perspectives for future routine applications in the field of early identification of mental disorders and response to treatment.

These considerations gave rise to the plan of producing a book on neuroimaging in psychiatry. In the light of the huge bulk of research in the field, the officers decided to start from psychoses, and elaborated the outline of what we hope is just the first of a series of books, i.e., *Neuroimaging of Schizophrenia and Other Primary Psychotic Disorders*¹. Several outstanding scientists agreed to collaborate to the project, and the book is now available in both paper and electronic versions.

The volume reviews structural, functional, neurochemical and multimodal neuroimaging studies, within a transnosographic perspective of primary psychotic disorders, and provides an in-depth cov-

erage of current achievements and limitations of neuroimaging research in these disorders. Throughout the book, the authors emphasize that no specific neuroimaging abnormality can be considered as a biomarker for any diagnostic category so far; nevertheless, several documented abnormalities are relevant to important clinical features, such as the severity of the clinical picture, the progression and persistence of symptoms over time, and the response to treatment.

The book highlights current goals of neuroimaging research in psychoses: translating neuroimaging findings into clinical practice, in order to add value to the existing clinical assessment; moving from differences at the group level to the individual level; and identifying quantitative indices supporting clinical decisions. Promising results in this field come from machine learning, i.e., the implementation of algorithms able to learn from the experience and attribute specific characteristics to various samples, by integrating different variables, such as clinical, neurocognitive, neuroimaging and genetic data. In the near future, this progress may contribute to improve the predictive accuracy of diagnosis and prognosis².

The application of machine learning methods in neuroimaging research has increased, especially with the aim to predict the onset of a full-blown psychotic disorder in individuals with at-risk mental states, or to predict poor outcome, independently from the conversion to psychosis. Effective prediction would allow the early identification of the specific subgroup of at-risk individuals that will benefit from preventive interventions³⁻⁶.

Further important topics addressed in the book include the impact of anti-psychotic medications on brain structure and function, links between genetic and neuroimaging research, as well as recent progress in the field of “imaging genetics”.

All authors shared the view that the potential of neuroimaging research for

translation into psychiatric clinical practice should now be tested. Further investigations with multicenter and multimodal imaging design, integrating clinical measures and imaging data, and applying new multivariate approaches, such as different combined machine learning algorithms, are needed to consolidate promising findings and finally add methods of precision psychiatry to current clinical practice.

All those who contributed to this book, including the authors of the present report, are grateful to the WPA for providing Section members with the opportunity to meet and exchange knowledge and experiences⁷, and contribute to the progress of the many facets of psychiatry.

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Implementation of the Action Plan of the WPA Secretary for Publications

Following the principles of the WPA Action Plan 2017-2020^{1,2} and the specific Action Plan of the WPA Secretary for Publications³, progress has been made in the past few months around two main axes: a) the dissemination of evidence- and value-based knowledge and good practices in psychiatry and mental health, and b) the promotion of WPA publications.

Concerning the first axis, the implementation of the new WPA website⁴ will allow us to provide an online open access to the books of the series *Anthologies in Psychiatry*, and particularly to those for which we have been requested to allow a reprint or a translation.

Various steps have been taken to refine the WPA policy concerning these publications. Additionally, the decision has been made to link up our website with journals of partner institutions and ask them for reciprocity.

Preliminary contacts have also been established to foster the online publication of commissioned manuals and textbooks on topics relevant to psychiatry and mental health. Colleagues interested in this project have been approached and are ready to accept the collaboration of WPA compo-

nents to select topics and editors for future manuals and textbooks in already existing series.

Through our Secretary for Sections, preliminary contacts have also been taken with a well-established scientific journal (the *British Journal of Psychiatry*) to allow WPA to commission one or more annual reviews on current issues and new findings in psychiatry and mental health. WPA Sections will certainly be a major source for these reviews⁵.

The WPA Secretary for Publications is actively looking for ways to increase the visibility of research from colleagues who, for personal or contextual reasons, cannot have access yet to the most prestigious journals but deserve to be supported. Specially targeted here are the young and promising investigators of less resourced research teams and those working in less favored scientific environments (e.g., in low- and middle-income countries).

To reach this objective, the idea has emerged to propose to selected regional psychiatric journals (e.g., one from each continent) to publish regularly (e.g., annually) a WPA appointed thematic supplement. This project is now entering its

first phase. Contacts have been initiated with fully indexed regional journals produced in English which are likely to be interested to accept this project, feel ready to comply with its requirements and have a free online access. Jointly with these journals' editorial boards, we will then select the topics suitable for such thematic supplements, trying to favor those not already covered by WPA publications.

Editors will be appointed for each WPA issue. They will be asked to try to involve, as much as possible, young and talented regional researchers. Additionally, they will have to consider the possibility to include in their supplement a review of the research work implemented and published in the related region, including work not published in English. The objective is to give more visibility to research work that is rarely accessible to the English speaking psychiatric scientific community. Moreover, each WPA supplement will be disseminated worldwide using the WPA global network. This dissemination endeavour could include favoring translation, whenever possible, without extra cost for the WPA.

Concerning the promotion of WPA pub-