

The general acceptance of eugenic utopias amongst the medical profession during the Weimar Republic prepared the sterilisation law and the killing of thousands of psychiatric patients.

S38.2

Attitudes towards genetic research in psychiatry

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Objective: It is expected that susceptibility mutations for mental disorders will be discovered in near future. This could generate controversies about how this findings may be used. It is possible to imagine stigmatization of individuals based on genotypes. The purpose of this study is to learn about knowledge and attitudes toward genetic research.

Method: In a group of patients (n=100), psychiatrists (n=100) and students (n=100) we are assessing the attitudes, fears and knowledge regarding psychiatric genetics.

Results: Preliminary results indicate the great interest but also fears to genetic research in psychiatry. The most recent results will be presented at the meeting.

- (1) Elliot S.Gershon: Bipolar illness and schizophrenia as oligogenic diseases: implications for future. *Biol. Psychiatry*, 200,47,240–244.

S38.3

The attitudes of Turkish psychiatrists towards the genetics of mental illnesses

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Background: Prejudges about mental illnesses could negatively influence its prognosis by decreasing accessibility to treatment resources. However, early recognition and treatment intervention may improve the outcome and minimise the disabilities.

The results of recent researches on the genetics contributed to the comprehension of pathogenesis and aetiology of mental disorders. The identification of susceptibility genes for mental illnesses may cause a more biological concept of the disease, which may lead to either a decrease or an increase of stigmatisation of patients. The progresses in the genetic of mental disorders spontaneously reveal also some ethical questions that clinician will have to resolve in the future. Opinions of clinicians will be very important to guide future genetic researches and their clinical applications. In Turkey, there exist approximately 1200 psychiatrists in total who practice in 120 institutions and private offices. The number of psychiatrist per 100000 is found less than 1 based on the data of WHO. We are conducting a nation-wide representative survey to assess the attitudes and expectations and fears of Turkish psychiatrists towards psychiatric genetics research and its clinical applications e.g. predictive genetic testing.

Method: We requested to psychiatrists to fill the Turkish version of Gen-Ethics Questionnaire. The questionnaire has been recently developed in Rheinische Friedrich- Wilhelms- Bonn University, Department of Psychiatry. It consists of 10 different parts: social-demographic information of the psychiatrist, his contact with people suffering from mental illnesses, his knowledge about chronic mental illnesses, his opinions on genetic investigation and on when to carry out genetic examinations, on access to genetic information, his acceptance of mentally ill people in the community, his opinions on abortions and moral values.

Results: Our survey is ongoing and most recent results about the opinions and attitudes of psychiatrists towards genetics of mental illnesses and the future researches will be presented.

S38.4

Informed consent, confidentiality and ethical votes – experience from a multinational psychiatric genetic study

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No abstract was available at the time of printing.

S38.5

The legal protection of biotechnological inventions

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The European Directive on the legal protection of biotechnological inventions (98/44/EC) was issued in order to remove legal uncertainty resulting from different national patent laws and to maintain the internal market's principles. The deadline for implementation was June 2000, but not all of the EU-Member States supported the transposition in national laws. Though the European directive clarifies the applying of fundamental principles about patenting of biotechnological inventions, several Member States expressed an extremely critical view of it. They called for its renegotiation without delay at European level, because the Directive would allow "patents on life". Patent laws, however, are the appropriate instrument to implement bioethical demands: An exclusive right encourages research into biotechnological processes which are needed to combat diseases. It forces public information and allows it to be used in further research. Moreover a patent does not confer any right of ownership on the object being patented and does not authorize its holder to implement the invention in an abusive manner. Accordingly the Directive avoids patentability of inventions whose industrial applications are contrary to "ordre public or morality".

S39. Dimensional approaches to schizotypy and psychosis

Chairs: C.N. Stefanis (GR), L. Fañanás (E)

S39.1

Dimensional versus categorical models of psychosis: is there any definitive evidence?

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A controversy that has plagued psychosis for some time is whether 'psychosis' constructs are better represented by dimensional or categorical models. There is a growing consensus that continuum models of psychosis have superior clinical advantages and validity than categorical models but no definitive evidence has been reported.

Several methods to account for by this nosological problem have been proposed, such as factor analysis and cluster techniques. These techniques have shown great limitations and two other