


deployment of existing infrastructure for mental health research. Fourth, definitive and impactful research will require national and international coordination, to ensure that protocols and computer code are shared, measures are harmonised, and work is done at scale, with the principles of open science at heart. Although we must act urgently, we must also be strategic and joined-up in how we address this challenge from the outset. Our success in understanding and mitigating the biological, psychological and social impacts of COVID-19 on mental health will require new investment from research funders and coordinated action from the entire community of mental health scientists.

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Author contributions

The four authors contributed to a mental health prioritisation exercise. M.H. drafted the editorial and all authors edited it and approved the final version.

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psychiatry in history

Celsus: *De medicina*

Greg Wilkinson 

Celsus (c. 25 B.C.–c. 50 A.D.) wrote *De medicina*, one of the greatest Latin works and a milestone in the development of Western psychiatry. Emerging from lost obscurity, the first complete textbook of medicine to be printed (1478), and used for centuries (first English translation, 1756), *De medicina* comprises an Introduction and Eight Books, dealing with medical theory, anatomy, pathology, diseases, remedies and surgery. Book 3, Section 18 comprises the classification, description and treatment of Insania (a term first employed by Celsus): Phrensia – acute, short duration, some merry, some sad, judgement immediately returns; Sadness – without fever, longer duration; a third form of two types, False Images and Disordered Judgement – longest illness, merry or sad. Celsus also introduces Delirium – sometimes arises from fear (here alone wine may properly be given). Incidentally, Celsus's tetrad signals inflammation: redness, swelling, heat and pain.

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