

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Aloys-Alzheimer-Symposium

„Demenz im Spannungsfeld von Ethik, Forschung und Praxis“

Organized by:

Österreichische Alzheimer Gesellschaft, Schweizer Alzheimer Vereinigung, Deutsche Alzheimer Gesellschaft, Hirnliga e.V., Alzheimer Gesellschaft Würzburg/Unterfranken, Universitäts-Nervenklinik Würzburg

Location and date:

01.–04.05.1996
Würzburg, Germany
Festung Marienberg
Tagungszentrum „Hofstuben“

Registration:

Universitäts-Nervenklinik Würzburg
Frau Mittelsteiner
Füchsleinstr. 15
D-97080 Würzburg, Germany

The WHO Programme on Mental Health publishes Behavioural Science Learning Modules

The WHO Programme on Mental Health undertakes a broad range of activities related to mental health and among them recognizes the importance of there being good communication between health workers and their patients or clients. The skills for such communication should be taught to students in all the health professions. As a start in this field, WHO has produced a document on *Doctor-Patient Interaction and Communication*, but the principles set out are applicable to all health workers. Such teaching is advocated in all medical schools and other schools for health workers.

In addition, WHO has produced a number of Learning Modules aimed primarily at physicians, concerning specific aspects of communication, such as *Communicating Bad News* (telling patients they have an incurable or potentially fatal disease), *Introducing Parents to their Abnormal Baby* (talking to parents about a baby who may have been born with an abnormality) and *Improving Adherence Behaviour with Treatment Regimens* (suggestions for improving patients' adherence to treatment). *Preparation for Invasive Procedure* is a module to be used for preparing patients psychologically for surgery. This is known to reduce the amount of time that patients spend post-operatively in hospital, and so can be an attractive intervention from the point of view of a hospital administration. However, an improvement in the patient's mental well-being is a proper end in its own right and such interventions should still be carried out even if they could not be justified in this way for financial reasons.

The aim of these modules is to promote the mental health and well-being of patients within any area of health care, by teaching health workers to be sensitive to their patients' mental health needs and to provide sympathetic and useful communication.

The above modules form part of a series of *Behavioural Science Learning Modules* produced by the Programme on Mental Health. By behavioural science, is meant looking at both the behaviour and skills of the health workers (e.g. communication skills) as well as the behaviour of patients, as it is relevant to the prevention or management of their condition. Behavioural science in this context can also include behaviours of people that can be influenced in order to improve their health or behaviours which should be prevented because they have an adverse influence on health.

The modules are aimed at medical students. They are only available in English at the moment. Other modules are also available, but the focus is on clinical material: *Promoting Non Pharmacological Interventions to Treat Elevated Blood Pressure*, *Psychological Interventions for Patients with Chronic Back Pain*, *Self Management of Recurrent Headache* and *Insomnia*. The aim of all these is to convey to the students that pills, surgery and physical medicine are not the only solution to medical problems.

The documents referred to in this letter are available upon request from the WHO Programme on Mental Health. WHO encourages the evaluation of this material.

For further information please contact:

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PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Fourth Tryptich Symposium on Psychiatry

Maastricht, 15th November 1996

Organized by:

Department of Psychiatry, University of Liège, Liège, Belgium
Academic Psychiatric Centre, University of Limburg, Maastricht, The Netherlands
Department of Psychiatry, University of Aachen, Aachen, Germany

Schizophrenia: one or a multiplicity of diseases? A multi-vantage perspective

Aetiology	R. M. Murray (UK)
Neurpsychology	R. J. Dolan (UK)
Brain imaging	R. Gur (USA), P. J. McKenna (UK)
Genetics	P. McGuffin (UK)
Psychopharmacology	T. J. Crow (UK)
Transmitterpathology	J. Korf (The Netherlands)
Course	H. Häfner (Germany)

(With the collaboration of the Schizofrenie Stichting Nederland)

Information:

SCEM Congress-organisation
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„Störungsspezifische syndromatologische Diagnostik“

Angst – Depression – Schizophrenie – Demenz

Organized by:

Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Methodik und Dokumentation in der Psychiatrie – AMDP

Location and date:

28.11.–30.11.1996

Psychiatrische Universitätsklinik

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