

*Joint Event*

# 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Addiction & Psychiatry

&

# Neurology and Brain Disorders

November 18-19, 2024 | Rome, Italy



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# Conference Programme

## Day 1 - November 18, 2024

### Meeting Hall: Trevi

**08:00 - 08:45** Registrations

**08:45 - 09:00** Opening Ceremony and Introduction

### Keynote Presentations

**09:00 - 09:40** Angé Weinrabe, The University of Sydney, Australia

**Title:** The Influence of Culture on Addiction - "Changing Scripts"

**09:40 - 10:20** Jessica Swan, Recovery Consulting, USA

**Title:** Family in Addiction Treatment: Practices and Outcomes

### Networking & Refreshments: 10:20 - 10:40 @ Lobby Bar

**10:40 - 11:20** Kerstin Liesenfeld, Liesenfeld Research Institute gGmbH, Germany

**Title:** Behind the Neurofunctional Scenes of Mental Health - Where Addiction Meets Developmental Authenticity

### Oral Presentations

**Session Chair:** Derick Lindquist, O.P. Jindal Global University, India

**Sessions:** Addiction | Depression and Anxiety | Schizophrenia | Child Psychology and Child Mental Health | Women and Drugs | Drug Abuse and Psychology | Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD) | Clinical Psychiatry | Bipolar Disorder | ADHD (Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) | Social Psychiatry | Addiction Rehabilitation & Recovery | Traumatic Brain Injury | Brain Injury | Neurosurgery and spine | Cerebrovascular Disorders | Epilepsy and Seizures

**11:20 - 11:45** Hongming Shang, Dana Farber Cancer Institute, USA

**Title:** Multiple Myeloma, IL6, and Risk of Schizophrenia: A Mendelian Randomization, Transcriptome, and Bayesian Colocalization Study

**11:45 - 12:10** Anthony Kline, University of Pittsburgh, USA

**Title:** Non-Pharmacological Treatment Paradigms for Experimental Traumatic Brain Injury

<b>12:10 - 12:35</b>	<b>Christophe Panichelli, Private Practice, Sprimont, Belgium</b>
<b>Title:</b> The Use of Humor in Addictive Disorders	
<b>12:35 - 13:00</b>	<b>Corina Bondi, University of Pittsburgh, USA</b>
<b>Title:</b> Prefrontal Cortex Circuitry Dysregulations Following Traumatic Brain Injury: A Multimodal Assessment throughout the Life Span	
<b>Group Photo: 13:00 - 13:10</b>	
<b>Lunch: 13:10 - 14:00 @ Ristorante</b>	
<b>14:00 - 14:25</b>	<b>Emily Burfoot, Transpirational Ltd., UK</b>
<b>Title:</b> Bipolar as Addiction to Fixed Ego Identities; Healing with Growth Mindset	
<b>14:25 - 14:50</b>	<b>Busra Tuna, Ankara Haci Bayram Veli University, Turkey</b>
<b>Title:</b> Examination of Executive Function Skills in Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and Eating Disorders in Comparison with Non-Clinical Group	
<b>14:50 - 15:15</b>	<b>Regina de Souza Alves, Municipal Health Secretariat of Maceio (SMS), Brazil</b>
<b>Title:</b> Overcoming Stigma: Mental Health Resilience for People with HIV and Substance Use in a Globally Challenging Environment	
<b>15:15 - 15:40</b>	<b>Gisele Tchamba, Adventist University of Africa, Kenya</b>
<b>Title:</b> Counselors' Perspectives on Post-Treatment Care and Relapse Prevention in Individuals with Substance Use Disorders (SUD) in Nairobi Kenya	
<b>15:40 - 16:05</b>	<b>Maria Mercedes Yeomans Cabrera, University of the Americas, Chile</b>
<b>Title:</b> Post-Pandemic Psychosocial Variables Affecting Academic Dropout in a Sample of Chilean Higher-Education Students	
<b>Networking &amp; Refreshments: 16:05 - 16:30 @ Lobby Bar</b>	
<b>16:30 - 16:55</b>	<b>Jun Tang, Children's Hospital of Chongqing Medical University China, China</b>
<b>Title:</b> Rivaroxaban in Treatment of Pediatric Cerebral Venous Sinus Thromboses (CVST) Based on a Case of Pediatric Pial Arteriovenous Fistula	
<b>16:55 - 17:20</b>	<b>Chizoba Francisca Achor, Federal Medical Center, Abia State, Nigeria</b>
<b>Title:</b> Building Resilience: A Retrospective Analysis of Recovery Factors in An Addiction Treatment Program	

<b>17:20 - 17:45</b>	<b>Shamira Sibal, P D Hinduja Hospital &amp; Research Centre, India</b>
<b>Title:</b> Health Insurance for People with Epilepsy: A Dynamic Risk Classification	
<b>17:45 - 18:10</b>	<b>Sefa Öztürk, Istanbul University, Istanbul Faculty of Medicine, Turkey</b>
<b>Title:</b> Disappearance of Caudate Nucleus Head Arteriovenous Malformation after External Ventricular Drainage; Case Report	
<b>18:10 - 18:35</b>	<b>Moise Alin, Ion Creanga State Pedagogical University of Chisinau, Romania</b>
<b>Title:</b> How Can We Give Meaning to Life Through Psychodrama for Teenager's Drug Users	
<b>Day-1 Concludes followed by Award Certifications</b>	

**Day 2 - November 19, 2024**

**Meeting Hall: Trevi**

**Keynote Presentations**

**09:00 - 09:40**     **Jessica Swan, Recovery Consulting, USA**

**Title:** Understanding the Impact of Addiction on the Family: Changing our Perspective on Codependency

**09:40 - 10:20**     **Angé Weinrabe, The University of Sydney, Australia**

**Title:** Music and Health: Embracing the Ineffability of Sound and Why it Matters

**Networking & Refreshments: 10:20 - 10:40 @ Lobby Bar**

**10:40 - 11:20**     **Derick Lindquist, O.P. Jindal Global University, India**

**Title:** Addiction Reconceptualized: Neural, Cognitive, and Behavioral Adaptations

**Oral Presentations**

**Session Chair:**     **Angé Weinrabe, The University of Sydney, Australia**

**Sessions:** Addiction| Depression and Anxiety| Schizophrenia| Child Psychology and Child Mental Health| Women and Drugs| Drug Abuse and Psychology|Child Psychology and Child Mental Health| Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD)| Clinical Psychiatry | Bipolar Disorder| ADHD (Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder)| Social Psychiatry| Addiction Rehabilitation & Recovery| Cerebrovascular Disorders | Neuro Case Reports | Neurophysiology | Neuro Oncology and Brain Tumors | Anxiety, Depressions and Sleep Disorders

**11:20 - 11:45**     **Carole Pinel, Catholic University of Lille, France**

**Title:** Craftwork, Invention, Creation

**11:45 - 12:10**     **Steven Walker, University of Essex, UK**

**Title:** Poverty: The Risk to Children's Mental Health

**12:10 - 12:35**     **Dren Boshnjaku, University Clinical Center Kosovo, Kosovo**

**Title:** Intracranial Artery Calcification Subtypes and Severity of Stroke

**Poster Presentations**

**PP-01**             **Xikun Zhang, Zhejiang University, China**

**Title:** The Impact of Social Media Overuse on Working Memory Capacity

<b>PP-02</b>	<b>Sahar Jahanikia, Aiden Duggal, Pranaya Rishi, Aspiring Scholars Directed Research Program, USA</b>
<b>Title:</b> PsyGPT.ai: Developing an Accessible, Online Source of Comprehensive Mental Health Services	
<b>PP-03</b>	<b>Sahar Jahanikia, Tvishi Medathana, Suhani Gupta, The Aspiring Scholars Directed Research Program, USA</b>
<b>Title:</b> Revolutionizing ADHD Diagnosis: Integrating Gamification and Dynamic Questionnaires for Enhanced Assessment	
<b>PP-04</b>	<b>Tina Guo, University of Toronto, Canada</b>
<b>Title:</b> Quality of Traditional Media Reporting of Stephen 'tWitch' Boss' Suicide	
<b>PP-05</b>	<b>Kazuhiro Haginoya, Miyagi Children's Hospital, Japan</b>
<b>Title:</b> Clinical and Genetic Analysis of 91 Patients with Childhood Onset Spastic Paraplegia	
<b>Lunch: 13:00 - 14:00 @ Ristorante</b>	
<b>14:00 - 14:25</b>	<b>Dalia Arafat, Ruhr University Bochum, Germany</b>
<b>Title:</b> Sociocognitive Deficits in Patients with Behavioral Addiction	
<b>14:25 - 14:50</b>	<b>Sefa Öztürk, Istanbul University, Istanbul Faculty of Medicine, Turkey</b>
<b>Title:</b> Extremely Rare Anterior Cerebral Artery Variation Case Report	
<b>14:50 - 15:15</b>	<b>Ibis S. Carrión-González, Institute of Research, Education and Services in Addiction (IRESA), Universidad Central del Caribe, School of Medicine, Puerto Rico</b>
<b>Title:</b> Proyecto Mujer: Using a Culturally Modified, Gender Specific Integrated Evidence-Based Treatment for Latinas with Substance Use Disorders and Trauma Experiences	
<b>15:15 - 15:40</b>	<b>Sandra Grujicic, Belgrade University Serbia, Serbia</b>
<b>Title:</b> Smartphone Addiction, Sleep Quality, Depression, Anxiety and Stress Among Medical Students	
<b>15:40 - 16:05</b>	<b>Janet Odhiambo, Adventist University of Africa, Kenya</b>
<b>Title:</b> Exploring Depression, Anxiety and Stress among Employees in a Christian Institution of Higher Learning in Nairobi, Kenya	

**Networking & Refreshments: 16:05 - 16:30 @ Lobby Bar**

**16:30 - 16:55** Etienne LABYT, MAG4Health, France

**Title:** Quantum Based Sensors: Application to Neurophysiological and Pathological Activities

**16:55 - 17:20** Beyza Yilmaz, Baskent University, Turkey

**Title:** Evaluation of the Virtual Family Education Program with Mothers Whose Children Use Technology Excessively: An Intervention from Turkey

**17:20 - 17:45** Rumiko Okamoto, University of Tsukuba, Japan

**Title:** A Comparison of Facial Muscle Activities between Older and Young Adults in Japan

**17:45 - 18:10** Sefa Öztürk, Istanbul University, Istanbul Faculty of Medicine, Turkey

**Title:** The Contribution of Augmented Reality based Neuronavigation Modeling on Education

**Video Presentations**

**VP-01** Joana Novais, Public Health Unit of Alto Minho, Portugal

**Title:** Problem Gambling among Secondary School Students in a Portuguese City: Prevalence and Contributing Factors

**VP-02** Stephen J. Schoenthaler, California State University, USA

**Title:** Borderline's Beloved Sadist: Master and Margarita

**VP-03** Mi Hyang Hwang, Dongguk University, South Korea

**Title:** Neuroscience of Mind Empowerment: Combining Meditation and Music with a Focus on Binaural Beats

**Day-2 Concludes followed by Certificate Certifications and Vote of Thanks**

# Virtual Programme

## Day 1 - November 18, 2024 BST

**10:00 - 10:15**    **Opening Ceremony and Introduction**

### Oral Presentations

**10:15 - 10:40**    **Mini Sharma, RVRS Government Medical College, India**

**Title:** Effectiveness of Vitamin E Augmentation in the Management of Pain Associated with Opioid Use Disorder

**10:40 - 11:05**    **Shinasa Shahid, University of Derby, UK**

**Title:** Exploring Cultural Dynamics of Black Asian Ethnic Women in Addiction Recovery

**11:05 - 11:30**    **Felix-Martin Werner, Grone Health Academy, Germany**

**Title:** Novel Antipsychotic Drugs in Schizophrenia

**11:30 - 11:55**    **Catarina Marques Oliveira, Unidade Local de Saúde de Santo António – Hospital de Magalhães Lemos, Portugal**

**Title:** Digital Addiction: The Issue of Social Media

**11:55 - 12:20**    **Dinah Nyamai, Africa International University, Kenya**

**Title:** An Inside out Approach to Addictive Behaviors Undermining the Sanity of Young People

**12:20 - 12:45**    **Kathryn Rossi and Linda Hamilton, Addiction Specialist, USA**

**Title:** The Curiosity of Addiction

**12:45 - 13:10**    **James Then, The Royal Melbourne Hospital, Australia**

**Title:** The Impact of Sedative Choice in the Management of Aneurysmal Subarachnoid Hemorrhage: A Scoping Review

**13:10 - 13:35**    **Roger Coletti, Interventional Health, USA**

**Title:** Putting an End to Chronic Opioid Use for Chronic Back Pain with the CMECD® Procedure

**Virtual Program Concludes**





Day 1

**Addiction  
&  
Neurology  
2024**

Keynote Presentations

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**THE INFLUENCE OF CULTURE ON ADDICTION - “CHANGING SCRIPTS”**



**Angé Weinrabe**

*The University of Sydney, Australia*

**Abstract:**

Addiction, characterised as a disease within the medical model, continues to stir debate among scholars, some of whom challenge its characterisation through reductionist models that posit it as primarily a physical-level disorder. Treating the behavioural symptoms without considering the social influences is problematic. I propose a philosophical examination and critique of the concept of addiction before delving into its non-evolutionary and evolutionary determinants on our behaviour. To truly assist those grappling with addiction, we must prioritise understanding the profound impact of culture, viewing it as a potent tool for emotional regulation that can bolster and reinforce human agency over time. Culture, functioning as both a technology and a translator of experiences, is already deeply embedded in our lives and can significantly aid in treating substance and behavioural dependencies alongside traditional medical approaches. I give a central role to culture in this context intending to clarify processes of cultural meaning-making. Culture in this sense is a technology, a tool that becomes translational at both objective and subjective levels. As it already plays an active role in our everyday lives, it can assist in the further treatment of substance and behavioural abusers alongside the medical model of care. I present a narrow account of culture with its interactive influence to positively affect a person's mental state, allowing for connection to self, and others in a meaningful way. As culture is conscious and ubiquitous, it is a proactive, transformative process that is busy at work in the lives of each human being. When harnessing its influential role, the two explanatory models of addiction need not compete but work together to support people, especially youth presenting with early-stage addiction. A combined approach is necessary to deliver innovative ways to reduce harm in addiction populations.

**Biography**

Angé Weinrabe holding an Arts (Adv.) Hons Degree in Philosophy, The University of Sydney, and a Master's in Philosophy (Medicine) from the Brain and Mind Centre, Sydney Medical School supervised by global mental health pioneer Prof. Ian. B. Hickie, Angé published the hypothesis that dysregulated emotion (mainly anxiety) impairs decision-making in youth. Receiving her Ph.D. at The University of Sydney (2024), supervised by philosopher of science, Prof. Dominic Murphy, Angé investigated the critical role and epidemiological value of culture when investigating explanatory models of addiction (substance and behavioural) in mainly young adults at critical stages of development. As the Founder of a MedTech start-up - My Sound Wellbeing Pty Ltd, she's presently investigating the clinical impact that personalised sound frequencies have on our neurobiology, mainly to find ways to contribute to areas of prevention medicine. Her main passion is taking her research and translating it into social outcomes with meaning, and this she's achieving through the registered Australian Youth Charity - Giving Education Meaning (GEM™) Ltd. that she founded in 2017 with a group of other like-minded and hearted others. Angé is currently a sessional academic for The University of Sydney, teaching science and commerce students and has recently been awarded Postgraduate Research Prize for Outstanding Academic Achievement (2024), and the University of Sydney's, Research Commercialisation Award (2023).

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**FAMILY IN ADDICTION TREATMENT: PRACTICES AND OUTCOMES**



**Jessica Swan**

*Recovery Consulting, USA*

**Abstract:**

Family in addiction treatment: practices and outcomes directly addresses a challenge that all addiction treatment programs deal with – how best to incorporate the family into the addiction treatment process. We will discuss how clinical outcomes for patients are directly correlated to family involvement and provide solutions for clinicians in how to help families enter recovery. Using family systems theory and Ecological systems theory (Bronfenbrenner, 1979 & 1992) as the foundational components of family treatment for addiction, we will dive into understanding the codependency movement and our more recent understanding that the family system is really responding to trauma . We will identify similarities and differences in trauma responses vs. codependent responses to loving someone with SUD as a way to reframe family dynamics. Additionally we will consider the long-standing evidence-based practices of family-based therapy and psychosocial education and how to use these practices in treatment and recovery services for SUD.

**Biography**

Jessica Swan, MCJ, MAC, LSATP has extensive experience in clinical addiction counseling, research, development, training, evaluation, and reporting for US legal professionals, nonprofits, governmental agencies, and communities across the US. She writes addiction recovery curriculum for treatment programs, offers counseling for individuals and families with substance use disorders, and provides addiction recovery consulting for organizations. Jessica specializes in helping high-level professionals and their families, including professional athletes, doctors, judges, lawyers, and pilots. She has extensive experience working within the Justice System and its intersection with mental health and substance use.

Jessica is a national leader and educator in the addiction recovery field, teaching on the neurobiological disease of addiction, SUD treatment, and recovery. She has trained multiple disciplines on the neuroscience of substance use disorders, family recovery from substance use disorders, and integrating families in treatment and recovery. She currently offers training and facilitation for law firms and judges across the US, and she is Executive Director of Recovery Consulting. Jessica is the President-Elect for the Virginia Association of Addiction Professionals and on the Executive Committee for the Virginia Summer Institute for Addiction Studies.

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## BEHIND THE NEUROFUNCTIONAL SCENES OF MENTAL HEALTH— WHERE ADDICTION MEETS DEVELOPMENTAL AUTHENTICITY



**Kerstin Liesenfeld**

*Liesenfeld Research Institute gGmbH, Germany*

### Abstract:

Addiction is one of the answers to the fast-paced, overwhelming world around us. As social beings our brains were never designed for the flood of information, technology and overconnection to the outside-world we are facing right now. How can we better adapt? One of the key components for adaption processes is the ability to regulate our emotions. A view behind the neurofunctional scenes into the developmental part of authenticity shows its underlying facets of *Inner Work* processes that allow for healthy adaption processes. In our research, we took a deeper look into the dynamics of inner work processes, that define certain authenticity developmental stages with its healthy respectively maladaptive outcomes. Building upon our recently proposed “4C-view” of authenticity, we approach this developmental perspective from two different angles: from a *process characteristic* angle and a *developmental level* angle. Using vignettes of authentic client personality coaching processes, we propose that the interwoven dynamic between those two aspects yields several combinations of maturity levels within the individual. Those individual combinations determine different markers of healthy vs. maladaptation that vary in particular contexts.

### Biography

Kerstin Liesenfeld, as a scientist and practising top executive coach, Kerstin Liesenfeld is in pursuit of the issues of authentic self-development and healthy self-leadership.

The personality psychologist (Ph.D.) and economist (Master's degree) researched at the Department of Differential Psychology and Personality Research at Osnabrueck University (Prof. Julius Kuhl) and as a research scholar at the Mind Brain Education Department of the Harvard University Graduate School of Education (Prof. Kurt W. Fischer). She is a trained Master Executive Coach (ECA), NLP-Master (DVNLP), Eden Energy Medicine Certified Practitioner ((EEM-CP), based on Traditional Chinese Medicine), certified in Psychomotoric Training (Prof. Klaus Fischer) and licenced in the EOS Personality Diagnostics according to Kuhl as well as the Leadership Circle Profile®. She currently teaches as Assistant Professor for Healthy Self-Leadership at Tufts University, School of Medicine, Boston, USA and at the Northacademy Graduate School of Economics in Hamburg, Germany.

Her professional expertise includes her long-standing work as a product manager in the fashion sector, the management of two private clinics for prevention and rehabilitation in the German health care system and her activity as the chairwoman of the executive board of a firm for aptitude diagnostics and potential development.



Day 1

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**MULTIPLE MYELOMA, IL6, AND RISK OF SCHIZOPHRENIA: A MENDELIAN RANDOMIZATION, TRANSCRIPTOME, AND BAYESIAN CO-LOCALIZATION STUDY**

**Hongming Shang and Shuyang Lin**

*Dana Farber Cancer Institute, USA*

**Abstract:**

**Introduction:** Clinical studies speculated the association between multiple myeloma (MM) and inflammatory diseases; however, there is limited validation of these claims via establishing a causal relationship and revealing the underlying mechanism.

**Method:** This exploratory study employed bidirectional Mendelian Randomization (MR) analysis to investigate the causal relationships between MM and inflammatory diseases, including atherosclerosis (ARS), asthma (AT), ankylosing spondylitis (AS), Alzheimer's disease (AD), Parkinson's disease (PD), sarcoidosis (SD), inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFL), type II diabetes (TIID) and schizophrenia (SZ). Transcriptomic and genome-wide Bayesian colocalization analyses were further applied to reveal the underlying mechanism.

**Results:** A significant and previously unrecognized positive association was identified between genetic predisposition to MM and the risk of schizophrenia (SZ). During the preparation of this manuscript, additional clinical reports on psychosis as a preceding symptom leading to the diagnosis of M are emerging, signifying the impact of our study in revealing the genetic mechanism of SZ in mediating MM. Various statistical methods confirmed this association without detecting heterogeneity or pleiotropy effects. Transcriptomic analysis revealed shared inflammation-relevant pathways in MM and SZ patients, suggesting inflammation as a potential pathophysiological mediator of MM's causal effect on SZ. Bayesian colocalization analysis identified rs9273086, which maps to the protein-coding region of HLA-DRB1, as a common risk variant for both MM and SZ. Polymorphism of HLA-DRB1 allele has been implicated in Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases among other neuropsychiatric disorders, further highlighting the validity and impact of our results. Additionally, we confirmed that interleukin-6 (IL-6) is a risk factor for SZ through an inflammatory-proteome-wide MR, reinforcing the role of neuroinflammation in SZ etiology.

**Conclusion:** Overall, our findings showed that genetic predisposition to MM, HLA-DRB1 polymorphism, and enhanced IL-6 signaling are associated with the increased risk of SZ, providing evidence for a causal role for neuroinflammation in SZ etiology.

**Biography**

Hongming Shang studied Biochemistry and chemical biology at Vanderbilt University, and now investigates medical ailments through precision medicine and novel therapeutics. In previous research, she identified and validated the glycoprotein mini-domain structure that could potentially neutralize the Marburg virus infection, contributing significantly to the study of lethal infectious disease through structural biology methods. She then went on to use bidirectional Mendelian randomization (MR) analysis to confirm the causal relationship between multiple melanomas (MM) and schizophrenia (SZ), and used cytokine MR to identify SZ as a downstream effect of the release of cytokine in MM patients. Currently, Hongming works at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, Massachusetts, where she targets pancreatic cancer by identifying interferon response-associated vulnerabilities in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinomas (PDAC) through CRISPR screening and sequencing techniques.

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**NON-PHARMACOLOGICAL TREATMENT PARADIGMS FOR EXPERIMENTAL TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY**

**Anthony E. Kline**

*University of Pittsburgh, USA*

**Abstract:**

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is a leading cause of disability worldwide. Pharmacological interventions to treat TBI have not successfully translated to the hospital, thus strongly advocating for the need to assess novel, safe, nonpharmacological strategies. Environmental enrichment (EE), a preclinical model of neurorehabilitation, has been shown in numerous studies to facilitate neurobehavioral and cognitive recovery after TBI. More recently, music-based interventions (MBI) have also demonstrated the ability to improve functional outcomes in TBI rats. The goal of this presentation is to highlight a series of studies from our laboratories in which we have aimed to make EE more akin to the clinic in terms of timing and dosing. The evaluation of MBI studies is a recent interest of our laboratories but we will provide compelling data regarding its potential efficacy after TBI. For all the studies to be described, anesthetized rats (adult and pediatric as well as both sexes) received a controlled cortical impact of moderate severity (2.8 mm impact at 4 m/s) or sham injury. Typical behavioral assessments included motor (beam-walk), cognitive (acquisition of spatial learning and executive function), and anxiety-like behavior (evaluated via open field and shock probe defensive burying tasks). Histopathology (lesion volume) and markers of neuroinflammation/oxidative stress were also evaluated. The data were analyzed by ANOVAs, followed by the Newman-Keuls post-hoc test. The data to be presented will demonstrate that non-pharmacological therapeutic approaches can recover neurobehavioral and cognitive performance after preclinical TBI.

**Biography**

Anthony E. Kline, Ph.D. is a tenured Professor in the Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation and Associate Director of Rehabilitation Research at the Safar Center for Resuscitation Research at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Kline also holds appointments in Psychology and Critical Care Medicine and is a member of the Center for Neuroscience (CNUP) training faculty, as well as co-director of the CNUP summer undergraduate research program. Dr. Kline's research focuses on the assessment/development of translatable therapies that facilitate functional recovery after TBI as well as the elucidation of potential mechanisms for the observed effects. Dr. Kline's research is funded by the NIH.

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## THE USE OF HUMOR IN ADDICTIVE DISORDERS

**Christophe Panichelli**

*Private practice, Sprimont, Belgium*

### Abstract:

Substance abuse and dependence is often associated with patients' use of humor to minimize the dangers and consequences of their consumption. This pattern should be identified by therapists in order to avoid encouraging it, but also to draw patients' attention on a constructive way of using humor in their everyday life. In comparison, therapist's introduction of humor at key moments of therapy has shown effective at virtually every step of the psychotherapeutic process. For example, it can increase patient's motivation by challenging the patient in a light-hearted, yet very serious conversation. It offers the possibility to strengthen therapeutic alliance with « joining moments » showing therapist's profound understanding of the patients' feelings and beliefs. Humor is an effective tool to reframe the patients' view of the world, showing them alternative ways of understanding and interpreting their presenting problem, which in turn allows new emotions to emerge and also new possible solutions. Furthermore, it can unveil self-defeating behaviors in a non-confrontational way and introduce a feeling of safety while discussing difficult personal topics. Finally, it allows the patients to experience alternative coping mechanisms during sessions. These operations restore hope and consequently foster behavioral change. All these concepts will be illustrated with clinical examples from the author's practice.

### Biography

Christophe Panichelli, MD, PhD Psychiatrist, psychothérapeute Author of *Laughter therapy, Introducing humor in psychotherapy (La thérapie par le rire, Introduire l'humour en psychothérapie, Mardaga, 2023, in French)* Sprimont, Belgique.

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**PREFRONTAL CORTEX CIRCUITRY DYSREGULATIONS FOLLOWING TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY: A MULTIMODAL ASSESSMENT THROUGHOUT THE LIFE SPAN**

**Corina O. Bondi**

*University of Pittsburgh, USA*

**Abstract:**

The lecture will focus on diverse research approaches (behavioral, neurochemical, pharmacological, molecular biology) to address how changes in monoamine function may play a major role in cognitive dysfunction in the rat prefrontal cortex following traumatic brain injury (TBI), by characterizing complex cognitive processing deficits, using attentional set-shifting tasks (operant and digging-based), operant sustained attention and instrumental learning tasks, maternal separation as a clinically-relevant susceptibility factor to developing mood disorders post-TBI, as well as viable treatment and rehabilitative strategies such as pharmacotherapies (antidepressants, Alzheimer's drugs, etc), or environmental enrichment as a rodent model of non-invasive neurorehabilitation. To mimic the clinical landscape, injuries are implemented throughout the life span (i.e., pediatric, young adult, and aged), in both sexes, and in varied locations of the brain, such as prefrontal or parietal cortex. To enhance clinical translatability, a new direction in our lab focuses on comorbidities with TBI, such as hypertension.

**Biography**

Bondi is a tenured Associate Professor in the Departments of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and Neurobiology, as well as Associate Director at the Safar Center for Resuscitation Research at the University of Pittsburgh. She holds a Ph.D. in Neuropharmacology from the University of Texas Health at San Antonio. Bondi is an Academic Editor for Brain Research, BMC Neuroscience, and the Journal of Neurotrauma. She recently served as Secretary/Treasurer and Chair of Finance and Fundraising for the National Neurotrauma Society, where she was awarded the prestigious 2022 Rosalind Franklin award recognizing a female researcher who has made notable scientific contributions in field of neurotrauma. Her research interests focus on complex cognitive deficits and distinct neurobehavioral and neurochemical alterations relevant to psychiatric disorders after TBI in rodents. Her expertise of twenty years and over 70 manuscripts encompasses the overlap of cognitive neuroscience, stress neurochemistry, and TBI neuropathology. She published the first papers using the digging and operant set-shifting tasks after TBI, which are akin to the Wisconsin Card Sorting Task that is used clinically in patients to assess executive function.

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**BIPOLAR AS ADDICTION TO FIXED EGO IDENTITIES; HEALING WITH GROWTH MINDSET**

**Emily Burfoot**

*Transpirational Ltd., UK*

**Abstract:**

The author used direct, objective observation of her own mind over a period of twenty years in order to gain insight into the psychological source of bipolar disorder, how to heal it from within, and how to communicate this method to others. She was inspired to use objective observation of the mind as a research method because of her study and practice of Buddhist philosophy, and was also influenced by the ideas of Eckhart Tolle in *The Power of Now*.

What was observed was that the mood oscillation associated with bipolar disorder was caused by addiction to two different ego identities within the psyche. The 'low' ego was characterized by low self-worth, powerlessness and nihilistic thinking and beliefs: this gave rise to low mood and depression. The 'high' ego had beliefs of its invincibility, infinite power, omniscience, and universal love: this gave rise to feelings of elation and euphoria.

Upon studying Carol Dweck's work on mindset, the author realized that both the 'low' and the 'high' ego structures corresponded to what Dweck calls 'fixed mindsets', where one's sense of self and competence is viewed as fixed and unchanging. With this realization came the awareness, which is supported by Carol Dweck's ideas and research, that healing the condition of bipolar would best be facilitated by adopting a growth mindset, in which the sense of self, especially in relation to learning a new task or habit, is open-ended and unfixed. With a growth mindset, an individual focuses on the act of doing and learning in the present moment, rather than investing in any labelling of the self. The author has found this principle essential in her own healing, and believes the theory of releasing addiction to false self-identity could be applied to anyone wanting to take responsibility for their own mental health.

**Biography**

Emily Burfoot graduated from Oxford University in 2006, and began working in the personal development field in 2008, when she joined a charity dedicated to raising the emotional intelligence and leadership skills of schoolteachers. However, her perfectionist mask created havoc with her mental health, so in 2011 she began exploring psychology, meditation, quantum physics, the essence of spiritual teachings, coaching, yoga and breathwork in order to learn how to find inner peace naturally. Her unique healing modality: Transpirational Coaching, combines all her expertise from 12 years' independent study of philosophy, human science and healing arts, and includes unique mindset tools that she invented to heal her own mind. In 2019 she successfully withdrew from psychiatric medication, and in 2020 she launched Transpirational Ltd to professionally support others with her powerful approach. She has received extensive positive feedback from her past and current clients.

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**EXAMINATION OF EXECUTIVE FUNCTION SKILLS IN OBSESSIVE  
COMPULSIVE DISORDER AND EATING DISORDERS IN COMPARISON  
WITH NON-CLINICAL GROUP**

**Busra Tuna and Sait Uluc**

*Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University, Turkey*

**Abstract:**

Studies have found that people diagnosed with obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD) have impairments in their executive function skills. There are findings in the literature that people with anorexia nervosa (AN) and bulimia nervosa (BN), which are similar to OCD in terms of transdiagnostic risk factors, also have impairments in executive function skills. The aim of this study is to obtain information about the pattern and severity of impairments that may occur in the executive function skills, which is a transdiagnostic risk factor of people receiving treatment with a diagnosis of OCD, AN and BN in Turkish culture, and the similarities and differences in the executive function skills of non-clinical group and of individuals with different diagnoses by controlling for depression. In the study, Yale – Brown Obsession Compulsion Scale-Self-Report Form (Y-BOCS), Eating Attitude Test Short Form (YTT-26), Depression Stress Anxiety Scale-21 (DASS-21), Berg (Wisconsin) Card Sorting Test (BCST), Go/No-Go Task, Stop Signal Test (STT), Stroop Color Test, Auditory Consonant Trigrams (ACT), Corsi Block Tapping Task (CBTT), Tower of London Test (TOL) were used as data collection tools. Analysis of covariance was applied to evaluate whether the groups differ in terms of executive function components. Hierarchical regression analysis was conducted to examine the direct and indirect relationships between variables. After controlling for depression levels, significant differences were observed between the executive function skills of OCD, AN, BN and the non-clinical group. After controlling for depression levels, significant models were observed for executive function impairments predicting obsessive-compulsive symptom severity and eating disorder symptom severity. According to the findings of the study, impairments in inhibition skills seem to be important in terms of obsessive-compulsive characteristics. In addition, AN could be an eating disorder that falls within the obsessive-compulsive spectrum.

**Biography**

Busra Tuna completed her undergraduate studies in Psychology at Istanbul University in Turkey. After graduation, she interned as a research assistant at the University of Konstanz in Germany. Following the internship, she obtained her master's degree in Clinical Psychology from Hacettepe University. Currently, she is a PhD student in Clinical Psychological Science at Koç University and works as a research assistant at Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University. Her academic interests focus on the relationship between problem-solving therapy, cognition, and mental disorders.

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**OVERCOMING STIGMA: MENTAL HEALTH RESILIENCE FOR PEOPLE WITH HIV AND SUBSTANCE USE IN A GLOBALLY CHALLENGING ENVIRONMENT**

**Regina de Souza Alves**

*Municipal Health Secretariat of Maceio (SMS), Brazil*

**Abstract:**

The stigma associated with HIV and drug use profoundly affects the mental health and social inclusion of millions of people around the world. These prejudices restrict access to treatment, perpetuate discrimination, and contribute to social isolation, compromising resilience and making it difficult to build support networks for these individuals. In Brazil, where approximately 1 million people live with HIV, stigma is exacerbated by social inequality, making it difficult to provide adequate care to vulnerable populations. Despite public policies aimed at HIV and substance use, the lack of an integrated approach still limits the support offered. In Italy, where approximately 130,000 people with HIV live, similar challenges are encountered, and stigma remains a major barrier to inclusion and mental health support for this population. To address these challenges, it is essential to promote resilience and strengthen support networks. An approach that values inclusion and actively combats stigma can provide a safe and understanding environment, improving the quality of life of these individuals. Robust public policies and empathetic strategies are fundamental steps towards building a more just and welcoming society, capable of supporting the mental health needs of all, regardless of their health conditions or social context.

**Biography**

Regina de Souza Alves, PhD in Sciences from the University of São Paulo (USP/2022). Master in Bioethics and Legal Aspects of Health (UMSA/2015), Buenos Aires (AR), graduated in Nursing from the Federal University of Sergipe (UFS/96). Extensive experience in the area of Teaching in Ethics and Bioethics. Researcher, Nursing assistant in the specialized care service for people with HIV. Specialist in human development.

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**COUNSELORS' PERSPECTIVES ON POST-TREATMENT CARE AND RELAPSE PREVENTION IN INDIVIDUALS WITH SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS (SUD) IN NAIROBI KENYA**

**Gisele Tchamba**

*Adventist University of Africa, Kenya*

**Abstract:**

Post-treatment care is crucial for decreasing the probability of relapse for persons in recovery. Yet the literature highlights a significant prevalence of relapse among individuals undergoing treatment for SUD. White (2012), reported a relapse rate of 34% within three days post-treatment completion, while studies conducted in Kenya indicated relapse rates ranging up to 80%. A report from the African Union points to causal factors such as high unemployment rates, societal stigma, inadequate social support, and insufficient post-discharge follow-up. Most SUD providers claim to offer support for individuals battling addiction despite increased relapse post-discharge recorded in the literature.

To gain a better understanding of the low posttreatment follow up, it is crucial to engage SUD counselors who play a crucial role in supporting individuals during and after treatment. So far, no research has sought counselors' perspectives on this important public health burden. Therefore, this study aims to investigate addiction treatment counselors' viewpoints on this matter. Additionally, it seeks to explore potential strategies counselors employ to prevent relapse. In order to gain a comprehensive insight into participants' experiences, the researchers advocate for adopting a constructivist grounded theory approach for this study. The sample size is anticipated to encompass between 10 to 20 addiction counselors, or until data saturation is achieved. Through the data gleaned from this study, the researchers aim to underscore to policymakers and treatment providers the urgency of enhancing post-treatment follow-up to address the significant public health, economic and social ramifications of addiction in Kenya. The theory generated from this study can help reshape SUD treatment in all the region severely affected by the high rate of relapse.

**Biography**

Gisele Tchamba earned a PhD in Evaluation and Public Health from Western Michigan University in the USA. She is an Evaluator, Trainer, Author, Podcaster, Keynote Speaker, Wellness Coach and a Mentor. She has expertise in research and program evaluation. She is passionate about behavioral health and has written extensively on this topic. She is the Founder & CEO of ADR Evaluation Consulting. She is passionate about coaching men and women on how to heal emotional and physical pain naturally. She has created the Experience Change Wellness from her own healing experience. She currently teaches post graduate students in the Masters and Doctor of Public Health program at the Adventist University of Africa near Nairobi, Kenya. She loves networking, and spending time with her family and friends.

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**POST-PANDEMIC PSYCHOSOCIAL VARIABLES AFFECTING ACADEMIC DROPOUT IN A SAMPLE OF CHILEAN HIGHER-EDUCATION STUDENTS**

**Maria-Mercedes Yeomans Cabrera**

*University of the Americas, Chile*

**Abstract:**

University dropouts are a problem in the Chilean higher education system, which causes psychosocial and economic damage and requires further studies to understand it comprehensively. This study aimed to determine the psychosocial variables influencing the risk of dropping out of the higher education system in a sample of Chilean university students post-pandemic. With a sample of 655 students from the Chilean higher education system and with a cross-sectional study design taken in November 2022, a questionnaire was applied with sociodemographic and other variables of interest, the Depression, Anxiety and Stress Scale DASS-2, the EAC-19 Coronavirus Affect Scale, the ECE Emotional Exhaustion Scale; the Okasha Suicide Scale, and the Insomnia Severity Index (ISI). We performed descriptive, bivariate, and multiple logistic regression analyses through SPSS version 25. Variables with a value of  $p < 0.05$  in the final model were declared statistically significant. Odds ratios (OR) were adjusted to 95% confidence intervals (95% CI), which were used to determine the independent predictor variables. Significant variables for the risk of dropping out of higher education were: failing four or more courses [AOR = 3.434; 95% CI: 1.272, 9.269], having depressive symptoms [AOR = 1.857; 95% CI: 1.214, 2.839], having suicidal ideation and thoughts [AOR = 2.169; 95% CI: 1.509, 3.118], having clinical insomnia [AOR = 2.024; 95% CI: 1.400, 2.927], low parental support [AOR = 1.459; 95% CI: 1.029, 2.069], impaired performance during the pandemic [AOR = 1.882; 95% CI: 1.317, 2.690], and impaired socioeconomic status during the pandemic [AOR = 1.649; 95% CI: 1.153, 2.357]. Chilean higher education institutions should pay attention to the risk factors resulting from this research, such as students with more than four failed courses during their career, depressive symptoms, suicidal thoughts, clinical insomnia, low parental support, and affectation in performance and socioeconomic level during the pandemic, which could contribute to improving academic retention indicators.

**Biography**

Maria-Mercedes Yeomans-Cabrera is a respected scholar with a Ph.D. in Educational Administration and Master's degrees in Human Resources and Academic Management. Since 2011, she has been a professor, educating students at primary, secondary, and tertiary levels in both public and private sectors. Her career, rooted in her initial role as a teacher, is dedicated to enhancing educational environments, focusing on improving management practices to support student mental health and teacher well-being.

Her research adopts a holistic approach, critically addressing the complex dynamics within educational settings to create supportive and nurturing atmospheres conducive to learning and personal development. Her efforts have significantly advanced discussions on mental health within educational systems. Her insights and expertise make her a pivotal contributor to this academic congress on mental health, where her presence enriches the dialogue on creating healthier educational communities.

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**RIVAROXABAN IN TREATMENT OF PEDIATRIC CEREBRAL VENOUS SINUS THROMBOSES (CVST) BASED ON A CASE OF PEDIATRIC PIAL ARTERIOVENOUS FISTULA**

**Jun Tang**

*Children's Hospital of Chongqing Medical University China*

**Abstract:**

**Background:** Intracranial pial arteriovenous fistulas (PAVFs) are rare neurovascular malformation occurring predominantly in the pediatric population. PAVFs are frequently associated with hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasia (HHT) but the genetic mutations are uncertain. Endovascular embolization has been proved to be the priority choice to manage PAVFs, while the complications, like as hydrocephalus and sinus thrombosis are difficulty to manage.

**Observations:** We reported a rare case of PAVF that feed by posterior inferior cerebellum artery (PICA) and directly drainage into sigmoid sinus in a 6-months old male neonate with hereditary GDF2 mutation. The PAVF was managed successfully by endovascular embolization with coils and ONyX. In addition, we present the first report on the effectiveness of rivaroxaban on subsequent detrimental sinus thrombosis following curative embolization of PAVFs. Moreover, treatment strategies and complications following fistula disconnection have been reviewed.

**Lessons:** Hereditary GDF2 mutation has firstly been reported in pediatric PAVF successfully managed with endovascular embolization. Rivaroxaban is a potential curative medicine in dealing with pediatric sinus thrombosis since the safety has been proved.

**Biography**

Jun Tang, M.D; Ph.D., Neurosurgeon, associated professor of Department of Neurosurgery. "Young and middle-aged medical talents" of Chongqing government in China. Long engaged in clinical diagnosis and treatment of cerebrovascular disease, brain injury, brain tumors. 4 projects of National Natural Science Foundation of China and others. 35 SCI articles related with stroke and pediatric stroke have been published as the first author or responsible author. The First prize of Chongqing Science Technology Progress and the second prize of Chinese Medical Science and Technology Progress were awarded respectively.

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**BUILDING RESILIENCE: A RETROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS OF RECOVERY FACTORS IN AN ADDICTION TREATMENT PROGRAM**

**Chizoba Francisca Achor, Uthman K Abimbola, Chiamaka R Nwaoru, Emmanuel A Essien**

*Federal Medical Center, Umuahia, Nigeria*

**Abstract:**

Addiction significantly impacts mental health resilience, complicating recovery in the presence of co-occurring mental health disorders. Understanding factors that contribute to recovery is critical for enhancing treatment approaches. This study aimed to identify factors that contribute to recovery among individuals undergoing addiction treatment. A retrospective review was conducted using medical records of 49 patients treated for addiction at the Downtown Specialist Clinics Annex over the past two years. Data collected included demographic information, primary addiction diagnoses, co-occurring mental health disorders, treatment outcomes, and resilience factors. Logistic regression analyses were performed to identify predictors of abstinence and relapse using SPSS version 23. The study included 49 patients with an average age of 28.43 years (SD= 7.91). Most were male (95.9%) and belonged to the middle-income category (65.3%). Schizophrenia was the most prevalent comorbid disorder (30.6%), while 42.9% had only substance use disorder (SUD). In regression analysis, having only SUD was protective against poorer abstinence compared to those with dual diagnoses ( $B = -3.654$ ,  $p = 0.033$ ,  $\text{Exp}(B) = 0.026$ ). High adherence to treatment protocols ( $B = -4.089$ ,  $p = 0.026$ ,  $\text{Exp}(B) = 0.017$ ) and effective coping ( $B = -4.181$ ,  $p = 0.006$ ,  $\text{Exp}(B) = 0.015$ ) were also protective. Furthermore, having only SUD reduced the likelihood of relapse ( $B = -2.657$ ,  $p = 0.045$ ,  $\text{Exp}(B) = 0.070$ ), as did high treatment adherence ( $B = -4.321$ ,  $p = 0.021$ ,  $\text{Exp}(B) = 0.013$ ) and effective coping ( $B = -4.787$ ,  $p = 0.011$ ,  $\text{Exp}(B) = 0.008$ ). Also, moderate income levels protected from a relapse compared to high income ( $B = -3.549$ ,  $p = 0.022$ ,  $\text{Exp}(B) = 0.029$ ). These findings emphasise the role of dual diagnoses, treatment adherence, and coping strategies in predicting abstinence and relapse outcomes among this population.

**Biography**

Chizoba Achor is a consultant psychiatrist at the Federal Medical Center in Umuahia, Abia State, where she heads the Psychiatry Department. She also teaches at Abia State University and Gregory University Uтуру, Nigeria. She is a fellow of the National Postgraduate Medical College, Faculty of Psychiatry, specialising in addiction disorders, her primary research focus.

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## HEALTH INSURANCE FOR PEOPLE WITH EPILEPSY: A DYNAMIC RISK CLASSIFICATION

**Shamira Sibal**

*P D Hinduja Hospital & Research Centre, India*

### Abstract:

Epilepsy is one of the commonest non-communicable diseases of the brain. With better access to healthcare, awareness, and optimum usage of anti-epileptics, excess risk of hospitalization among people with epilepsy (PWE) is similar to that of other common chronic diseases. Despite this, PWEs are often denied insurance or quoted high premiums, even though their excess risk of hospitalisation may not actually be that high.

Our objective is to create a dynamic, non-exhaustive risk classification for PWEs that health insurance companies can use as reference to accurately stratify future hospitalisation risk.

This risk is largely dependent on aetiology, onset, frequency, type of seizures, coexisting neurological deficits, CT/MRI, EEG findings, drug responsiveness and compliance. The latter two parameters are also duration dependent, which is why this classification is dynamic and accounts for changes in disease pattern over time. Regular monitoring by OPD visits helps predict disease trajectory, and thus predict the risks involved.

Using extensive literature review of epilepsy research papers, we have created criteria to classify patients under the following categories:

1. Very Low Risk (risk of future hospitalization is similar to that of healthy individuals)
2. Low Risk (risk likely to be higher than in healthy individuals)
3. Moderate Risk (still higher risk, but within manageable range)
4. High Risk (excess risk of future hospitalization is likely to be significant)

Insurance is still best assessed on a case-to-case basis. Therefore, while this classification is non-exhaustive, it provides a rough guideline that insurers can use when providing insurance to epilepsy patients.

### Biography

Shamira Sibal is an MBBS graduate (2023) from Lokmanya Tilak Municipal Medical College, Mumbai, with both an MMC and GMC (UK) certification to practice. She is an advocate for reproductive rights for women in low-income countries, having worked as part of ISAY (India Safe Abortion Youth advocates). She is currently working as a junior clinical officer and has a special interest in Neurology. She has previously written case reports, has co-authored an original research paper with IIT Bombay on the pituitary proteome and is working on building her research portfolio.

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**DISAPPEARANCE OF CAUDATE NUCLEUS HEAD ARTERIOVENOUS MALFORMATION AFTER EXTERNAL VENTRICULAR DRAINAGE; CASE REPORT**

**Sefa Ozturk**

*Istanbul University, Turkey*

**Abstract:**

A 15-year-old female patient with no known comorbidities presented to pediatric emergency unit with complaints of headache and confusion. Patient's Glasgow coma scale (GCS) was 8(E2M4V2). Patient was immediately intubated. Patient's hemodynamic status was stabilized. Subsequently, a non-contrast cranial computed tomography (CT) scan was performed. Non-contrast cranial CT scan revealed a diffuse intraventricular hemorrhage. External ventricular drainage (EVD) was immediately placed in right frontal horn, and a high-pressure hemorrhagic flow was observed exiting the EVD. Cranial CT angiography revealed the existence of an arteriovenous malformation at head of the right caudate nucleus and in close proximity to the EVD catheter. A diagnostic digital subtraction angiography (DSA) was planned as a subsequent course of action. Diagnostic DSA revealed the presence of an arteriovenous malformation in the surrounding area of the right caudate nucleus head, which was receiving arterial supply from the lateral lenticulostriate artery. Nidus of the malformation was observed to have a diameter of approximately 6 mm, and an aneurysm of 1.2 mm was identified within the nidus. AVM was observed to be draining into the deep circulation via the thalamostriate vein. Level of sedation was gradually reduced, and patient was extubated on the second day of bleeding. Patient's GCS was 15 and no paresis. During the subsequent follow-up period, a notable reduction in the volume of hemorrhagic flow from the EVD was observed. Control computed tomography scans revealed the regression of the ventricular hematoma. EVD of patient was removed on the 7th day of bleeding. Patient who had no wound infections, fever and additional complaints was discharged with the recommendation of neurosurgery outpatient clinic control after 20 days and DSA control after 2 months. On the 2nd month follow-up DSA, it was observed that the previously described arteriovenous malformation adjacent to the right caudate nucleus head regressed.

**Biography**

Sefa Öztürk is a dedicated Neurosurgeon at Istanbul University Istanbul Faculty of Medicine. With a profound passion for advancing medical science, he specializes in several cutting-edge areas within neurosurgery. His primary interests include Neurooncology, where his focus is on the diagnosis and treatment of Brain Tumors, Functional Neurosurgery, which involves surgical interventions to treat neurological disorders such as epilepsy and Parkinson's disease. Beyond traditional neurosurgery, he has deeply invested in the integration of Artificial Intelligence and Augmented Reality into medical practice. These technologies hold immense potential for improving surgical precision and patient outcomes. His commitment to these fields is driven by a desire to push the boundaries of what is possible in neurosurgery, ensuring that patients receive the most advanced and effective treatments available. Through his work, his aim is to contribute to the ongoing evolution of neurosurgical techniques and technologies, ultimately enhancing the quality of care for patients worldwide.

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## HOW CAN WE GIVE MEANING TO LIFE THROUGH PSYCHODRAMA FOR TEENAGER'S DRUG USERS

**Moise Alin**

*Ion Creanga State Pedagogical University of Chisinau, Romania*

### Abstract:

**Background:** In a group session for adolescent drug users who also have problems with the law, a *collective psychodramatic game* was used, which was also inspired by the movie *The Philosophers* written and directed by John Huddles. Teenagers in the game could choose to play some roles and later, to search for the solution of the game. This *psychodramatic game* also had some rules that they had to follow and had a given scenario, which was read to them before they started. This also facilitates a faster immersion. Afterwards, there were discussions according to the *3 circles* used in *psychodrama*.

**Objective:** To restore *meaning in the lives* of teenager's drug users

**Methods:** The technique based on the *theory of roles* was used in a collective game according to *psychodrama*, to enable teenagers to bring out from the unconscious both the creative side of themselves and the part of transposing themselves into a role that they have chosen, giving them the opportunity to be someone else for a while. This aspect can give them *meaning in life* and stimulate their will, depending on the *repulsions* of each teenager

**Results:** Teenagers have learned how to better communicate their needs and to enter a role that they have chosen, which is also a role that they would like to play in society but have not yet reached or they are far from him. But this aspect restored the *meaning in life* for them.

**Conclusion:** The collective game used through the exchange of roles used in *psychodrama* and applied to the group of teenagers' drug users had benefits for them after the group session. Also, this model can be introduced as part of a future prophylaxis program for teenagers and can be applied in prevention lessons with classes of teenagers at the schools.

### Biography

Moise Alin has experience in practiced psychology and psychotherapy in private and in an assistance integrated addiction program and in prevention of narcotics use among adolescents. He has a passion for improving health and wellbeing. It has an interest in working with people with addictions and he wants to research how to develop our spiritual intelligence in a manner that we can cure ourselves from addiction. He wants to create a prophylaxis program for teenagers that have an addiction. Also, he is interested in positive and transcultural psychotherapy, psychodrama, hypnotherapy, Jungian analytical psychology, logotherapy and Bert Hellinger family constellation.



Day 2

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Keynote Presentation

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## **UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF ADDICTION ON THE FAMILY: CHANGING OUR PERSPECTIVE ON CODEPENDENCY**



**Jessica Swan**

*Recovery Consulting, USA*

### **Abstract:**

In working with families in the residential treatment setting, we see sets of behaviors and responses in communication that indicate family are significantly impacted by their family member's addiction and the accompanying behaviors. Using family systems theory and Ecological systems theory as the foundational components of family treatment for addiction, we will dive into understanding the codependency movement and our more recent understanding that the family system is actually responding to trauma. We will identify similarities and differences in trauma responses vs. codependent responses to loving someone with SUD as a way to reframe family dynamics. Demystifying codependency and removing its label helps families to connect with what they have been through and how they are responding in their own lives today, removing fear of judgement, stigma, and shame historically connected to helping treat the family.

### **Biography**

Jessica Swan, MCJ, MAC, LSATP has extensive experience in clinical addiction counseling, research, development, training, evaluation, and reporting for US legal professionals, nonprofits, governmental agencies, and communities across the US. She writes addiction recovery curriculum for treatment programs, offers counseling for individuals and families with substance use disorders, and provides addiction recovery consulting for organizations. Jessica specializes in helping high-level professionals and their families, including professional athletes, doctors, judges, lawyers, and pilots. She has extensive experience working within the Justice System and its intersection with mental health and substance use.

Jessica is a national leader and educator in the addiction recovery field, teaching on the neurobiological disease of addiction, SUD treatment, and recovery. She has trained multiple disciplines on the neuroscience of substance use disorders, family recovery from substance use disorders, and integrating families in treatment and recovery. She currently offers training and facilitation for law firms and judges across the US, and she is Executive Director of Recovery Consulting. Jessica is the President-Elect for the Virginia Association of Addiction Professionals and on the Executive Committee for the Virginia Summer Institute for Addiction Studies.

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## **MUSIC AND HEALTH: EMBRACING THE INEFFABILITY OF SOUND AND WHY IT MATTERS**



**Angé Weinrabe**

*The University of Sydney, Australia*

### **Abstract:**

The effects that music can have on health and well-being are well known. Mastering a musical instrument, for example, can play a role in a person's emotional regulation strategies. The same role can be played by sound itself. Contemporary research has validated the transformational capacity of sound to counteract dysregulated emotional states, a contributing factor to disease formation. However, the active function of music – especially the ability that sound frequencies have in relationship to consciousness – has received surprisingly little attention and is under-examined in the literature. We claim that an important aspect of sound – its capacity to be used as part of an emotional regulation strategy for the purpose of raising consciousness – has been largely overlooked. The assumption in the health literature is that sound regulates a person's emotional or mood state in the moment, reducing arousal or the negative expressions associated with certain emotions. Portrayed in this way, sound acts as a relaxation tool, or in clinical terms, as a therapeutic support to other treatments. In this article, we argue that sound frequencies have a capacity to target one critical aspect of emotion – its affectivity. We propose a philosophical explanation for why, conceptually, sound as a frequency generator is the 'healing' modality. Sound has the capacity to bypass what Ned Block refers to as 'phenomenal' consciousness and reach 'access' consciousness. On the other hand, if sound frequencies are misused, they can disrupt access consciousness and lead to ill-health. We end by exploring the implications of this account.

### **Biography**

Angé Weinrabe holding an Arts (Adv.) Hons Degree in Philosophy, The University of Sydney, and a Master's in Philosophy (Medicine) from the Brain and Mind Centre, Sydney Medical School supervised by global mental health pioneer Prof. Ian. B. Hickie, Angé published the hypothesis that dysregulated emotion (mainly anxiety) impairs decision-making in youth. Receiving her Ph.D. at The University of Sydney (2024), supervised by philosopher of science, Prof. Dominic Murphy, Angé investigated the critical role and epidemiological value of culture when investigating explanatory models of addiction (substance and behavioural) in mainly young adults at critical stages of development. As the Founder of a MedTech start-up - My Sound Wellbeing Pty Ltd, she's presently investigating the clinical impact that personalised sound frequencies have on our neurobiology, mainly to find ways to contribute to areas of prevention medicine. Her main passion is taking her research and translating it into social outcomes with meaning, and this she's achieving through the registered Australian Youth Charity - Giving Education Meaning (GEM™) Ltd. that she founded in 2017 with a group of other like-minded and hearted others. Ange is currently a sessional academic for The University of Sydney, teaching science and commerce students and has recently been awarded Postgraduate Research Prize for Outstanding Academic Achievement (2024), and the University of Sydney's, Research Commercialisation Award (2023).

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**ADDICTION RECONCEPTUALIZED: NEURAL, COGNITIVE, AND BEHAVIORAL ADAPTATIONS**



**Derick Lindquist**

*O.P. Jindal Global University, India*

**Abstract:**

Addiction refers to the continual use of drugs (e.g., alcohol or opiates) or engagement in specific behaviors (e.g., gambling or video gaming) despite the occurrence of psychological or physical harm. Addiction is a process initial drug use is transformed to abuse and, if sufficiently prolonged, dependence or addiction. This transition is characterized by unique neurobiological, cognitive, and behavioral alterations.

Our newly developed two-stage model of addiction delineates drug-induced changes in brain function during stage one, from use-to-abuse and stage two, from abuse-to-addiction related to reinforcement, hedonics, behavioural regulation, associative learning, and tolerance. Observed changes are due to underlying adaptations in the brain's reward and limbic pathways, and their interactions with specific regions of the prefrontal cortex.

In stage one, a drug user's cognition and behavior is governed by positive reinforcement, seeking out more drug due to its desirable properties; hedonics, the liking or enjoyment of taking the drug; impulsivity, in which the drug is spontaneously taken; classical conditioning, associating the drug's euphoric effects with specific stimuli and environments; and physiological tolerance, necessitating more drug consumption to achieve the same high.

Stage two sees a dramatic transition in the user's cognition and behavior, now regulated by negative reinforcement, taking the drug to avoid the noxious effects of withdrawal; hedonics, an intense wanting or craving for the drug; compulsivity, with the user compelled to take the drug; instrumental conditioning, wherein specific stimuli or environments evoke an automated or habitual response; and behavioral tolerance, an anticipatory change in body state that counteracts the drug's forthcoming physiological effects.

The two-stage model aims to facilitate our understanding of addiction by providing accurate descriptors linking altered brain function to overt behavioural responding. By emphasizing the role of the brain, the model is also conceived to promote the de-stigmatization of substance (and behavioral) addiction.

**Biography**

Derick Lindquist received his Ph.D. in Psychology, with an emphasis in Behavioral Neuroscience, from Yale University in 2004. He subsequently served as a Postdoctoral Fellow and Research Associate at Indiana University and the University of Kansas, respectively. He joined The Ohio State University in 2010 as an Assistant Professor. His research focused on the neurobiology of learning and memory and the long-term deleterious consequences of early-life ethanol exposure. In 2019, he joined the Jindal School of Liberal Arts and Humanities at O.P. Jindal Global University in Sonapat, India. He later developed and inaugurated the Jindal School of Psychology & Counselling as its Founding Dean. He has published more than 30 research and review articles in internationally recognized peer-reviewed journals and books. Throughout his career, he has sustained a passion for mentoring students at all stages of the academic journey.



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## **THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL MEDIA OVERUSE ON WORKING MEMORY CAPACITY**

**Xikun Zhang**

*Zhejiang University, China*

### **Abstract:**

In the era of Web 3.0, excessive use of social media has emerged as a prevalent behavioral addiction phenomenon. A substantial body of research associates social media overuse with deleterious emotional outcomes such as anxiety and depression, as well as impairments in cognitive functions including procrastination and weakened cognitive control, the latter being a pivotal determinant in the development and persistence of behavioral addictions. Despite this, studies delving into the relationship between social media overuse and cognitive control remain in their infancy, with insufficient evidence to draw firm conclusions.

Working memory, central to various cognitive control processes such as inhibition, switching, and updating plays a foundational role in maintaining goals and manipulating information. It is commonly theorized that individuals with higher working memory capacity possess more ample cognitive control resources, potentially leading to superior cognitive control capabilities compared to those with lower working memory capacity. Therefore, there is a pressing need for empirical exploration of the differing working memory capacities among individuals with excessive social media use relative to those with normative usage, aiming to clarify the mechanistic pathways through which excessive reliance on social media can escalate into behavioral addiction.

In the current study, we employed a modified version of Young's Internet Addiction Test and the Bergen Facebook Addiction Scale to evaluate social media overuse. The adapted IAT comprised 20 items rated on a 5-point scale, with higher scores signifying more severe social media overuse. Notably, our preliminary data ( $n=1059$ ) indicated relatively high average scores among college students ( $M = 56.98$ ,  $SD = 13.52$ ), prompting us to adopt a quartile-based classification method akin to Cudo et al. Participants scoring at or below the first quartile ( $\leq 47$ ) were designated as controls, while those at or above the third quartile ( $\geq 66$ ) were classified as social media over-users. Furthermore, to qualify as social media over-users, participants had to report daily usage exceeding four hours and engagement with social media platforms five to seven days per week. Cross-validation was ensured by administering the adapted BFAS; only participants whose scores fell within the top 33% ( $\geq 56$ ) for the overuse group and the bottom 33% ( $\leq 43$ ) for the control group were included. Following rigorous screening, the study involved 40 participants (8 males, 31 females; mean age  $M=18.93$  years,  $SD=0.13$  years) who met the criteria for social media overuse and 73 participants (43 males, 30 females; mean age  $M=19.10$  years,  $SD=0.15$  years) serving as controls. We then investigated the working memory capacity of these groups using the Operant Working Memory Span Task to discern potential differences in cognitive control abilities. In this task, participants consecutively performed  $n$  rounds of single-digit addition and subtraction operations, concurrently maintaining continuous memory of the second digit in each arithmetic sequence. After completing the calculations, they were required to recall the second digits of the  $n$  operations in order before advancing to the next trial. This performance in retaining numerical elements during arithmetic expressions serves as an

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indicator of their temporal informational integrity preservation, thereby shedding light on the sustained retention aspect of working memory function.

Statistically significant differences in working memory span were observed between the two groups, with the social media overuse group displaying lower working memory capacity ( $M = 8.40$ ,  $SD = 1.69$ ) compared to the control group ( $M = 9.08$ ,  $SD = 1.77$ ;  $p = .049$ , Cohen's  $d = 0.391$ ), suggesting a decrement in social media over-users' capacity to maintain specific information during the manipulation of information, which is essential for successful cognitive controls.

In conclusion, the present finding demonstrates that the working memory capacity of social media over-users is significantly weakened than that of the control group, suggesting a depleted availability of cognitive control resources. This implies a compromised ability to sustain attention to goals and manipulate information in individuals with excessive social media use, heightening their susceptibility to disruptions triggered by relevant social media cues in everyday life scenarios.

### **Biography**

Xikun Zhang is currently pursuing a PhD in Applied Psychology at Zhejiang University, focusing on social cognition and addiction mechanisms. Her research interests include cognitive control, social media overuse, and the intersection of AI with psychology. Xikun has published work on food-related gender stereotypes using innovative mouse-tracking paradigms and is actively involved in cutting-edge research on the cognitive effects of social media. She has also contributed to AI projects, such as evaluating large language models' social intelligence for cognitive interventions in clinical settings. Additionally, Xikun has experience in human factors research and user experience studies, having collaborated with major tech companies and academic labs. She is skilled in Python, R, and SPSS, and is fluent in English, with a passion for rhythmic gymnastics at a national level.

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**PSYGPT.AI: DEVELOPING AN ACCESSIBLE, ONLINE SOURCE OF COMPREHENSIVE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

**Sahar Jahanikia, Pranaya Rishi, Aiden Duggal and Meera Ravishankar**

*Aspiring Scholars Directed Research Program, USA*

**Abstract:**

Veterans, particularly those dealing with conditions like bipolar disorder, often face challenges in accessing effective mental health care. Oftentimes, they face barriers such as limited access to resources, the stigma around mental health, and the financial and time constraints of talking to medical professionals. Our study introduces an innovative solution through an interactive online platform, PsychGPT, designed to meet veterans' unique needs and provide rapid, effective therapy. PsychGPT utilizes advanced data-tracking and a personalized chatbot to offer emotion tracking and analysis over extended periods, predicting mood patterns precisely. The study started with a literature review on mental health diagnostic questionnaires and barriers to access to identify the main focuses of our platform. To finalize the interface of our platform, we began prototyping on Figma, a website design application. After that, we started front-end and back-end development in HTML/CSS but converted to ReactJS later on. Future work consists of fine-tuning the GPT model, and after configuring the API keys and properly storing data in Cloud services, we plan to test the website and pilot it in late 2024. The platform will guide users through an emotions wheel, categorizing comfortable and uncomfortable feelings to help users better understand their emotions. This information is integrated into user statistics and API communications, delivering a tailored experience. The dynamic mental health API chatbot provides real-time support and data-driven insights, enhancing the therapeutic experience. The platform also includes essential resources such as suicide and crisis hotlines, guided breathing exercises, and other therapeutic tools. By leveraging technology and personalized care, this innovative approach promises to revolutionize mental health care delivery for the general public, providing many with the support they deserve.

**Biography**

My name is Aiden Duggal, and I am a high school student with a keen interest in neuroscience, psychology, and mental health. I also enjoy writing and running a blog that promotes healthy lifestyles for young people. Currently, I am doing research at the Aspiring Scholars Directed Research Program in Fremont, California, USA, focusing on making mental health care more accessible to the public. I eagerly anticipate the opportunity to attend the International Conference on Addiction and Psychiatry, where I hope to learn from fellow researchers and present my work. I am looking forward to engaging in discussions and networking with peers!

Sahar Jahanikia is a research neuroscientist and serial entrepreneur. She is the Co-founder of AlzoHealth, Founder of CognoTrain, and a leading innovator in Alzheimer's healthcare technology. Sahar also serves as a Research Scientist Advisor at the (ASDRP) and is the Founder & Director of Jahanikia NeuroLab. With extensive experience at UCSF and Stanford School of Medicine, she continues to drive impactful research and innovation in neuroscience and healthcare.

Pranaya Rishi is a researcher at ASDRP and has been working in the Jahanikia NeuroLab for the past 3 years.

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**REVOLUTIONIZING ADHD DIAGNOSIS: INTEGRATING GAMIFICATION AND DYNAMIC QUESTIONNAIRES FOR ENHANCED ASSESSMENT**

**Tvishi Medathana, Suhani Gupta, Sahar Jahanikia, Daniel Huang, Vedha Vora, Sindhu Chavali, Lemeng Kong, Surabhi Verma and Anhquan Pham**

*The Aspiring Scholars Directed Research Program, USA*

**Abstract:**

ADHD is a prevalent neurodevelopmental spectrum disorder that affects both children and adults, often persisting throughout an individual's entire lifetime. Traditional assessment methods, including questionnaires and clinical observations, fail to capture the dynamic and multifaceted nature of ADHD symptoms, while also being inaccessible and unaffordable for many. Additionally, these traditional assessments are often long and tedious. As ADHD becomes more prevalent in today's society, it calls for a more dynamic approach. This study aims to validate an ADHD assessment that integrates gamification with dynamic questionnaires to comprehensively assess ADHD symptoms while providing an engaging experience. This tool features an interactive game designed to measure key cognitive functions such as attention, impulsivity, and executive function, which are crucial in ADHD assessment. These games are supplemented by both accuracy and assessment questions that adjust in real-time based on user input, offering a more accurate and personalized evaluation. The gamification elements aim to increase engagement and compliance, particularly among younger populations, resulting in more reliable data. The initial phase of this study involves designing and developing the gamified elements and the adaptive questionnaire algorithm. Subsequent phases include pilot testing over the course of three months with a diverse group of participants diagnosed with ADHD and neurotypical controls, to assess the tool's effectiveness and reliability. Preliminary results indicate that the gamified assessment tool not only sustains user engagement but also provides a robust measure of ADHD symptoms that align closely with traditional diagnostic criteria. If further evaluation and potential ADHD diagnosis are detected, a report from the assessment will be sent to a doctor. This innovative approach has the potential to transform ADHD diagnosis by offering an overall more dynamic and engaging method. Future work will focus on conducting large-scale studies and examining the tool's applicability across different age groups and cultural contexts.

**Biography**

**Tvishi Medathana** is a senior at Mountain House High School and a dedicated researcher focused on treatment for neurodegenerative and neurological conditions. With a strong interest in ADHD and Alzheimer's disease, she is committed to exploring how neuroscience can inform effective policies that improve diagnosis, treatment, and support for individuals and families affected by these disorders. She aims to major in neuroscience and public policy to connect scientific understanding with effective policy solutions to reduce the gap in neurodiverse aid and support. Tvishi is actively involved in research that focuses on improving the precision and user engagement of ADHD assessments through innovative methods like gamification and adaptive questionnaires. Her contributions aim to enhance the field of psychiatric diagnostics significantly. Through these various initiatives, Tvishi is dedicated to advancing mental health research and promoting effective advocacy.

**Suhani Gupta** is an aspiring student and dedicated researcher focused on advancing mental health. As the founder of the nonprofit organization Neuro Health Alliance (NHA), Suhani is committed to enhancing awareness and support for those affected by mental health issues. She aims to build a community of diverse individuals and organizations dedicated to this mission. In collaboration with the Dublin City Mayor, Suhani is

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spearheading an initiative where she has presented to over 4,500 students and pushed a mental health campaign throughout the local school district of 13,000+ students on breaking the stigma associated with mental health. Her current research endeavors strive to improve the accuracy and engagement of ADHD assessments through gamification and dynamic questionnaires, making significant contributions to the field of psychiatric diagnostics. Through her multifaceted efforts, Suhani is speaking toward the betterment of mental health advocacy and research.

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**QUALITY OF TRADITIONAL MEDIA REPORTING OF STEPHEN  
'TWITCH' BOSS' SUICIDE**

**Tina Guo**

*University of Toronto, Canada*

**Abstract:**

**Background:** The Werther effect is the phenomenon by which dissemination of news about a suicide leads to an increase in subsequent suicide rates, depending on the content of the media reporting. Media coverage about suicide in notable figures, such as celebrities, is particularly prone to a Werther effect. This study examines the quality of reporting of Stephen 'tWitch' Boss's suicide in December 2022, based on putatively harmful and protective reporting characteristics identified in previous studies.

**Methods:** Google News and the University of Toronto archives were searched using the keywords ("tWitch" OR "Stephen Boss") AND ("suicid\*" OR "die\*" OR "dead" OR "death") to extract all traditional news articles about tWitch's suicide. Online news consisting only of audiovisual content without transcriptions were excluded. The articles were coded according to whether they contained 59 variables pertaining to suicide, including putatively harmful and protective characteristics identified from previous studies, details pertaining to tWitch's suicide, and a gestalt narrative code for each article, referring to the overarching message or focus of the article. Coding is currently in progress and full data will be available at the time of the conference.

**Results:** A total of 1609 articles were collected. Of those, 1139 were published in the USA; 678 were published on December 14, 2022, the day immediately after tWitch's suicide. Of the 1220 articles that have been coded thus far, the most common putatively harmful characteristics included identification of tWitch as a celebrity (n=1170), a photo of tWitch (n=1153), interviews with or quotations from the bereaved (n=1105), and favourable characteristics of tWitch (n=1104). The most common putatively protective characteristics included identification of alternatives to suicide (n=690), statements encouraging those in need to seek help (n=675), and crisis resource information (n=674). A majority (n=1054) of the articles had a gestalt narrative focusing on suicide, whereas 38, 31, and 97 articles focused on survival, another positive message, or a neutral message, respectively.

**Discussion:** As expected, the Stephen 'tWitch' Boss media event was characterized by articles with a gestalt narrative focusing on suicide with very few accompanying articles emphasizing survival or other positive messages about suicide and its prevention. The fact that key putatively protective elements were present in about half of all articles is somewhat encouraging. Nevertheless, this media event has the characteristics often seen in celebrity suicides prompting Werther effects. Future directions for this study include comparison of the quality of reporting between different geographical regions around the world and, most importantly, an investigation of the association with subsequent suicide rates.

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### **Biography**

Tina Guo is currently a PGY-5 Psychiatry resident at the University of Toronto. She completed her Bachelor of Science degree and Doctor of Medicine degree at the University of Calgary. In the past, her research interests have ranged from public health research leveraging administrative data, to proteins involved in tumour suppression in the germline of roundworms. Since beginning her residency training, she has been working under the supervision of Dr. Mark Sinyor, examining the association between media reporting of suicide and subsequent suicide rates, with the goal of informing suicide prevention guidelines.

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## CLINICAL AND GENETIC ANALYSIS OF 91 PATIENTS WITH CHILDHOOD ONSET SPASTIC PARAPLEGIA

**Kazuhiro Haginoya**

*Miyagi Children's Hospital, Japan*

### Abstract:

**Background:** Hereditary spastic paraplegia (HSP) is a group of clinically and genetically heterogeneous neurological disorders. More than 60 spastic paraplegia genes (SPGs) have been identified and HSP is classified into SPG1–79. However, the nature of childhood onset HSP is still obscure. Especially, patients with infantile onset HSP is challenging for us to differentiate from cerebral palsy. We aimed to investigate clinical and genetic profiles of patients who have clinically diagnosed as spastic paraplegia of unknown cause.

**Materials/Methods:** Among patients who attended Miyagi Children's Hospital between 2016 and 2023, a total of 91 patients were clinically diagnosed as having spastic paraplegia based on the brain MRI and clinical findings. 25 out of 91 patients were investigated its genetic cause by using whole exome sequencing.

### Results:

1. Brain MRI: normal in 40, atrophy of the cerebellum in 10, hypoplastic corpus callosum in 8, high signal around lateral ventricles on T2WI in 5, basal ganglia abnormalities in 2, reduced cerebral white matter in 2, dilated lateral ventricles in 7, and cerebellar hemisphere hypoplasia in 2.
2. Clinical analysis: Spastic paraplegia with/without intellectual disabilities was observed in 62, spastic paraplegia with neuropathy in 8, spastic paraplegia with ataxia in 7, spastic paraplegia with microcephaly in 14.
3. Genetic testing: Genetic analysis of 25 patients revealed negative in 11, Klinefelter syndrome in 1, *KIF1A* de novo variants in 3, *SPG4* in 2, *SPG56* in 1, *SPG57* in 1, *SPG68* in 1, missense variants in *SCN2A* in 1, *CTNNA1* in 1, *TUBA1A* in 1, *TUBB1A* in 1, and *ATP11A* in 1. Among patients with infantile onset spastic paraplegia there are some patients whose disease progression is not recognized over 20 years. These observations make obscure the border between HSP and cerebral palsy. *KIF1A* de novo mutation may be dominant cause of early onset HSP with cerebellar atrophy in Japan.



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## **CRAFTWORK, INVENTION, CREATION**

**Carole Pinel**

*Catholic University of Lille, France*

### **Abstract:**

In this conference, we will explore the value of the word, that of the “clinic at the bedside”, that of the function of the symptom and that of inventive “craftwork” as a singular creation. We will try to rely on the words of the children and the teenagers who participated and with whom we worked in the offered creative workshops. This description will consist in highlighting the singular logic at work in each of the young person, and how each of them teaches us their own way of dealing with their symptom. We will propose to learn from the singular language of these subjects participating in the workshops to receive the inventive way in which they deal with the suffering they are facing. We observe how important it is to take seriously the inventive solutions of each of the subjects with whom we work in a case-by-case logic.

Questions of craftwork, invention and creation in the clinic of the child and teenager seems to us to be an invaluable one to rework, at a time when the speaking practice is being abused, at a time when diagnoses are being made to the detriment of consideration of the value of the symptom, at a time when psychological suffering is all too often reduced to an acronym, a handicap or a brain dysfunction.

If it's clear that the new disorders are eroding the clinic by reducing suffering to behavioral acronyms, what happens to what children and teenagers say about what they're going through ? How can we think about their unique life histories and the difficulties they encounter ? What room is there for the inventive dimension of these subjects' symptoms? Starting from the premise that clinical practice is based on the challenge of dealing with what is impossible to bear, it's a question of not giving up on “maneuvering” with this impossible, in an attempt to renew our teaching of it, by advocating support for the subject in their craftwork and inventions.

### **Biography**

Clinical psychologist - Lecturer and researcher in clinical psychopathology - Doctor in Psychology  
Research Unit DSCP (“Dynamique Subjective et Clinique Psychanalytique”) -MUSE (Communication, Société, Environnement)  
Catholic University of Lille, F-59000 FRANCE

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## **POVERTY: THE RISK TO CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH**

**Steven Walker**

*University of Essex, UK*

### **Abstract:**

This paper assesses recent data on the prevalence of poverty among children and young people diagnosed with mental health problems. The paper will demonstrate that the current hierarchy of risk factors for developing mental health problems needs adjusting to place poverty among the highest risk factors.

Globally, poverty is calculated to keep rising especially among less developed countries, and the post-Covid 19 economic recession in developed countries is set to rise. The experience of young people enduring Pandemic isolation is already being quantified and is expected to increase referrals for specialist intervention. Evidence was provided with searches on several medical/psychological/social databases using keywords: poverty, children, mental illness. These were undertaken between 2018 and 2021.

According to Unicef more than 700 million people still live in extreme poverty, half of whom are children. Children are disproportionately affected. Despite comprising one third of the global population, they represent half of those struggling to survive on less than \$1.90 a day. Children who grow up impoverished often lack the food, sanitation, shelter, health care and education they need to survive and thrive. These are risk factors for developing mental health problems. humanitarian crises, such as Palestine, the risks of deprivation, mental illness and exclusion surge. Today, one in four children in the European Union are at risk of falling into poverty. According to the global charity Oxfam wealth inequality impacts levels of child abuse and affects women and girls worse and is a contributory factor in the risk of developing childhood mental illness. Professionals need to prioritise poverty in their differential diagnoses, lower their reliance on conventional diagnostic models, and embrace a more psycho-social holistic model of assessment.

### **Biography**

Steven is an Alumnus of the London School of Economics and Political Science, an expert witness on child and adolescent mental health, author of 15 books, 15 International conference presentations, and author of over 50 International scientific peer reviewed papers. He is an advocate for children's rights, social inclusion, anti-discriminatory practice and a feminist.

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## **INTRACRANIAL ARTERY CALCIFICATION SUBTYPES AND SEVERITY OF STROKE**

**Dren Boshnjaku**

*University Clinical Center Kosovo, Kosovo*

### **Abstract:**

**Introduction:** Calcification within arterial walls can follow two main patterns: mainly intimal or mainly medial. Non-contrast computed tomography (CT) is a reliable method for differentiating between intimal and medial calcifications of the intracranial arteries. The aim of this study is to evaluate the association between intracranial artery calcification and the level of neurological disability.

**Methods:** In this prospective observational study, we included 97 patients with a mean age of  $66.2 \pm 12.1$  years (45.9% females) who had ischemic stroke or transient ischemic attack. We used standardized methods to differentiate between mainly intimal and mainly medial calcification in the anterior and posterior circulation arterial systems using non-contrast CT. Neurological evaluation was assessed by the National Institutes of Health Stroke Scale (NIHSS) and the modified Rankin Scale (mRS) upon admission and discharge.

**Results:** Patients with mainly medial calcification in the anterior circulation were older compared to those with intimal calcification ( $71.78 \pm 9.69$  vs.  $62.24 \pm 12.09$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ). No difference was observed in NIHSS and mRS scores on admission between the groups. Patients with mainly intimal calcification in the posterior circulation had higher NIHSS scores ( $7.04$ - $4.85$  vs.  $4.96$ - $3.58$ ,  $p = 0.042$ ) and higher mRS scores ( $p = 0.025$ ). In a linear regression model adjusting for age, sex, hypertension, diabetes, and smoking, intimal calcification in the posterior circulation remained significantly associated with higher NIHSS scores, with an OR=5.87 (95% CI 3.89-7.56,  $p < 0.001$ ).

**Conclusion:** Patterns of arterial calcification in the intracranial arteries might be markers of stroke severity, as patients with mainly intimal calcification in the posterior circulation had higher disability scales after stroke.

### **Biography**

Dren Boshnjaku is a neurologist with extensive clinical experience at the Clinic of Neurology, University Clinical Center of Kosovo. He is currently in the final year of his PhD studies at the University "St. Cyril and Methodius" in Skopje, North Macedonia, within the School of Doctoral Studies, Medical Faculty.

Boshnjaku has a special interest in Stroke and Neurophysiology and serves as the national coordinator for stroke in Kosovo. He has contributed as a coauthor to the National Guidelines for Stroke, Epilepsy, and Multiple Sclerosis, as well as the National Strategy for Acute Stroke Treatment. Additionally, he is the author and coauthor of several peer-reviewed publications.

Currently, Boshnjaku is the Chairperson of the Steering Committee at the University Clinical Center of Kosovo.

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## **SOCIOCOGNITIVE DEFICITS IN PATIENTS WITH BEHAVIORAL ADDICTION**

**Dalia Arafat, Nena Schröer, Linda Hantsch, Georg Juckel, Dae-In Chang and Patrizia Thoma**

*Ruhr University Bochum, Germany*

### **Abstract:**

Behavioral addiction and substance use addiction (SUD) share similar symptoms and the reward system activated by addictive behaviors such as gambling is similar to the system activated by substance abuse. Both types of addictions exhibit (socio)cognitive deficits, yet literature focusing on sociocognitive functioning in behavioral addictions lags behind that available for SUD. Given the importance of sociocognitive functioning in day-to-day interactions, and its link to relapse rates, this study aimed to compare these two types of addiction regarding sociocognitive functioning. Twenty-five patients with gambling disorder (GD), 25 patients with alcohol use disorder (AUD), and 25 controls (HCs) were assessed with a comprehensive battery of self-report empathy and social skills measures as well as behavioral measure of empathy, Theory of mind (ToM) and social problem-solving, alongside three clinical and three cognitive measures.

While compared to HCs the two clinical groups did not differ on social skills or ToM, the GD group scored lower on self-reported empathy compared to the AUD group and the performance patterns on behavioral empathy were different between the two clinical groups. Relative to HCs, the GD group showed lower cognitive empathy scores while the AUD group showed elevated emotional empathy scores. This suggests that there could be different patterns of empathy deficits between these two types of addiction. Moreover, the GD group showed a lower quality of the generated problem solutions in the social problem resolution task, and they generated less “socially acceptable and practically effective” answers on the social problem fluency task compared to HCs. Additionally, the GD group generated more “socially acceptable” answers than the AUD group on the social problem fluency task. The performance on some sociocognitive measures was related to more general cognitive functioning. Further research should focus on using behavior-based measures to assess sociocognition in different (sub)types of addictions.

### **Biography**

Dalia Arafat completed her master's degree in psychology (clinical track) in Jordan, where her thesis examined cognitive functions in substance-induced psychosis. Currently, she is pursuing her doctorate at the Neuropsychological Therapy Center (NTC) at Ruhr University Bochum, Germany, under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Patrizia Thoma. Her doctoral research focuses on sociocognitive deficits in addiction, with a particular focus on behavioral addictions. The presented work is conducted in collaboration with the LWL University Hospital Bochum, focusing on clinical samples. Additionally, she employs neuroimaging techniques to explore emotion recognition and empathy in behavioral addiction, particularly focusing on internet addiction within subclinical populations.

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## **EXTREMELY RARE ANTERIOR CEREBRAL ARTERY VARIATION CASE REPORT**

**Sefa Ozturk**

*Istanbul University, Turkey*

### **Abstract:**

The anterior cerebral artery (ACA) arises from the internal carotid artery as the smaller of its two terminal branches. Afterward, the ACA courses anteromedially across the optic nerve to reach the longitudinal fissure. At this point, it branches a short anterior communicating artery (AcoA), which traverses transversely to anastomose with the contralateral ACA. The ACA further gives off multiple anteromedial central branches that supply to the optic chiasm, lamina terminalis, hypothalamus, paraolfactory areas, anterior columns of the fornix, and the cingulate gyrus.

According to surgical terminology, the ACA is divided into three parts: A1, A2, and A3. The A1 extends from the artery's origin to the emergence of the AcoA from the ACA. A2 is the part from the point where it gives off the ACoA to the beginning of the callosomarginal artery and A3, also named the pericallosal artery, is the part distal to the origin of the callosomarginal artery.

The ACA has cortical and central branches. Cortical branches are referred to according to the region to which they are distributed. The orbital branches provide vascular supply to the olfactory cortex, gyrus rectus, and medial orbital gyrus. Similarly, the frontal branches perfuse the corpus callosum, cingulate gyrus, medial frontal gyrus, and paracentral lobule. Additionally, the parietal branches deliver blood to the precuneus. Anterior communicating artery aneurysms represent the most prevalent form of intracranial aneurysms. It is of paramount importance for neurosurgeons, radiologists, Neurologist and anatomists to be conversant with the variations of the anterior communicating artery. In this study, a very rare anterior cerebral artery variation found in a patient presenting with transient ischaemic attack is presented. In this patient, the left A1 and anterior communicating artery were hypoplastic, while the right anterior cerebral artery divided in front of the corpus callosum and supplied both hemispheres.

### **Biography**

Sefa Öztürk is a dedicated Neurosurgeon at Istanbul University Istanbul Faculty of Medicine. With a profound passion for advancing medical science, he specializes in several cutting-edge areas within neurosurgery. His primary interests include Neurooncology, where his focus is on the diagnosis and treatment of Brain Tumors, Functional Neurosurgery, which involves surgical interventions to treat neurological disorders such as epilepsy and Parkinson's disease. Beyond traditional neurosurgery, he has deeply invested in the integration of Artificial Intelligence and Augmented Reality into medical practice. These technologies hold immense potential for improving surgical precision and patient outcomes. His commitment to these fields is driven by a desire to push the boundaries of what is possible in neurosurgery, ensuring that patients receive the most advanced and effective treatments available. Through his work, his aim is to contribute to the ongoing evolution of neurosurgical techniques and technologies, ultimately enhancing the quality of care for patients worldwide.

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**PROYECTO MUJER: USING A CULTURALLY MODIFIED, GENDER SPECIFIC INTEGRATED EVIDENCE-BASED TREATMENT FOR LATINAS WITH SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS AND TRAUMA EXPERIENCES**

**Ibis S. Carrión-González**

*Institute of Research, Education and Services in Addiction (IRESA), Universidad Central del Caribe, School of Medicine, Puerto Rico*

**Abstract:**

The presenter will describe outcomes from *Proyecto Mujer*: A gender specific, culturally responsive integrated trauma and substance use treatment for Latinas with substance use disorders (SUDs) and histories of trauma experiences, mainly sexual abuse and Intimate Partner Violence (IPV). Studies indicate that women with SUD seeking substance use treatment have greater psychological distress, mental health problems, and have experienced traumatic events including sexual and physical assault as compared to men. Yet, services have been traditionally fragmented for this population and many times do not consider gender and culture-related variables. Trauma has been significantly correlated with physical and psychological QOL domains in previous studies but is not well understood in Latinas. Limited access to services, limited research and lack of culturally responsive treatment and trained professionals continue to create disparities in services for Latinas with co-occurring disorders. *Proyecto Mujer* incorporated cultural modifications to the Evidenced Based Treatments Seeking Safety and RESPECT as well as culturally aware clinicians in an effort to decrease disparities. These EBPs addressed women's needs in a balancing and complementary way. The *MI* approach was the framework of all the interventions, including case management, and SUD counseling in which the interviewer and counselor offer comprehensive screening and assessment of HIV, hepatitis, and other STI risk behaviors. *Seeking Safety* (SS) addressed the impact of violence and trauma, and its relationship to substance use and HIV infection risk behaviors by assessing the co-occurrence of violence and trauma-related symptoms and substance use, decreasing the symptomatology, teaching coping skills and assertiveness, teaching self-monitoring and self-nurturing strategies, and improving social adjustment. RESPECT strengthened the pre and post counseling for HIV by educating and empowering women to increase their awareness about safer sex practices, supporting their risk reduction strategies and plans, increasing self-efficacy in dealing with sexual partners, friends and family relationships, and increasing the use of negotiation skills and the use of condoms. Baseline data as well as 6-month data were collected to assess Quality of Life changes in participants. Project's personnel compared changes in the quality of life (QoL) domains after a brief (eight-session) vs. extended (11-sessions) intervention.

**Biography**

Ibis S. Carrión-González has a doctorate in Clinical Psychology. She is the Director of the Institute of Research, Education, and Services in Addiction (IRESA) at the Universidad Central del Caribe, School of Medicine in Puerto Rico. She is the Grant Project Investigator and Director of behavioral health projects for Hispanic and Latine communities from SAMHSA and the Office of Population Affairs. She has several publications and academic professional presentations in the behavioral health treatment and service field. Currently, their projects portfolio includes the Hispanic and Latino Behavioral Health Center of Excellence to deliver technical assistance for providers servicing Hispanics and Latinas in the United States, Improving Adolescent Sexual Health Equity, and Preventing Teenage Pregnancy in PR to reduce teen pregnancy and STDs in the north coast of PR, Mental Health Awareness Training to train persons of the metro north area to identify and refer to treatment individuals with symptoms of mental health disorders previously they have a mental health crisis and HIV Prevention and Substance Use Navigator Project, to prevent the HIV transmission among adolescents of 13 to 17 years and young adults of 18 to 24 years. In addition, she has subcontracted to deliver training and

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technical assistance for service providers on substance use disorder, including some on opioids only, for PR and USVI. She is the Co-Director of the Northeast and Caribbean Addiction Technology Transfer Center. She has vast experience in the substance use and mental health field, acting as director of outpatient and inpatient programs for Hispanic and Latino homeless, women, and persons with Alzheimer's and their caregivers. Also, she was a clinical consultant and trainer of evidence-based practices (EBPs) in the SAMHSA's TCE-Women's project, HIV Prevention in Youth, and research coordinator of the clinical trial Brief and Strategic Family Therapy with Adolescents Active in Drug Use (NIDA: Clinical Trial Network). Her leadership has led to the development of evidence/research-based educational products for the workforce serving Hispanic and Latino populations, including the development of booklets: Cultural Elements in Treating Hispanic Populations, U.S. Hispanic Street Gangs, and Family Therapy for Substance Abuse in Hispanic Adolescents, among others. She has developed a remarkable network of collaborating alliances and relations with relevant organizations nationwide.

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**SMARTPHONE ADDICTION, SLEEP QUALITY, DEPRESSION, ANXIETY,  
AND STRESS AMONG MEDICAL STUDENTS**

**Sandra Grujicic**

*Institute of Epidemiology, Belgrade University, Serbia*

**Abstract:**

Studies consistently link excessive smartphone use to poor sleep quality, depression, anxiety, and stress. This study specifically aimed to investigate these associations among medical students in Belgrade and Nis (Central Serbia). The cross-sectional study included a sample of 761 students, who were selected from both the Faculties of Medicine at the University of Belgrade and the University of Nis. Questionnaires, including the International Physical Activity Questionnaire - Short Form (IPAQ-SF), Smartphone Addiction Scale - Short Version (SAS-SV), the Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index (PSQI), and the Depression, Anxiety, and Stress Scale - 21 items (DASS-21), were completed by the participants. The findings indicated a prevalence of smartphone addiction among medical students at 21.7%. Multivariate regression analysis identified spending more than 4 h daily on smartphones (OR = 2.39;  $p < 0.001$ ) and increased levels of depression (OR = 2.51;  $p < 0.001$ ) as independent significant factors associated with smartphone addiction. Future research should delve into the underlying mechanisms and causal relationships between smartphone addiction and these psychosocial factors. Understanding these connections will aid in developing effective interventions and strategies to tackle this growing public health concern.

**Biography**

She deals with epidemiological research in order to identify factors that contribute to the emergence of various health disorders, all for the purpose of improving preventive programs. Also, she deals with the problems of young people in order to improve their quality of life.

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**EXPLORING DEPRESSION, ANXIETY AND STRESS AMONG EMPLOYEES IN A CHRISTIAN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING IN NAIROBI, KENYA**

**Janet Odhiambo**

*Adventist University of Africa, Kenya*

**Abstract:**

Depression, anxiety, and stress disorders continue to receive visibility in the 21st century as they persist and rise in prevalence in Sub-Saharan Africa. This has been attributed to the changes in lifestyle practices embraced by modern populations. These practices have contributed significantly to poor physical and mental health and consequently impacted overall health and well-being. Further, it has become an area of global research because of the relationship between lifestyle, occupation, environment, and mental health and wellness. This qualitative study investigates the experiences of depression, anxiety, stress, and lifestyle practices among employees at a Christian institution of higher learning. The study is anchored in the social cognitive theory. Using qualitative techniques, the research explores the personal and professional challenges faced by academic and administrative staff within a faith-based institutional context. The study seeks to understand how spiritual values, workplace dynamics, lifestyle practices, and institutional culture influence mental health and well-being. Thematic analysis is done to identify key stressors, coping mechanisms, and the perceived effectiveness of existing support systems. The findings aim to provide a deeper understanding of the mental health landscape in Christian higher education institutions, emphasizing the need for tailored interventions that consider both spiritual and professional dimensions. This research contributes to the growing discourse on mental health in the workplace, offering recommendations for improving employee well-being in faith-based educational settings.

**Biography**

Janet Odhiambo is a public health specialist who is dedicated to promoting, protecting, and improving community health. Her focus is on behavioral and mental health wellness. Currently she is a lecturer at Adventist University of Africa and has a responsibility of coordinating the Master of Public Health Program at the School of Post Graduate Studies in the department of Applied Sciences. She holds a Doctorate in Public health major in Preventive care and lifestyle Medicine from the Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP). She holds a Master of Psychology major in school counselling from the same university and Master of Public Health major in health promotion and nutrition from Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS). Her research interests are in young adults and women.

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## QUANTUM BASED SENSORS: APPLICATION TO NEUROPHYSIOLOGICAL AND PATHOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES

**Etienne Labyt**

*MAG4Health, France*

### Abstract:

Among methods used for investigating neurophysiological activities and its disorders, MagnetoEncephalography (MEG) is a tool of choice recording the magnetic fields related to neuronal activities. MEG offers a very high time resolution and is able to accurately localize brain sources. Unlike electroencephalography (EEG), MEG is not impacted by the resistivity of the skull and sinus, which interferes with EEG signals. For this reason, MEG is broadly used in epilepsy, and pre surgery brain mapping and is of growing interest in Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer and related dementia, psychiatric disorders...

Until few years ago, MEG was only based on cryogenic sensing technology, imposing strong technical constraints and high costs, limiting its use. Now, new sensors not requiring cryogeny, named Optically Pumped Magnetometers (OPM), can be used in MEG. Alkali based OPM need to be heated (above 100 °C) but can be worn at a short distance of the scalp. We have developed Helium based OPM (HeOPM) requiring nor heating nor cooling, that can be worn comfortably on the scalp, similarly to EEG electrodes. This strongly simplifies the use of MEG, and make it more affordable. Currently, HeOPM MEG devices are available for research use and currently, FDA approval and EC certification for the clinical uses are being addressed.

We have used HeOPM to record various brain activities as well as epileptic spikes. In one patient, we have recorded epileptic activity with HeOPM simultaneously to intracerebral EEG. Beyond exploring the brain activity, HeOPM have also been used to record the heart or muscle activities. Indeed, as HeOPMs are wearable sensors that can be placed anywhere on the body, they can be used to record all magnetic fields related to bio-electric body activities such as those coming from retina, peripheral nerves, gastrointestinal tract, fetal heart and brain, etc...

### Biography

Etienne Labyt holds a PhD in Neurosciences from Lille University since 2003. His PhD was focused on neurological motor disorders and epilepsy. He then joined the National Institute of Health and Medical Research for 2 years where he used modelling and numeric simulation approaches to study epileptogenic networks, in collaboration with the Carlo Besta Neurological Institute (Milan, Italy) and the University Hospital Center La Timone (Marseille France). After 2 years as an MEG/EEG expert engineer in a private company (Forenap FRP) working on pharmacodynamics and pharmaceutical drug assessment, he joined NeuroSpin Neuroimaging center for 2 years in the Pr Dehaene's team and then, moved to Grenoble from 2010 where he joined the Pr Benabid's team at Cinatec. Appointed as expert in functional neuroimaging (MEG/EEG/MRI) at CEA from 2012, he worked on the transfer of helium 4 Optically Pumped Magnetometers (4He OPM), a technology initially developed for space applications, to the biomedical imaging field. He co-founded Mag4Health startup ([www.mag4Health.com](http://www.mag4Health.com)) with two of his colleagues, Matthieu Le Prado and Agustin Palacios Laloy. He is author of more than 40 peer-reviewed papers, 11 patents and co-edited the book "Flexible High Performance Magnetic Field Sensors ».

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**EVALUATION OF THE VIRTUAL FAMILY EDUCATION PROGRAM  
WITH MOTHERS WHOSE CHILDREN USE TECHNOLOGY EXCESSIVE-  
LY: AN INTERVENTION FROM TURKEY**

**Beyza Yilmaz**

*Baskent University, Turkey*

**Abstract:**

This study is the implementation of a family education program, and carried out in order for mothers to be aware of their children's use of technology excessively, to gain knowledge and skills to help them control their children's use of technology in healthy ways and prevent excessive use. It was held in 5 sessions via the Zoom platform between 8 May and 5 June 2024. The sessions focused on digital parenting roles. Content is provided for mothers to gain awareness, digital literacy, control, ethics and innovation roles. 16 mothers participated in the training program to increase mothers' digital self-efficacy. Mothers average age was 40 (min = 36, max = 46). Six of them were actively working, the average number of children was two. After the training, although not statistically significant, mothers' Digital Literacy levels (pre-test=55.62, post-test=59.75,  $p=.132$ ), Digital Security levels (pre-test=69.62, post-test=72,  $p=.195$ ) increased and Digital Communication levels did not change (pre-test=21.93, post-test=21.68,  $p=.972$ ). Mothers made verbal evaluations about the training and evaluated their own technology use and their children's technology use. According to their evaluations, it can be said that the mothers were knowledgeable and after the training, they started to guide their children to limit their excessive use of technological devices. The limitations of this study are that the participation request of female parents was higher, there were no male participants and there was no control group. In other studies, it is recommended that the participation of male parents be ensured, comparisons be made with the control group and such training with advanced content be continued.

**Biography**

Beyza Yilmaz graduated from Hacettepe University, Department of Social Work in 2018. She joined the Baskent University Department of Social Work in 2019 as a research assistant. She is currently working in the same department. She completed her masters at Hacettepe University Department of Social Work in 2020 and completed her PhD at the same department in 2024. Also, she completed her non-thesis master's degree on Measurement and Data Analytics at Anadolu University in 2022. Her research topics include use of technology in social work, behavioral addictions, esport, and data analytics.

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**A COMPARISON OF FACIAL MUSCLE ACTIVITIES BETWEEN OLDER AND YOUNG ADULTS IN JAPAN**

**Rumiko Okamoto**

*University of Tsukuba, Japan*

**Abstract:**

In Japan, it is sometimes used as a metaphor that “the face is a mirror that reflects the mind” and “facial expressions are emotions, and physiognomy is the mood”. About mental health and facial expressions, previous study suggested that voluntary facial muscle movement activates positive emotion. On the other hand, emotional suppressors feel more negative emotion, disruptive to relationships, have less social support, and have worse coping, all factors known to increase risk for depressive symptoms. Also, a systematic review and meta-analysis reported that decreased facial emotional expressivity in individuals with different non-psychotic disorders. The standard measuring of clinical and psychosocial experimentation for detecting facial muscles complex interactions is the facial sEMG, the changes in facial muscle active mass associated with aging have not been clarified. Therefore, in this study, we aimed to clarify facial muscle’s function, which lower with age, by changing the facial appearance through voluntary contraction of facial muscles, measuring and comparing amount of the facial muscle activity while keeping the facial expression fixed in that state Japanese older and young adults. This study was a cross-sectional study, which recruited subjects using the snowball sampling to explore the comparison of facial muscle activity between Japanese older and young adults. Statistical analysis was performed using the Independent-samples t-test and the Mann-Whitney U test after checking that the distribution of the data was significantly different from a normal distribution with the Shapiro–Wilk test. As a result, there were significant differences in the age ( $p<.001$ ), gender ( $p<.001$ ) and height ( $p<.05$ ). On the other hand, there were no significant difference in the weight ( $p=.127$ ) and BMI ( $p<.200$ ). The muscle activities were significantly higher in the young adults (N = 20, F: 9/ M: 11) when executing tasks. It found the first evidence that many facial muscles activity degrades with age.

**Biography**

As Rumiko Okamoto, Ph.D. gained experience as an announcer and business manners instructor, she became more interested in the relationship between mental health and facial expressions and enrolled in graduate school at the University of Tsukuba. During my studies in 2018, I briefly stayed at Kyung Hee University East West Neo Medical Center in South Korea for training in the Facial Nerve Rehabilitation Program. And she earned my PhD in Applied Human Care Science from the University of Tsukuba in Japan, then she received the Meikeikai award too (2020). After graduating, she worked as a researcher at the Tokyo Metropolitan Institute of Medical Science’s brain function reconstruction project, and from June 2021, she became a specially appointed assistant professor at the graduate school of physical education, University of Tsukuba. She researches and develops facial muscle self-care programs and evaluation method for mental health. Also, she is a member of the Japan Geriatrics Society, Japanese Society of Public Health, The Society for Integrative Medicine Japan, and Japanese Society of Human Caring.

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## THE CONTRIBUTION OF AUGMENTED REALITY BASED NEURONAVIGATION MODELING ON EDUCATION

**Sefa Ozturk**

*Istanbul University, Turkey*

### Abstract:

Incorporation of technology into the training and postgraduate education of surgical residents is a valuable addition to the learning process. Cost-effective XR devices, such as Illumetry, facilitate the segmentation of preoperative MR and CT images of the patient in a computer environment, allowing for the display of these images in three-dimensional format. This allows for the visualization of the tumor or pathological structures in relation to the surrounding anatomical structures, thereby providing a more comprehensive understanding of the case. This approach facilitates enhanced orientation of young neurosurgeons, whether assisting or performing cases themselves, through the use of three-dimensional visualizations. In this study, preoperative magnetic resonance (MR) and computed tomography (CT) images of a patient with a right frontal mass and a pituitary adenoma who underwent surgery at Istanbul University, Istanbul Faculty of Medicine were used. The segmentation of brain, mass, and vascular structures was conducted separately using dedicated software in a computer environment. The three-dimensional (3D) images were then merged with the magnetic resonance (MR) and computed tomography (CT) data and uploaded to the XR device, known as Illumetry (SIMBT). Video recordings of the surgical procedures were made and subsequently edited by two surgeons to a duration of five minutes. The study included 40 neurosurgery residents. The participants were presented with the preoperative magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computed tomography (CT) images, and the segmented three-dimensional (3D) model of the operated right frontal mass and pituitary adenoma patients. Subsequently, the edited video, five-minute of the surgical procedures in question, was showed to the residents. Subsequently, the residents were invited to complete a 20-item survey. The results of the survey were subjected to descriptive analysis using the IBM SPSS Statistics software. The results of the study showed that the Illumetry device made a significant contribution to preoperative planning and intraoperative orientation.

### Biography

Sefa Öztürk is a dedicated Neurosurgeon at Istanbul University Istanbul Faculty of Medicine. With a profound passion for advancing medical science, he specializes in several cutting-edge areas within neurosurgery. His primary interests include Neurooncology, where his focus is on the diagnosis and treatment of Brain Tumors, Functional Neurosurgery, which involves surgical interventions to treat neurological disorders such as epilepsy and Parkinson's disease. Beyond traditional neurosurgery, he has deeply invested in the integration of Artificial Intelligence and Augmented Reality into medical practice. These technologies hold immense potential for improving surgical precision and patient outcomes. His commitment to these fields is driven by a desire to push the boundaries of what is possible in neurosurgery, ensuring that patients receive the most advanced and effective treatments available. Through his work, his aim is to contribute to the ongoing evolution of neurosurgical techniques and technologies, ultimately enhancing the quality of care for patients worldwide.



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**PROBLEM GAMBLING AMONG SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN A PORTUGUESE CITY: PREVALENCE AND CONTRIBUTING FACTORS**

**Joana Novais, Assunção Frutuoso, Pedro Oliveira, Diogo Caveiro, Marta Cardoso and Carla Ferreira**

*Public Health Unit of Alto Minho, Portugal*

**Abstract:**

Gambling among adolescents is becoming increasingly common, raising concerns due to their vulnerability to gambling-related problems. In Portugal, there is a significant gap in understanding the phenomenon of gambling, especially among adolescents. This study aims to estimate the prevalence of gambling (in the past year, at-risk and problem gambling) and identify its risk factors among upper secondary school students in the city of Viana do Castelo.

A cross-sectional study was conducted, with a total of 1114 students recruited using a simple random sampling of the classes. At-risk and problem gambling were assessed using the Portuguese version of DSM-IV-MR-J questionnaire. Data were collected through an online self-reported questionnaire administered during a classroom period, in the presence of the principal investigator. Variables associated with gambling and at-risk/problem gambling were analyzed using logistic regression.

Out of 1064 students, 376 (35.3%) reported having gambled in the past year. Among these, 317 were classified as social gamblers (84.3%), 40 (10.6%) as at-risk gamblers and 19 (5.1%) as problem gamblers. Gambling in the past year was significantly associated with being male, attending a public school, drinking alcohol in the last 30 days, having smoked the first cigarette at 14 years old or less, and knowing two or more people who gambled in the past year. On the other hand, attending vocational courses in a public school, perceiving a higher socioeconomic status, cannabis use in the last 12 months, purchasing loot boxes in the past year and gambling in both land-based venues and online were associated with at-risk/problem gambling.

The findings indicate a high prevalence of gambling among students, with a small but significant percentage exhibiting problem gambling behaviors. These results could help to develop effective strategies aimed at adolescents to prevent gambling and reduce the risk of problem gambling.

**Biography**

Joana Novais is a passionate Public Health Resident Doctor dedicated to enhancing health and well-being. She currently works at a local Public Health Unit in northern Portugal. Her goal is to develop innovative public health strategies and interventions to improve community health outcomes.

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**REDUCING MALNUTRITION LOWERED MURDERS IN FIVE NATIONS:  
A REVIEW OF 6 CLINICAL AND 10 QUASI-EXPERIMENTAL TRIALS**

**Stephen J Schoenthaler**

*California State University, USA*

**Abstract:**

Ten American correctional institutions reported less violence after diet improved. Six clinical trials verified causation; battery-assaults clinically fell from 131 to 11 when low red blood cell thiamin, folate, and/or pyridoxine normalized. In the fifth, 149 confined felons on active produced 39% less than 150 on placebos saving \$439,432. In the sixth, a comparison between an SSRI and placebo on "hypothetical murders" occurred e sixth. Serotonin's synthesis requires a folate precursor, folic acid; it was the best predictor of battery-assaults falling in the seminal clinical trial; Homicides tumbled in America, Canada, South Africa, and Australia after each required fortification of refined grains with folic acid to reduce spina bifida births. Murders fell 49%, 60%, 62%, and 45%, similar to fewer birth defects with correlations about. The MRC in 1991 recommended British women of child-bearing ages take 400mg. of folic acid daily to prevent spina bifida. If the homicide reductions in Britain's former colonies were due to folic acid, it follows that the percent of British homicides by its women after 1991 should plummet. They fell from 26% of UK homicides in 1991 to 13% in 2020. The US Center For Disease Control publishes red blood cell concentrations for vitamins for all demographic groups. The group with the highest murder rates has the lowest RBC folate. Between 1960 and 1992, US murders fell in only years. Since then, they declined in all but America's declines were similar for rape, robbery, battery-assault, larceny, burglary, larceny, and vehicle thefts. As refined grain fortification rose, birth defects tumbled. The importance of nutritional health has been vastly underestimated. It saves lives and reduces rapes likely due to rising serotonin which Crockett showed lowers willingness to hypothetically murder.

**Biography**

Schoenthaler who is rated above 98% of academics in "criminal law" and 91% in "observational medicine," completed a Ph.D. on an analysis of 3,938 NY felonies followed by over 50 publications in journals such as Lancet, New England Journal of Medicine, Science, and Nature as well as working for one US Attorney General in Washington and one President due to his focus is on how nutrition affects brain function and can lower criminal behavior. His clinical trials have been repeatedly replicated in Europe. His publications show nations can and have reduced homicides, rapes, robberies, and assaults by red blood cell normalization of precursors of neurotransmitters. He received an award for being "The Outstanding Research Professor in 2002" and will be retiring in December but remain active internationally assisting governments on felony reductions.



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**EFFECTIVENESS OF VITAMIN E AUGMENTATION IN THE MANAGEMENT OF PAIN ASSOCIATED WITH OPIOID USE DISORDER**

**Mini Sharma, Veerbhan Chanchlani, Priyank Jain, Naveen Bairwa and Himanshu Sharma**

*RVRS Medical College, India*

**Abstract:**

**Introduction:** Vitamin E is known for its antioxidant properties and is now being studied as a supplement for managing pain symptoms in various physical ailments. When it comes to opioid use-related withdrawal, pain is one of the main symptoms which is discomforting and often leads to excess and over-continuation of analgesics especially opioid analogues (like Tramadol); which in turn further exposes to the risk of prescription analgesic dependence. Vitamin E can be a promising augmentation for the management of the pain symptoms among opioid use disorders.

**Aims:** To study the effectiveness of Vitamin E augmentation in the management of pain associated with opioid use disorder among the elderly population.

**Methodology:** A convenient sampling was done in the Psychiatry Outpatient department in a tertiary-care hospital in an urban area, to screen the patients having complaints of residual pain among the elder patients diagnosed with opioid use disorder after detoxification [as per the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders-5]. These cases had residual symptoms of pain and myalgia and were either on none or on stable doses of other analgesics. A baseline and follow-up pain score on the visual analogue scale was applied to assess the response to pain symptoms. The data was analysed using SPSS 29.0.

**Results:** There were 50 elderly participants with opioid use disorder having residual pain symptoms who were recruited for the study. In 68% of opioid users, patients showed a response in pain score reduction on augmentation with vitamin E. The results showed a strong association between pain score gradient and vitamin E augmentation which was statistically significant (Pearson coefficient= 90.8%, p- value= <0.001).

**Conclusion:** Vitamin E is an effective supplement for pain management in cases of opioid use disorder among the geriatric population. Besides its anti-oxidant properties, vitamin E can help to reduce the risk of prescription analgesic dependence which is quite common in old age.

**Biography**

Mini Sharma, currently working as an Assistant Professor Consultant, Department of Psychiatry at RVRS Government Medical College, Rajasthan, India. She did her MD (Psychiatry) from a tertiary neuro-psychiatric centre- Institute of Human Behavior and Allied Sciences, Delhi, India; followed by DNB (Psychiatry) from the National Board of Examination (NBE). She completed her Senior Residency at Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi, India. She has additional qualifications with a Fellowship in Sexology and Psychosexual therapy (affiliated with American College of Sexologists), Life skills Facilitator for Child and adolescents and Perinatal Psychiatry course (NIMHANS). She is also a member of the Human Rights and Mental Health subcommittee of the Indian Psychiatry Society. Her expertise includes substance use and related addiction disorders, forensic Psychiatry, sexual medicine, CLP and women mental health. She also received the “Young Researcher in Psychiatry award” at the Annual Health Submit 2023 in Chennai, India; the ‘International Best Researcher Award’ at ISSN International Research Awards and Congress 2024, Trichi, India and ‘Dr. Charles Pinto Best Poster Award’ at GERON 2024, NIMHANS, Bangalore, India. She has more than 25 publications and is currently working as a resource stakeholder to bridge the health services, especially for substance users from urban to rural populations to provide doorstep treatment under NMHP services in rural populations in Rajasthan, India.

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## **EXPLORING CULTURAL DYNAMICS OF BLACK ASIAN ETHNIC WOMEN IN ADDICTION RECOVERY**

**Shinasa Shahid**

*University of Derby, UK*

### **Abstract:**

**Background:** The existing recovery capital (RC) literature primarily focuses on white males. This study aims to fill this gap by exploring addiction recovery among three culturally diverse UK women, utilizing CHIME-D (Connectedness, Hope/Optimism, Identity, Meaning, Empowerment, and Difficulties) and RC frameworks. It seeks to compare their recovery paths, combining quantitative data with lived experiences, and barriers specific to women in recovery.

**Methods:** The article deployed a case study design involving a mixed methods approach to explore recovery pathways and resulting RC, based on in-depth interviews and recovery capital assessments with three women from white, black and Asian ethnic backgrounds.

**Results:** While one of the three participants, reports very strong and positive RC on the REC-CAP, the other two are at a much earlier stage in their journey. In contrast to the white female participant, who lacks personal RC and has significant barriers around ongoing substance use, the Black and Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME) participants report cultural challenges and difficulties engaging with mainstream services.

**Conclusion:** Recovery is a personal and individualized journey, but one that is predicated on social support, belonging and access to cultural and community resources. For BAME participants, accessing and engaging with appropriate peer support is essential in building RC and fulfilling the requirements of CHIME.

### **Biography**

Shinasa Shahid is a final year PhD scholar in Substance Addiction Recovery at the University of Derby. She is a passionate advocate for research and mental health wellness. A co-founder of MindBee Health (India) and with over 5 years of experience as a counselling psychologist and community outreach, she has now dedicated her career to research in addiction recovery. Holding a Master's and bachelor's degree in psychology, she is now doing her research in Afro-Caribbean and South Asian communities, fostering open conversations about addiction and the need for more culturally optimised treatment service.

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## NOVEL ANTIPSYCHOTIC DRUGS IN SCHIZOPHRENIA

**Felix-Martin Werner and Rafael Covenas**

*Grono Health Academy Weimar, Germany*

### Abstract:

Schizophrenia and schizoaffective disorder are treated in most cases with antipsychotic drugs of the second generation. These drugs block dopaminergic and serotonergic receptors, i.e. D<sub>2</sub> and 5-HT<sub>2A</sub> receptors, and cause different adverse effects, for example movement disturbances of the extrapyramidal system and adverse effects of vital parameters and of the heart. Among the newer antipsychotic drugs are cariprazine, brexipiprazole and lumateperone, which exert a partial agonistic effect at D<sub>2</sub> and 5-HT<sub>2A</sub> receptors, pimvanserin a 5-HT<sub>2A</sub> receptor antagonist which treats negative schizophrenic symptoms as an add-on therapy, olanzapine combined with samidorphan, which reduces weight gain, and M<sub>4</sub> or M<sub>1</sub> receptor agonists, for example xanomeline with an antipsychotic effect combined with tropsium, an anticholinergic drug. Neural networks were updated in order to deduce the antipsychotic mechanism of action of newer antipsychotic drugs, especially of xanomeline. The newer antipsychotic drugs cariprazine, brexipiprazole and lumateperone show antipsychotic, antimanic and antidepressive effects, however the efficacy on psychotic symptoms in a long-term treatment has not yet been examined. Pimavanserin reduces negative schizophrenic symptoms as an additional pharmacotherapy in schizophrenia. Olanzapine combined with samidorphan exerts good antipsychotic effects and reduces weight gain. The new antipsychotic drug xanomeline, the antipsychotic effect of which is quite different from the antidopaminergic effect, well treats positive and negative schizophrenic symptoms and cognitive symptoms. The long-term efficacy should still be examined. Newer antipsychotic drugs are for example xanomeline, an M<sub>4</sub> or M<sub>1</sub> receptor agonist, which has been combined with tropsium, an anticholinergic drug, the mechanism of action of which can be derived from the neural network suggested in this review.

### Biography

Felix-Martin Werner studied human medicine at the university of Bonn. He has been working as a medical teacher at the Euro Academy in Pößneck since 1999. He has been doing scientific work at the Institute of Neurosciences of Castilla and León (INCYL) in Salamanca (Spain) since 2002. With Prof. Rafael Coveñas, he assisted at over 30 national and 12 international congresses of neurology and published over 60 reviews about neural networks in neurological and psychiatric diseases. In 2017, they published the e-book: Classical neurotransmitters and neuropeptides involved in schizoaffective disorder: focus on prophylactic medication. Since the year 2021, he has belonged to the Editorial Board of the journal Current Psychiatry Research and Reviews. Since 2022, he has been working at the Health Academy of Grono in Weimar.

3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on  
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November 18-19, 2024 | Rome, Italy



## **DIGITAL ADDICTION: THE ISSUE OF SOCIAL MEDIA**

**Catarina Marques Oliveira, Daniela Oliveira, Catarina Portela and Marta Gonçalves**

*Unidade Local de Saúde de Santo António – Hospital de Magalhães Lemos, Portugal*

### **Abstract:**

Social media has emerged as an omnipresent aspect of daily life in the cyber era, facilitating new friendships and constant connectivity without geographical or temporal restrictions. However, problematic use can impair users' psychosocial functioning and well-being. Generations Y and Z, who grew up with technological advancements, are often labeled as "depressed" and "lonely" due to the prevalence of virtual connections over real-life interactions.

This study aims to investigate the prevalence of social media addiction, examine its psychosocial impacts on users' mental health and well-being, and explore interventions and preventive measures to mitigate this addiction.

A literature review was conducted on the topic using the PubMed platform. Relevant studies and articles were identified and analyzed to assess the prevalence, psychosocial impacts, and potential interventions related to social media addiction.

Studies indicate that social media has a higher addiction potential than tobacco or alcohol due to its easy and free access. Negative impacts on mental health include symptoms of anxiety, depression, irritability, social isolation, and impulsivity. Generation Y is identified as the most anxious in history, while Generation Z exhibits the lowest levels of social and emotional well-being, with a higher likelihood of suicidal ideation. Some research indicates that loneliness and depression are significantly correlated with social media addiction among young women. Furthermore, cultural values and classification schemes significantly influence the prevalence of social media addiction across different nations.

Although social media addiction is still under study and not yet formally recognized as an independent nosological entity, its personal, social, academic, and occupational harms are evident. Developing integrated treatment strategies that address both the symptoms and psychosocial impacts of excessive social media use is essential.

### **Biography**

Catarina Marques Oliveira holds a Master's degree in Medicine from the University of Minho in Braga, Portugal. She is currently a fifth-year psychiatry resident in her final year of specialized training at the Magalhães Lemos Hospital in Porto, part of the Santo António Local Health Unit. Her primary areas of interest include addictive disorders, a field in which she also practices at a dedicated facility in Valongo.

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**AN INSIDE OUT APPROACH TO ADDICTIVE BEHAVIORS UNDERMINING THE SANITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE**

**Dinah Nyamai**

*Africa International University, Kenya*

**Abstract:**

There has been an alarming rise in diverse addictions among young people across the globe. The statistics are frightening for many parents but despite the ubiquitous impact of addiction, it is often trivialized as a personal choice and a lack of willpower. Every so often treatment of behavioral and substance use addictions tends to be separated yet behavioral addictions such as gambling, phonography, phone, video games and internet, share many features with substance and drug use addictions including etiology, course, and neurobiology. This research argue that a more comprehensive treatment approach is to conceptualize behavioral, and substance use addictions as different expressions of a common underlying problem and, in treatment, to develop a transdiagnostic treatment model of addictions that targets underlying similarities between behavioral and substance use addictions, called the holistic addiction treatment model (HATM) to holistically address the underlying root cause and other mechanisms common to both. The HATM is transdiagnostic in that it can be used in the treatment of both behavioral and substance use addictions. It is pragmatic in that offer a responsibility without blame framework targeting individual psychological, cognitive, and neurobiological characteristics that are common to all addictive disorders but above all the sinful nature of man, which is the enduring root cause. The model can be used to interrogate our own attitudes and responses, so that we can better see how to acknowledge the truth about choice and agency in addiction, while avoiding stigma and blame, and instead maintaining care and compassion alongside a commitment to restoring addiction victims. The components of the HAT Model include vulnerabilities like disobedience to God's word, lack of motivation, maladaptive expectancies, escape from trauma, deficits in spiritual support, and compulsivity, as well as their potential intervention possibilities. Future directions and potential implications of the HATM are also discussed.

**Biography**

A God fearing, peace loving, competent educator with over ten years of experience in teaching. Has strong analytical, observational, and problem-solving skills. Transformational leader, proficient in instruction, education management, and effectively balances complex competing priorities to produce high standards of work.

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## THE CURIOSITY OF ADDICTIONS

**Kathryn Rossi and Linda Hamilton**

*Addiction Specialist, USA*

### Abstract:

Can curiosity really heal addictions? This presentation delves into the complex interplay between curiosity and addictive mind/body behaviors. By examining the psychological underpinnings of addiction, we explore the driving forces that perpetuate and can break habitual patterns. Utilizing the science of “How Time Heals” through chronobiology and the Basic-Rest-Activity Cycle we apply the robust 4-Stage Creative Cycle—curiosity, working through, Aha! and then apply these new realizations in everyday life. We explore the perplexing question: Could addiction be a defense rather than a disease? We also explore the potential benefits of curiosity in addiction recovery, and the idea of being healed rather than simply being in recovery. We highlight how curiosity begins a cascade to break maladaptive habits and promotes personal and spiritual growth utilizing unique Present Moment Goals.

We share an innovative experiential Prefrontal Cortex (PFC) Inquiry practice that can rewire the brain—at times in an instant—often resulting in a “One and Done” where relapse is a thing of the past. By understanding the intricate relationship between curiosity and addiction, we aim to shed light on the dark perspectives permeating addiction today and create new potential avenues of healing, release, and cure.

Come join us for this live and innovative exploration into healing addictions. By removing the wall of addiction one can move into the natural environment that supports a community of harmony and love and is no longer divided by doubts, fears, and the belief that “I will always be addicted.”

### Biography

Kathryn Rossi, PhD, has edited or co-authored 20 books in the field of psychotherapy including the 16 volumes of The Collected Works of Milton H. Erickson with Ernest Rossi and Roxanna Erickson-Klein. She has authored ~80 scientific papers on psychosocial genomics, therapeutic hypnosis, and yoga. Currently, she is writing a new book on grief.

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**PUTTING AN END TO CHRONIC OPIOID USE FOR CHRONIC BACK PAIN WITH THE CMECD® PROCEDURE**

**Roger Coletti**

*Interventional Health, USA*

**Abstract:**

Chronic back pain is likely the most common indication for the chronic use of opioid medications. Even patients that undergo back surgery have a significant risk of chronic back pain. This is called “Post Laminectomy Syndrome” and is reported in 20-40% of patients following back surgery. Chronic muscle spasm is frequently if not predominantly the cause of chronic back pain. Despite the availability of multiple modes of therapy, it is uncommon for cessation of opioid use once begun for this indication. The CMECD® procedure that I have developed and use for the past 15 years provides a unique method of relieving chronic muscle spasm. It involves EMG guidance to identify muscles in chronic spasm demonstrating spontaneous electrical activity (SEA) that is responsible for maintaining the muscle in chronic spasm. Injection to all sites in the muscle demonstrating SEA with a cocktail of phenoxybenzamine/lidocaine/dexamethasone resolves the SEA. The effect is long lasting as the phenoxybenzamine forms a covalent bond on the alpha-adrenergic receptor and replacement of the inactive receptors takes two to three months. Muscle relaxation and pain relief is immediate and long lasting. Patient surveys showed statistically significant relief of chronic pain. It was also demonstrated that the length of time the muscle was in spasm did not affect the success in relief of spasm and pain. Muscles in chronic spasm for over 20 years were as successfully treated as those in spasm for a few months. Patients with relief of chronic pain were frequently able to stop use or at least decrease use of opioid drugs. Phenoxybenzamine is an FDA approved drug used in an off-label manner in the CMECD® procedure and can be compounded by any sterile compounding pharmacy. Information on the procedure is available at the physician teaching website CMECD.info. The accompanying presentation will provide further background and practical information for the procedure.

**Biography**

Coletti received a BA from Georgetown University College of Arts and Sciences. He received a Master of Arts from Hofstra University. He received his MD from State University of New York at Downstate. His medical internship and residency was performed at Nassau County Medical Center in East Meadow, NY. He did two years of cardiology fellowship at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in New York and then transferred to Westchester County Medical Center where he completed one year of Interventional Cardiology fellowship. He was awarded FACC, FASNC, and FSCAI fellowship status. Current interest is chronic muscle spasm and pain.



*Bookmark The Date*

4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on  
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**September 25-26, 2025 | Vienna, Austria**



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