

**FC3 Environmental psychiatry****THE CONCEPT OF AND TRADITIONAL SHAMANIC APPROACHES TO THE TREATMENT OF MENTAL ILLNESS**

**A. A. Gadit.** *Dept of Community Psychiatry, Baqai University, Karachi*

A study was conducted to assess the concept and efficacy of traditional shamanic treatment. N=100 shamans were selected using a random sampling method and interviewed in their place of practice, i.e., mosque, shrine and community clinic.

The concept of mental disorder and method of diagnosis was found and the patients interviewed in order to reach a provisional diagnosis. Various treatments offered by the shamans included amulets, talisman, spiritually treated water, recitation from holy verses, rituals and secret prescriptions. A total of 400 patients attending the shamans were interviewed by the author during a 2-year period and it was found that 80% of patients suffered from depression; 5% from psychosomatic disorders, 7% from epilepsy, 6% from psychosis and 2% had no mental disorder. Shamanic treatment lasted from 2 weeks to 6 months and the probable diagnoses given included possession, effect of the evil eye, magic, witchcraft etc. 30% of the patients were satisfied with the shamanic treatment but the remaining number had mixed feelings.

The author concluded that the shamans had a different concept about mental illness and treatment approaches are entirely different from Western approaches. However large numbers of patients approach shamans as their first choice for treatment.

**FC5 Environmental psychiatry****Predictors of medical students academic performance**

Cyril Höschl and Jiří Kožený

3rd Medical Faculty, Charles University, Prague and Psychiatric Center Prague

The purpose of this study was to identify variables that would explain variation in grade point average of medical students during the first three years of study. Data were derived from 92 students admitted at our Faculty of Medicine in 1992/93 on the basis of entrance examination. Stepwise regression analysis was used to build models for predicting log-transformed grade point average change after six semesters of study, at the end of the first, second, and the third year. Predictor variables were chosen from: a) high school grade point average in physics, mathematics, and Czech language over four years of study, b) admission tests in biology, chemistry, and physics, c) admission committee assessment of applicants ability to reproduce a text, motivation to study medicine, and social maturity, d) Tridimensional Personality Questionnaire Sentimentality and Dependence scale scores. **Results:** Regression model, which included high school physics, admission test in physics, applicants motivation, and Sentimentality scale, accounted for 32% of the grade point average change over six semester of study. The regression models using the first, second and third year grade point average as the dependent variables showed slightly decreasing amount of explained variance toward the end of the third year of study and within domains changing structure of predictor variables. **Conclusions:** The results suggested that variables chosen from high school, written entrance examination, admission interview, and personality traits assessment domains might be significant predictors of academic success during the first three years of study.

**FC4 Environmental psychiatry****ETHNOPSYCHIATRY AND HUMANITARIAN PSYCHIATRY PTSD IN SARAJEVO**

**C. Henrich,** V. Berlinioni, R. Marino, L. Papale, F. Sironi.  
*Istituto di Psichiatria, via Bassi 21, Pavia, Italy*

Since the beginning of the war in ex-Yugoslavia, 60% of the population of Bosnia are estimated to suffer from psychiatric troubles, largely post-traumatic stress disorder. The Associazione EOS of Pavia, the Istituto di Psichiatria of Pavia and Centro G. Devereux of Paris with the advice of other European centres, have formulated a project of prevention of PTSD and its treatment in teenagers who have been found to be the most effected by this disorder.

The project which has been proposed to the Ministry of Health of Bosnia and Herzegovina Federal Government uses recent theoretical and clinical contributions from ethnopsychiatry and it will also be developed in schools.

**FC6 Environmental psychiatry****FROM RESEARCH TO PRACTICE WITH INTERNET...**

**KOCHMAN,F, BENZION I, DUCROCQ F, PARQUET.PJ**  
Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (Professor PARQUET)  
General Regional Hospital and University of LILLE (France)  
BGU University of the Negev - Beer-Sheva (Israel)

Internet is a fantastic new and accessible tool to enhance communications between researchers and practitioners all over the world

After a brief explanation of the system, we'll develop a range of possibilities offered by Internet, such as:

- Direct written communications via electronic-mail (e-mail)
- Direct and live forums, to debate on different matters in international virtual symposia
- Hundreds of websites of psychiatry, as a way to find thousands of informations about general and specific subjects
- Internet journals, such as « Psychiatry-on-line »
- High impact factor journals with abstracts or full texts available (Archives of Psychiatry, American Journal of Psychiatry, etc )
- Free medlines with direct access

Above all, Internet becomes a great way to work together and to develop very easily multicentric researches through our computers we'll develop the example of a France-Israel collaboration with common researches through internet