



## SECTIONS

### **“New Psychiatric Epidemiology”—11th Symposium of the AEP Section on Epidemiology and Social Psychiatry**

The Symposium was held from April 17 – 20, 2002 in Aarhus, Denmark, in the wonderful newly built Congress Centre. There were 200 participants, all of them very active and many of them recruited among the younger colleagues from all over Europe.

The title for the Symposium was “New Psychiatric Epidemiology”. This coin has two sides. The one is an intention to present new trends in epidemiology within psychopharmacoepidemiology, causation seeking epidemiology, public health epidemiology, genetic epidemiology, etc. The other side of the coin is an ambition to recruit younger colleagues for the network of European epidemiology and social psychiatry. The organizers themselves think that the Section succeeded in that.

As mentioned, about 200 colleagues from all over Europe participated, together with representatives from Canada, the USA, Brazil, and Australia. Some senior colleagues registered with 8 – 10 younger colleagues from their research group. In particular, we noticed large delegations from Gothenburg in Sweden, Budapest in Hungary, and Maastricht in The Netherlands.

We received 175 abstracts. These can be read in the Supplementum of *Acta Psychiatrica Scandinavica* 2002 ;411 :105.

Concerning the presentations we had two priorities. The one was to give the plenary slots to younger colleagues, and at the same time to encourage the senior colleagues, members of the board and others to participate as discussants, workshop leaders, course teachers etc. We also cared about younger colleagues to be Chairmen/Co-Chairmen together with the more senior colleagues. The second was given to the poster sessions. The posters were presented as to themes and the sessions were very well-attended. Two members of the board, Michele Tansella, Verona and Graham Thornicroft, London assessed all the posters, selected the first, second and third prizes from the two poster sessions and chaired in a very competent and supportive way the poster award session on the last day of the congress.

Each of the award winners gave a 5-min presentation of their research. This award session was welcomed by the audience, especially the younger colleagues were present in great numbers.

The award lecture was given by Dr. Mirella Ruggeri, Verona. The title for her lecture was “Cross-sectional and longitudinal predictors of subjective and objective quality of life in community psychiatric patients”.

To award prizes, to circulate the abstracts world-wide and to distribute them to all the participants in an *Acta Psychiatrica Scandinavica Supplementum* (total copies 2000) were made possible only by a generous and non-restricted grant from Wyeth Denmark.

The high quality level of the congress venue alongside the low fee was made possible because of generous support from : Pfizer ApS, Janssen-Cilag A/S, Organon AS, Pharmacia & Upjohn AS, Wyeth, Eli Lilly Danmark A/S and GlaxoSmithKline.

Furthermore, Pfizer ApS sponsored the invited speaker Nicholas Moore from Bordeaux, introducing psychopharmacoepidemiology into our Section with the plenary lecture titled “Examples of use of psychopharmacoepidemiology”.

Based on a workshop concerning psychiatric epidemiological research in the former East European countries, we formed a working group under the AEP Section on Epidemiology and Social Psychiatry. As its main purpose this working group has to promote and support epidemiological psychiatric research in the former East European countries. The basic principles are that the East European colleagues should do this work on their own premises, being able to call for support from other colleagues in the Section when needed and overall integrate the research in an European network covering the whole of the European region. Monika Kovacs from Budapest is the co-ordinator of this group called AEP group April 2002. Do not hesitate to contact Monika Kovacs (e-mail : kovmon@net.sote.hu).

One night the congress was invited by the Major of Aarhus County to a reception at the Psychiatric Hospital in Aarhus, celebrating its 150 anniversary, and another night we were invited to the City Hall by the Major of Aarhus City, and the last night we had a congress dinner at Varna Mansion made vivid by the younger colleagues.

We will continue the principles that formed the basis of the Aarhus Symposium when we hold the 12th Symposium of the AEP Section on Epidemiology and Social Psychiatry in Mannheim, Germany, from June 23 – 26, 2004. For further information concerning the Mannheim Symposium, do not hesitate to contact the chairman of the organizing committee, Siegfried Weyerer (e-mail : weyerer@as200.zi-mannheim.de).  
Povl Munk-Jørgensen,  
Chairman, Section on Epidemiology and Social Psychiatry.

## REGIONAL SYMPOSIUM

### AEP Spring Symposium “Memories”

*Rome, April 24 – 26, 2003*

Memory research is one of the most fascinating and flourishing areas of neuroscience today. Human memory has been systematically studied for over a hundred years, and a great deal has been found out about its nature, functions, and manifestations. Memory certainly plays a central role in the specific physiology and pathology of the brain-mind relationship, as a crucial factor of human cognitive and mental development and as a significant locus involved in all major psychiatric disorders.

The Symposium “Memories” has been organized to summarize the current state of the science of memory and is meant for psychiatrists and other health care professionals interested in this fascinating field of neuroscience. It will be organized in Rome, between April 24 – 26, 2003 and it will comprise five plenary sessions. In each session five invited speakers, chosen between the world main experts in research on memory, will discuss a specific topic regarding memory, ranging from neurobiology of human memory to assessment of memory function, psychopathology, memory impairment in psychiatric disorders and treatment of memory disturbances.

The first session is entitled “Biopsychological Fundamentals of Memory” and the lecturers will provide an overview of the current knowledge on human memory from a biological and psychological point of view. The second session will summarize current methods of assessment of memory in research and in clinical practice, with special attention to brain imaging techniques and

neuropsychological testing. Psychopathology of memory is the title of the third session, in which the lecturers will discuss the pathological mechanisms underlying memory disorders from both a biological and psychodynamic point of view, and the role of memory impairment in the genesis of psychiatric symptoms. The fourth session, entitled “Memory and Neuropsychiatric Disorders” will analyse the role of memory in major neuropsychiatric disorders, such as schizophrenia, intellectual disability and Alzheimer’s disease. In the last session, the lecturers will provide an overview of current available treatment strategies in memory disorders with special attention to psychopharmacological treatment in the elderly and efficacy of psychoactive drugs in alleviating memory impairment in major psychiatric disorders. In every session there will be a predetermined amount of time scheduled for discussion with audience and at the end of the session there will be a round table with the participation of all the lecturers in an interactive discussion about the main topic of the session.

All colleagues interested in the topic of the Symposium are invited to submit proposals for papers, posters and symposia (deadline : November 30, 2002).

Thematic courses will be scheduled on the morning of the first day and participation will be subject to a very low fee. They will be 3 h long and designed to teach specific skills in diagnosing, evaluating and treating memory disorders ; active involvement of participants will be emphasized.

Satellite symposia, proposed and supported by the industry, will be scheduled in specifically reserved time-slots.

Registration fees will vary according to the World Bank economic categories. Discounted fees are available to trainees and AEP members. A social program in the beautiful atmosphere of Rome in springtime will obviously be available during the Symposium.

For any information regarding organization or scientific details you may post your inquiries to :

AISC – AIM Group,  
Via Adelaide Ristori, 38,  
00197 Rome, Italy.  
E-mail : aepsimp@aisc.it.

The official congress web-site is also available at [www.aimgroup.it/aepsimp2003](http://www.aimgroup.it/aepsimp2003).