Consequences of COVID-19 outbreak on mental health

S0120

Lessons learned from the coronavirus health crisis in the nordic countries

U. Valdimarsdóttir

Center Of Public Health Sciences, University of Iceland, Reykjavik, Iceland
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Abstract Body: The COVID-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented influence on the global economy and population health. Vigorous, well-designed studies with complete, long-term follow-up of high risk groups including COVID-19 patients, their families and frontline workers are imperative for a comprehensive understanding of the mental health impact of the pandemic. The Nordic-Baltic national registries and biobank resources provide a unique opportunity to gain critical insight into the interplay between mental and somatic health during the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVIDMENT consortium leverages an extensive research experience and infrastructure from ongoing collaborations between four Nordic countries and Estonia, including national registry resources (est. >24 million individuals) and new COVID-19 cohorts with questionnaire data (est. > 220.000 individuals), to significantly advance current knowledge of mental morbidity trajectories in the COVID-19 pandemic. This program will address the following specific aims: 1) The role of preexisting psychiatric disorders in subsequent risk and progression of a COVID-19 infection. 2) The impact of COVID-19 on short and long-term psychiatric sequel among COVID-19 patients, their families and frontline workers. 3) The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on population mental health by the varying mitigating responses and corresponding COVID-19 related mortality rates across 4 Nordic countries and Estonia. These data sources and research plan, along with preliminary results will be presented.

Disclosure: No significant relationships.

S0112

Early findings from periscope (Pan-European response to the impacts of COVID-19 and future pandemics and epidemics)

W. Osika[1]*, C. Dalman[2]*, M. Niemi[2], P. Flodin[2], A. Sörberg Wallin[2], M. Asper[2], A.-C. Hollander[2], E. Pöllänen[1], O. Simonsson[1] and K. Sörman[1]

[1]Clinical Neuroscience, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden and [2]Department Of Global Public Health, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden

*Corresponding Authors.
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Abstract Body: The H2020/PERISCOPE project, including 32 partners from European universities & agencies, began 1st November 2020 and will last 36 months. The overarching objectives of PERISCOPE are to map and analyse the unintended impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak; develop solutions and guidance for policy-makers and health authorities on how to mitigate the impact of the outbreak; enhance Europe's preparedness for future similar events; and reflect on the future multi-level governance in the health as well as other domains affected by the outbreak. During this session we will report about early lessons learnt from the mapping and assessments of the impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak on mental health at national and subnational level in the EU with respect to individuals, communities and societies. Further, we will comment on their comparability. The aim is to explore differences between countries regarding the occurrence of mental ill health, and especially the impact on vulnerable groups, and how this is related to exposure to SARS-CoV-2, differences in policies over time, and effects on the economy. We will reflect on the short- and long-term consequences on mental health and health inequalities, report on the ongoing development of holistic policy guidelines for health authorities & other authorities, and from the analysis of multilevel governance, at local, regional and national level, memberstate – EU-level, and EU - global governance level. PERISCOPE will continue collecting data and updating a common data "Atlas", which would lead the consortium to engage in modelling and experiments to provide "continuous nowcasting" of the outbreak.

Disclosure: No significant relationships.

Epigenetics in mental disorders

S0119

Epigenetic association with environmental risk factors for mental disorders

S. Le Hellard

Clinical Science, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway
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Abstract Body: Major mental disorders have typically a complex aetiology where both genetic and environmental risk factors have been implicated. It has also been suggested that these risk factors could be interactive rather than just additional. In the last decade, large genetic studies have began to unravel the genetic architecture of several of these disorders. While the mechanisms of action of environmental risk factors are still unclear. At the molecular level, gene expression can be regulated at the epigenetic level, e.g. chromatin modifications or DNA methylation. Epigenetic modifications can be affected by both genetic variations as well as environment variations. In this presentation, we will review recent results either from literature or from own data on how several known environmental risks for mental disorders can be associated with modifications of epigenetic markers, especially in DNA methylation. We will for instance look at the modifications associated with smoking, alcohol, cannabis, childhood trauma or obstetric complications. We will discuss also the limits of these studies and how epigenetic modifications can be relevant for the onset of mental disorders and their treatment.

Disclosure: No significant relationships.

S0120

Epigenetic pathways in PTSD

T. Klengel

Department Of Psychiatry, McLean Hospital and University Medical Center Goettingen, Belmont, United States of America
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Abstract Body: Nonhuman primates (NHPs) are critical for translational research due to their close genetic, physiological, and behavioral similarity to humans. In particular, higher brain functions depend on brain regions and neural circuits that evolved differently between primates and rodents. Thus, NHPs are a strong translational model system to investigate the pathophysiology and relevant biological correlates of mental disorders. This talk will focus on translational approaches leveraging NHP models to advance our understanding of environmentally induced epigenetic changes in post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Environmental factors including early life stress significantly contribute to risk and resilience for psychiatric disorders including PTSD. However, human studies are often confounded, and it remains challenging to identify robust epigenetic signals in clinical populations even in large studies. We investigate the natural spectrum of behavioral phenotypes in rhesus macaques to complement human studies with a focus on stress and fear. This talk will present data on epigenetic signatures of fear and the effects of early life stress in rhesus monkeys and their relationship to human studies.

Disclosure: No significant relationships.

New perspectives on bipolar disorder

S0121

New insights on affective morbidity and childhood maltreatment

V. Kumari

Life Sciences, Brunel University London, Uxbridge, United Kingdom
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Childhood maltreatment (physical, sexual or emotional abuse, and physical or emotional neglect, by a parent, caregiver or other adult) is a major problem of global significance. Children who suffered maltreatment of any kind are known to experience a range of mental health problems, including depression, anxiety, psychosis, substance abuse, eating disorders, suicidal symptomatology and personality disorder. These problems often emerge in childhood and last through adulthood to old age. Furthermore, people with a history of childhood maltreatment show a worse-than-usual response to standard treatment approaches to improve their mental health. There is growing evidence that emotional abuse, one of the most prevalent forms of childhood maltreatment, may have the most wide-ranging impact of all maltreatment types on mental health outcomes as it appears to be a transdiagnostic risk factor for several psychiatric disorders, and found to me more strongly associated with development of affective disorders than physical abuse or neglect. There is a need to move beyond simple association studies and shift the research focus on sophisticated multimodal studies to fully understand the psychobiological mechanisms underlying affective morbidity, as well as the protective factors that might promote resilience, in the face of (specific forms of) childhood maltreatment.

Disclosure: No significant relationships.
Keywords: emotional abuse; Neglect; physical abuse

S0122

The clinical relevance of childhood manic symptoms

S. Frangou

Pychiatry, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York City, United States of America
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Background: The Adolescent Brain and Cognitive Development (ABCD) study, a US population-based sample of 10 year-olds, offers a unique opportunity to examine the neural correlates of manic-like symptoms presenting in children about to enter adolescence.
Methods: The study will avail of the rich dataset of over 11,000 children aged 9-10 years at enrolment using data from the baseline and 2-year follow-up assessment. The analyses aim to track the evolution of manic-like symptoms between the two follow-up waves and test their sensitivity of their association with brain correlates.
Results: Data analyses are ongoing and will focus on changes in manic-like symptoms, focusing on youth with remitting, persistent and emerging symptoms and examine their associations with brain structure and resting-state functional connectivity.
Conclusions: The results will inform about the early trajectory of manic-like symptoms and offer new insights into their brain-related correlates.

Disclosure: No significant relationships.
Keywords: childhood mania

Early intervention in psychoses: Assessment and treatment to improve functional outcome

S0125

Prediction of drop-out and functional impairment in recent-onset schizophrenia spectrum disorders

A. Mucci[1]*, P. Bucci[1], I. Winter Van Rossum[2], C. Arango[3], L. Baandrup[4], B. Glenthøj[4], P. Dazzan[5], A. Demjaha[5], P. Mcguire[6], C. Martínez Díaz-Caneja[7], S. Leucht[8], R. Rodriguez-Jimenez[9], R. Kahn[10] and S. Galderisi[1]

[1]Department Of Psychiatry, Univeristy of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli, Naples, Italy; [2]Department Of Psychiatry, University Medical Center Utrecht Brain Center, Utrecht University, Utrecht, Netherlands; [3]Child And Adolescent Department Of Psychiatry, Hospital General Universitario Gregorio Marañón, Madrid, Spain; [4]Department Of Clinical Medicine, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark; [5]Department Of Psychosis Studies, Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, King's College, London, United Kingdom; [6]Department Of Psychosis Studies, King's College London, London, United Kingdom; [7]Psychiatry, Hospital General Universitario Gregorio Marañón, Madrid, Spain; [8]Department Of Psychiatry And Psychotherapy, School of Medicine, Technical University Munich,