required to optimize and extend its efficacy across broader aspects of schizophrenia. In contrast, VR-CBT did not demonstrate superiority over standard CBT for paranoia, suggesting that both treatments may offer comparable benefits. Future research should explore mediators and moderators of treatment efficacy, as well as patient preferences, to tailor interventions for maximum impact.

Disclosure of Interest: L. Birkedal Glenthøj Consultant of: Consultancy for Khora-VR., M. Nordentoft: None Declared

CRS015

Time trends in public stigma

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doi: 10.1192/j.eurpsy.2025.56

Abstract: Attitudes toward people with mental illness change. We present evidence of attitude change from different contries, with regard to different mental health conditions. While attitudes towads mental health problems in general, and towards depression, seem to soften, there is little positive change with regard to people with substance use disorders, and attitudes have even worsened towards people with schizophrenia. We discuss possible explanations for these diverging trends, and hypothesize on potential remedies.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

CRS016

Role of national psychiatric associations against pseudoscientific and misleading information and practices concerning mental health

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doi: 10.1192/j.eurpsy.2025.57

Abstract: Since their emergence as healthcare practices with scientific backgrounds, psychiatry and psychology have been criticized and attacked in different ways. Their scientific base has often been questioned, but more generally, their applications were suggested to follow alternative motives rather than the highest benefit of the suffering individuals. The antipsychiatry movement, with decades of history, on some occasions, could be considered to play an important role in optimizing psychiatric practices. However, with the increasing societal influence of antiscientific and pseudoscientific discourses, a significant section of individuals with mental health issues experience delays in their access to appropriate care and are sometimes harmed by the practices recommended as alternatives to psychiatry or medicine in general. There has been an increase in such misleading discourses following the pandemic, probably based on the uncertainty and lack of information on the nature of the infection and prevention methods, including the vaccine. In some instances, these misleading attitudes toward psychiatry and psychiatric practices are also pioneered by medical professionals. Some medical professionals deny the need and effectiveness of psychiatric practices, and some employ or recommend methods of care despite their lack of training and experience and the questionable nature of the practices. In many countries, national psychiatric associations are considered a leading source of information concerning mental health-related issues. However, without a systematic, need- and problem-focused strategy, including publicly available and acceptable information resources, it is difficult to oppose the overflow of misleading information currently available. Laws and regulations in many countries may act as a barrier against practices with no evidence base or with evidence of harmful effects. However, there are challenges in their implementation and limitations in their scope. National psychiatric associations may need to be involved in creating and implementing such regulations.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

CRS017

Peptide specific antibodies to Epstein Barr Virus and Toxoplasma gondii as markers of psychiatric disorders and suicide behaviors

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doi: 10.1192/j.eurpsy.2025.58

Abstract: Immunoassays such as enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays (ELISAs) provide precise measurements of class-specific antibodies to infectious agents. The application of these assays to blood and cerebrospinal fluid from individuals with psychiatric disorders has supported a role for microbial agents in these conditions. However, standard immunoassays are limited by their capacity to measure antibodies to only a single or a small number of infectious agents and epitopes, restricting the ability to identify differential immune responses.

Recent technological advances now allow for comprehensive profiling of immune responses to multiple infectious agents and their specific antigenic epitopes. These methods enable the investigation of differential immune responses as potential modulators of psychiatric disease risk.

We applied two novel serological platforms to analyze immune responses in blood samples from individuals with various psychiatric disorders and suicidal behaviors, as well as healthy controls. The first method assessed antibodies to >4200 peptides derived from >80 infectious agents immobilized onto a solid-phase surface. These peptides were incubated with small blood volumes, and antibody binding was detected via secondary reactions.

Results demonstrated significant differences in immune responses to *Toxoplasma gondii* and Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) in individuals with schizophrenia and other severe psychiatric disorders. Responses to *T. gondii* were primarily directed at dense granule (GRA) proteins, with multiple GRA peptide reactivities detected even in individuals classified as "seronegative" by standard immunoassays. For EBV, differential responses were observed to ZEBRA and other latency-associated proteins. Findings were corroborated using a phage

https://doi.org/10.1192/j.eurpsy.2025.56 Published online by Cambridge University Press