evidence for linkage to chromosomes 1, 6, and 19. Evidence for linkage to chromosomes 6 and 19 have been observed in other studies, which we will summarize. Finally, we have examined the evidence that common variants in the NrCAM, TPH1 and TPH2 genes are associated with ASDs, particularly in patients with more severe OCD-like traits, and these results will be summarized.

S20.04

Do ADHD and autism have related traits considering the genes involved?

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ADHD and autism spectrum disorders (ASD) are neurodevelopmental disorders with a complex presentation and etiology. They are both considered to be heritable conditions with a widely accepted genetic component to the etiology and efforts to find susceptibility genes underlying these disorders are gradually yielding interesting findings (Faraone, 2006, Grice, 2006). The challenge for genetics studies for the individual disorders will be elucidation of the relationships between susceptibility genes and the complex phenotype.

Given the genetic underpinnings of both disorders it is not unreasonable to ask the question as to whether there is shared genetic vulnerability. Genetic overlap is not widely reported in the literature and there is a relative dearth of direct investigation of this question. Evidence suggests a role for genes involved in the dopaminergic and serotonergic systems in both ADHD and autism but it is not clear if genetic variation in genes involved in these systems is similar. Further investigation is warranted to directly investigate potential overlap and subsequently to address the complex task of understanding the relationship between genetic susceptibility, possible common endophenotypes and the clinical phenotype. It is likely that multiple mechanisms, both genetic and environmental may be at play.

A discussion of the existing literature with respect a putative overlap in genetic vulnerability and the clinical phenotype is presented. Furthermore the specific challenges for research in assessing these factors in future studies is discussed.

S21. Symposium: SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS AMONG MIGRANTS (Organised by AEP Sections on Cultural Psychiatry and Alcoholism and Addiction)

S21.01

Concepts of illness among addicted migrants

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Cultural and social barriers often prevent migrants in Germany from frequenting centers for information, counseling and treatment of psychiatric disorders. To verify existing hypothesis and to discover further reasons for the low accessibility rate of health care system in a first step we conducted 16 qualitative interviews with professionals of the drug treatment facilities in Germany, 15 with opiate dependent Turkish patients, 3 with alcohol addicted Germans and 3 with alcohol addicted ethnic Germans from the former Soviet Union. Also we examined cultural differences in the explanatory models of psychiatric disorders including addictive behavior among Turkish and German adolescents as well as among ethnic German adolescents who migrated to Germany from the former Soviet Union. The statistical device ANTHROPAC was applied to map the semantic space of concepts associated with problems of addiction and psychiatric disorders.

Relevant barriers which prevent migrants from frequenting drug treatment facilities were found out. Frustration, missing of integration and loss of perspectives, which have a big influence on the maintaining of addiction in general.

Ethnic German migrants from the former Soviet Union and native German youths used addiction concepts in a rather similar way.

Preventive information programs may profit from considering these differences and need to use concepts that are accepted and clearly associated with psychiatric disorders by immigrant populations.

S21.02

Addiction among Russian and Turkish migrants in Germany: developing prevention strategies

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Although about 20% of German population are migrants not enough knowledge exists about health status, alcohol and tobacco addiction and preventive health behaviors with respect to addiction in migrants. The largest populations of migrants in Germany are Turks and Russians. The goal of the project presented in this paper is to investigate the relationship between health status, alcohol and tobacco addiction and preventive health behaviors of Russian and Turkish speaking migrants in Hannover, Germany. Additionally, the project deals with the question of possible barriers migrants experience on the way to the health service system in Germany. For example, cultural differences in understanding of health and decease concepts, language difficulties, lack of knowledge about possible preventive measures and lack of information in mother tongue could be possible barriers that make the access to a healthy way of living more difficult for migrants. To investigate possible barriers migrants experience we apply the mother tongue mediator approach that allows better access to the community of migrants, helps to overcome cultural differences in understanding of health related concepts, and makes the information on preventive behaviors in community of migrants more acceptable. Results of a pilot study in Russian speaking migrants (N=18) are in line with hypotheses. 28.6% of the sample report alcohol addiction, high level of psychological distress and depression, low level of perceived social support and low level of physical health. Language difficulties and lack of bilingual information on health topics are most frequent barriers experienced in this sample.

S21.03

Substance use and schizophrenia among south Asian migrants to the UK

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