

Training in psychiatry

EPV0711

From the lecture theatre to your digital device: Reflections on the production of educational podcasts within undergraduate psychiatry training

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Introduction: The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted a need for engaging online resources to enrich psychiatry training for undergraduate medical students. Podcasting is a well-established digital communication platform utilised daily in a myriad of capacities, including education. A group of medical students were tasked with creating their own educational podcasts covering specific aspects of psychiatry.

Objectives: Each pair was set a sub-topic of psychiatry and utilised software to produce educational resources. The objective of this project was to reflect upon production as well as explore the efficacy of podcasting as a tool within undergraduate training.

Methods: The medical students conducted research and contacted experts within the field to contribute to their podcasts. The majority of the students then conducted reviews of the literature surrounding podcasting within medical education, which informed the production of their own podcasts. From this, it was discussed how this project could impact future practice, and indicated that podcasts may become crucial asynchronous learning tools in medical education.

Results: Literature review and first-hand experience of podcast production enabled the students to appreciate the advantages of podcasting and the potential for its widespread future applications. Their wider reading revealed that podcast-using study participants outperformed or matched their peers in assessments, and overwhelmingly enjoyed using podcasts over traditional teaching methods.

Conclusions: The use of podcasting can complement traditional psychiatry training and appeal to a generation of digital natives that prefer this learning style. Podcast production is also an excellent revision method, highlighting the advantages of peer-to-peer education in both learning and increasing engagement with psychiatry.

Disclosure: No significant relationships.

Keywords: podcast; training; peer-to-peer; undergraduate

EPV0713

The psychopathology of the elderly with multimorbidity. Is an integrated training model feasible?

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Introduction: The aging of the population implies a greater risk of psychopathological events; at the same time multimorbidity constitutes the rule rather than the exception in the manifestations of the health problems of the elderly. Multimorbidity involves many diagnostic-therapeutic interventions, from general practitioners to neurology, geriatrics, psychiatry but these interventions do not appear integrated with each other.

Objectives: Evaluate the availability of psychogeriatrics training programs to increase the interest and skills of the medical profession on the multimorbidity of the elderly.

Methods: We have conducted a review of the scientific literature on integrated training programs in the field of psychogeriatrics over the past decade on pubmed, comparing the different training models proposed.

Results: A still limited amount of articles on integrated psychogeriatric training have been published although the demand for psychogeriatric care continues to increase. The frail elderly seems to have a connotation in terms of costs rather in terms of care; moreover, everything concerning the elderly is reduced to the organic dimension alone, neglecting psychopathology.

Conclusions: The feasibility of integrated training programs between primary care and specialists such as neurologists, geriatricians, psychiatrists is a priority in the field of psychogeriatrics in consideration of the relevant multimorbidity. It is appropriate both to update knowledge and to review the organizational models of care so that the frailty of the elderly with multimorbidity does not quickly translate into disabilities with high social welfare needs. It is also necessary for generalist psychiatry to return to the value of psychopathology of the elderly.

Disclosure: No significant relationships.

Keywords: psychogeriatrics; training; elderly; multimorbidity

EPV0715

Bridging the treatment gap in India: Online training of psychologists in basic mental health services

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Introduction: The National Mental Health Survey of India 2015-16 (Gururaj et al., 2016) indicated a large treatment gap of 70-92% for mental disorders and a paucity of mental health specialists in the country. In order to address this treatment gap and develop human resources, the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru, India, with impetus from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India, launched the online course of Diploma in Community Mental Health for Psychologists.

Objectives: The course was designed with the objective of training individuals with a Master's Degree in Psychology, in providing first-level psychological care in the community.

Methods: The course is a 3-month online programme comprising of approximately 25 hours of self-paced e-learning and 11 hours of live real-time interactive discussion via video conference. The course comprises of 6 modules, with an assessment at the completion of each module. Pre- and Post-Assessment is conducted to evaluate competencies achieved.

Results: On successful completion of the course, trainees are expected to have achieved competencies to: Screen for and identify mental health problems in adults and children, and understand factors influencing them; Understand management options; Conduct interview-based functional developmental assessment for intellectual deficits; Conduct first-level brief psychosocial interventions; Make appropriate referrals to Mental Health Professionals and other health professionals.

Conclusions: This digitally-driven online course is a viable option for development of human resources on a large scale, in a resource-scarce (i.e. of mental health specialists) country such as India.

Disclosure: No significant relationships.

Keywords: community mental health; Psychologists; online training; mental health treatment gap

EPV0716

Should we despecialize the training? Postgraduate training in psychiatry in the time of the COVID-19 outbreak in Poland: Challenges & solutions

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Introduction: The outbreak of the SARS-CoV-2 epidemic forced a change in the functioning of health care systems across the globe, requiring rapid adaptation to new conditions for the safe provision of services within all medical fields. General disruption has also affected the traditional program of a postgraduate training, which has been so far fixed with temporary solutions, but not given a proper evaluation in the times of big expectations and pressures from both patients and healthcare workers.

Objectives: Outbreak of the COVID-19 put psychiatry trainees and Early Career Psychiatrists in an unprecedented position of responsibility for treatment of a variety of comorbidities they had no prior experience with due to closure of specialized hospital departments and limited access to regular diagnostic tools. In addition to changes in clinical practice and deployment to unfamiliar ground, rescheduling of different components of regular training, transferring most of the educational activities to distance learning, limiting professional growth by canceling most courses and conferences only strengthened the feeling of uncertainty caused by constant adjustments of the final examinations' conditions.

Methods: The Speciality Training Section of the Polish Psychiatric Association decided to review changes forced by the COVID-19 outbreak in a traditional postgraduate training program in psychiatry.

Results: Identified shortcomings pose questions about the necessity of a solid revision of the training in order to cope with more demanding working conditions.

Conclusions: Presented recommendations may be the starting point for a discussion on the programs' evaluation across the entire region.

Disclosure: No significant relationships.

Keywords: Postgraduate training; COVID-19; Medical Education

Women, gender and mental health

EPV0718

“It is natural so it must be safe!”: Cannabis use during pregnancy, an update

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Introduction: Rates of cannabis use among pregnant women have been increasing. Psychiatrists may be required to provide counseling regarding marijuana use in pregnancy for their patients.

Objectives: To produce an up-to-date review of cannabis effects on pregnancy and the offspring.

Methods: We performed a non-systematic review of the literature apropos a clinical case.

Results: A 31-years-old, 22-weeks pregnant woman presented with severe anxiety, panic attacks and insomnia which she managed solely with cannabis. She had been previously treated with antidepressants and benzodiazepines with symptom remission but had suspended before her pregnancy without medical advice. She believed medication was more harmful to the baby than her cannabis use. There is little perception of risk concerning cannabis use in pregnant woman. Information on cannabis use is less likely to be obtained from healthcare providers than from anecdotal experiences, Internet searching and advice from friends and family. Prenatal use of cannabis has been associated with anaemia in the mother, whereas in the offspring it is associated with reduction in birth weight and greater likelihood of placement in intensive care units. There is insufficient evidence to support an association between marijuana use and any specific congenital abnormality, but also to demonstrate its safety.

Conclusions: It is essential for psychiatrists to have up-to-date knowledge of the effects of cannabis on the pregnancy and the offspring to properly counsel their patients. However, the effects of cannabis on maternal and foetal outcomes remain generally unknown. With rising numbers of female users, there is urgent need for further research.

Disclosure: No significant relationships.

Keywords: Cannabis; pregnancy

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Disenfranchised grief and early pregnancy loss – apropos a clinical case

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