

Physical illnesses in patients with severe mental disorders: current challenges and practical implications for professionals

Course Directors: Prof. Norman Sartorius, Prof. Andrea Fiorillo, Prof. Afzal Javed

Course Description:

Patients suffering from severe mental disorders have a 10 to 25 years shorter life expectancy than the general population. The reduction of this mortality gap requires urgent public health action. Among factors associated with the high mortality rates in patients with severe mental disorders, comorbid physical illnesses - frequently neglected in 'clinical practice - play a particularly important role. This WPA webinar aims to discuss the complex issue of comorbidity between physical and mental disorders and present some practical strategies to improve the management of patients with severe mental disorders.

The faculty of the webinar is composed by:

- Professor Afzal Javed, President World Psychiatric Association
- Professor Norman Sartorius, Switzerland
- Professor Mohan Isaac, Australia
- Professor Graham Thornicroft, UK
- Professor Andrea Fiorillo, Italy
- Professor Elena Starostina, Russia
- Dr. Mariana Pinto da Costa, UK

Duration: 2 hours

Opening and introduction Professor Afzal Javed, President World Psychiatric Association

Professor Mohan Isaac, Australia: The complex interplay between physical and mental disorders: clinical, social and practical implications for mental health professionals

Professor Graham Thornicroft, UK: The scandal of premature mortality: what is the role of stigma in improving the physical health of people with severe mental illness

Professor Elena Starostina, Russia: The relationship between diabetes and depressive disorder

Professor Andrea Fiorillo, Italy: Organization of health services for people with comorbid mental and physical disorders

Mariana Pinto da Costa, UK: Interactive discussion based on the presentation of practical experiences in the management of physical illness in people with severe mental disorders

Conclusions and outlook - Professor Norman Sartorius