

Meeting IPA Shared Interest Forum on Young-onset Dementia

Chair: Raymond Koopmans

With the rising prevalence of dementia, numbers of people with Young Onset Dementia will probably increase too. Young onset dementia is increasingly being recognized as an important psychosocial and medical health problem with serious consequences for both patients and their families. In several countries it is acknowledged that this group of people, in which dementia started before the age of 65 years, has special needs and therefore a need for support and health care services that are particularly designed to fit those needs. However, the number of these special health care services is scarce.

Main Objectives of the Young Onset Dementia Shared Interest Forum:

- Establishing a network of professionals and researchers that are involved in the care and research of people with Young Onset Dementia
- Exchanging ideas between countries to improve care for people with Young Onset Dementia
- Establish international research projects.

During the meeting we will explore opportunities for international collaboration in new research projects.

Keynote Lecture: Emerging Concepts in Combating Ageism, Protecting and Promoting Human Rights and Mental Health of Older Persons

Amal Abou Rafeh and Claudia Mahler

Plenary Sessions

Plenary Session 1 : Healthy Ageing and the role of physical and social environments

John Beard

Overview: The UN Decade of Healthy Ageing aims to foster the ability of people in the second half of life to be and to do the things they value. But, since older populations are extremely heterogenous, action cannot be generic. In 2015, WHO developed a life course approach that is tailored around the intrinsic capacity of the individual (including their cognitive and psychological capacity). This presentation will explore how this framework can help identify opportunities to foster healthy ageing through strategies to retain the highest level of capacity possible; break down ageist barriers; build environments that compensate for losses of capacity; and enable people to maintain lives of meaning and dignity despite significant losses.

Plenary Session 2: Late onset psychosis / schizophrenia

Manabu Ikeda and Dilip Jeste

Overview: This presentation will focus on late-onset schizophrenia (LOS) as well as ageing of persons with early-onset schizophrenia (EOS). 20% of middle-aged and older patients with schizophrenia have onset of illness after age 40. LOS is characterized by female preponderance, better premorbid functioning, fewer positive symptoms, and less cognitive impairment than EOS. EOS presents a paradox of aging – i.e., there is accelerated physical aging with multimorbidity and elevated mortality, while the mental well-being tends to improve with age. Adverse social determinants of health such as childhood traumas, social isolation, discrimination, and food insecurity worsen health. On the other hand, family and social support and access to necessary healthcare enhance the likelihood of sustained remission and recovery.