

**S37-2****THE ITALIAN PSYCHIATRIC REFORM. A STUDY OF ITS EVOLUTION THROUGH A SCIENTIFIC NATIONAL CONGRESS**

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The aim of Italian Psychiatric reform could be summarised in four statements: 1) the closure of all the hundred and ten mental hospitals (MHs) for more than 40.000 people, the opening of psychiatric wards in the general hospitals, the full assistance of all severe patients in the community related to their relationships and background, and the progressive introduction of psychiatry in the general system of care without the former more or less evident isolation. If Italy has not been the first country to start with deinstitutionalisation from the two centuries old asylums certainly the decision to suddenly renounce the Mental Hospital (MHs) after a short length of time, to carefully prevent institutionalisation, and to organise from nothing a community base care system represents a rare feature in the world.

But we have to add another unique feature in the Italian experiment; the deinstitutionalisation means an attempt to radically transform the network of relationships between professionals, institutions and even the patients their families and environment. The aim of this presentation is to give a brief overview of this change using an analysis of the works presented at our national tree years congress, the Italian Psychiatric Association, the most representative professional association with 6000 MDs affiliated working in the University, in Mental Health Centres or General Hospital, private facilities and, where still present, in Mental Hospital. This presentation might be represent not only the trend of our scientific research but also the deep change in the relationships between professionals working in the above mentioned different structures, the prevailing interests and even the change in the relationship between psychiatrist and population. The consistent number of papers analysed, more than one thousand, and the comparison with a twelve years previous congress raises some issues about the evolution of our care system and permit to monitor lights and shadows of our reform (including the cautious involvement of a prevalent part of the University Departments).

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**S37-7****PSYCHIATRIC RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT: A DANISH PERSPECTIVE**

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There has been a long tradition for research in psychiatry in Denmark with focus on biological psychiatry, epidemiology and psychopathology. However, important research activity involve almost

more aspects of psychiatry. Psychiatric disorders are conceived within the frame of the psycho-bio-social disease model with focus on gene environment interaction. From a methodological point of view Danish and international research has benefitted immensely from our Central Psychiatric Register.

Among major problems are recruitment of young doctors for clinical psychiatry and research. Some of the reasons for this situation will be described with focus on scientific image of psychiatry and the great changes in the organizational structure in 14 counties in Denmark. The social structure of the Danish Society and the long tradition for education and research should give psychiatry an excellent opportunity to fulfil the expectations for psychiatry as a scientific discipline in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**S37-8****PSYCHIATRIC RESEARCH IN FINLAND. FUTURE PROSPECTS**

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In Finland, there are five medical faculties with active departments of psychiatry. The most striking characteristic of Finnish psychiatric research has been the focus on large scale surveys of entire populations.

The Helsinki groups are famous of the National Suicide prevention project, the nationwide psychiatric autopsy study. Another important area of research comprises studies of the genetics and risk factors of schizophrenia and affective disorders. Biological correlates of violent behaviour have been studied with co-operation of researcher in the USA. The Turku group has made comprehensive prognostic surveys of schizophrenia and studied the possibilities of psychotherapeutic and family therapeutic treatment in the National Schizophrenia Project. The effects of the rapid deinstitutionalization on the life and treatment situation of discharged patients are studied currently. Turku has also an active research group making neuroimaging studies of schizophrenia and affective disorders mainly by using the PET scan. In two nationwide surveys, the Turku and Oulu groups have studied the epidemiology of psychiatric disorders in Finnish general population. The Oulu group is well known because of extensive twin and adoption studies of schizophrenia and more recently of the follow-ups of two large birth cohorts. In Kuopio, the department psychiatry is famous of the psychoanalytic psychiatric research, and the department of forensic psychiatry has published studies on schizophrenia, alcoholism and violent behaviour by using highly sophisticated neuroimaging technics. The Tampere group has made extensive surveys concerning psychosocial development of adolescents.

The focus of psychiatric research is clearly moving more to the direction of biological and neuroimaging studies. This change and future prospects are discussed.

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