

THE TWENTY FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DANUBINA

There are many reasons for celebrating the 25th anniversary of the DANUBINA. The journal started its life in 1988 and its goal at the time was to establish one more link between psychiatrists in the countries on the Danube – a link that was to facilitate the publication of the work done during the Danubian Symposia which were assembling psychiatrists from the two sides of the Iron Curtain. The Danubian symposia were, by its intentions a replica of the Pugwash symposia which were created to allow scientists from the USSR and countries in its block to discuss nuclear power and atomic energy with their colleagues from the USA and countries on the western side of the Iron Curtain. The Danubian Symposia made it possible for psychiatrists from the Soviet bloc countries – who experienced considerable difficulties when wanting to attend conferences in Western Europe – to meet colleagues from elsewhere attending the Symposia and psychiatrists from Western countries who had an interest in psychiatry in the Eastern bloc could meet the best experts in psychiatry from those countries. The Danubian symposia particularly in early years were also allowing the use of the Russian and the German language – the *lingua franca* of the lands that were once included in the Austro-Hungarian monarchy and other countries in the East of Europe that were influenced by classical German psychiatry: this was an added advantage of Symposia making them particularly attractive for many psychiatrists of previous generations in Central Europe who at that time had not yet accepted English as the main language of scientific communication.

At this point in time it is difficult to appreciate how important the symposia had been and how much ingenuity and hard work had to be invested to make them happen. Professor Hoffman and Professor Schöny, his successor in Linz were at the heart of the organization of the symposia, ably assisted by a handful of colleagues who were members of the Board (the “Kuratorium” of the Symposia): they deserve our gratitude and full recognition as guardians of the unity and scientific interests of medicine and psychiatry and humanists in the best sense of the word.

Since the Danubina was created with the intention of facilitating the achievements of the objectives of the Danubian Symposia it is clear that it often served as the vehicle for the publication of the papers (and of the abstracts of the presentations) that were given during the symposia. As time went by other contents gradually entered on the scene due to a large measure to the inspiration and hard work of the Chief Editor of the Danubina, Professor M. Jakovljevic. With time, the journal became the most international vehicle of publication in the Central European region indexed in Excerpta Medica, Psychological abstracts/PsychINFO, Chemical Abstracts, MEDLINE/PubMed, Cambridge Scientific Abstracts, Social Services abstracts, Science Citation Index Expanded (SciSearch), Social Science Citation Reports/Social Sciences Edition, SCOPUS and others. There is every reason to believe that Danubina will continue its development and widen its distribution, with an ever increasing quality of the papers that it will contain. It is therefore appropriate to end this editorial with congratulations to its Chief Editor and his staff and with best wishes to all of its readers.

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Dear colleagues,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the first issue of 2013, which offers you some interesting topics about philosophy of clinical psychopharmacology, psychosomatic medicine, relationship between personality features and placebo, and violence in schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.

Developments in modern psychopharmacology have raised a range of important philosophical questions from the conceptual to the epistemological and ethical. In our first article Massimiliano Aragona provides a review of some merits and limits of psychopharmacological evidence as well as of some implicit philosophical assumptions influencing clinical psychopharmacology such as reductionism, dualism, interactionism and pragmatism.

In general it is believed that the psychosomatic concept originated from psychoanalysis. Steinberg and colleagues report that Johan Christian August Heinroth was the first one who, about 80 years before Freud, introduced the term „psycho-somatic“ into medical literature. He also was a pioneer of psychosomatic medicine who had the clearly biopsychosocial understanding of health and disease including a holistic approach to medical treatment.

Scientific interest for placebo and nocebo phenomena has been increased in recent years, particularly for research of distinctive mediating and moderating mechanisms. Jaksic and colleagues provide a review of the investigations of controversial placebo-prone personality.

Violence in schizophrenia and bipolar disorder is a public health issue as well as a significant clinical problem. Jan Volavka provides a very useful review of epidemiology, clinical features and treatment of violent behavior in patients with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.

Branislav Motovsky and Jan Pecenek investigated psychopathological characteristics of bipolar and unipolar depression and potential indicators of bipolarity. They found psychomotor slowing, self-blaming/feelings of worthlessness, increased appetite, leaden paralysis/loss of physical energy, and weight increase to be more frequent in bipolar than in unipolar depression.

Estera Žalik and Bojan Zlatar reported differences in mood between elderly persons living in different residential environments in Slovenia.

Francisco Acosta and colleagues investigated beliefs about illness and their relationship with hopelessness, depression, insight and suicide attempts in schizophrenia. Negative appraisals of the illness seem to have psychopathological consequences such as greater hopelessness and depression.

Bojana Dunjić-Kostić and colleagues compared serum levels of IL-6 and TNF-alpha in exacerbation and remission phase of schizophrenia and did not find any difference. It is interesting that adjunct mood stabilizers not only ameliorate psychopathology, but also can exert potential immunomodulatory effects.

Tomas Diveky and colleagues were interested in heart rate variability in patients with panic disorder during CBT. An improvement of neurocardiac control regulation was found after a therapeutic CBT program.

Regarding psychosocial distress as a risk factor of ischemic heart disease (IHD) mortality in Russia, Yury Razvodovsky suggests that the Russian IHD mortality crisis is probably related to rapid societal transformation induced distress.

Rosalia Takacs and colleagues found the electroconvulsive therapy-amisulpride combination to be safe. Michele and Silvia Raja reported sleepwalking in four patients treated with quetiapine. Davor Lasić and colleagues informed us of acute generalized exanthematous pustulosis induced by quetiapine treatment.

Sincerely yours

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