

## List of interesting articles

# What is happening in research elsewhere?

- **Prevalence of autoimmune diseases in in-patients with schizophrenia: nationwide population-based study**  
*British J Psychiatry 2012; 200:374-80*  
The association between autoimmune diseases and schizophrenia has rarely been systematically investigated. Taiwan's national database was used to identify 10 811 hospital in-patients with schizophrenia and 108 110 age-matched controls. When compared with the control group, the in-patients with schizophrenia had an increased risk of Graves' disease (odds ratio (OR) = 1.32, 95% CI 1.04–1.67), psoriasis (OR = 1.48, 95% CI 1.07–2.04), pernicious anaemia (OR = 1.71, 95% CI 1.04–2.80), celiac disease (OR = 2.43, 95% CI 1.12–5.27) and hypersensitivity vasculitis (OR = 5.00, 95% CI 1.64–15.26), whereas a reverse association with rheumatoid arthritis (OR = 0.52, 95% CI 0.35–0.76) was also observed. Further investigation is needed to gain a better understanding of the aetiology of schizophrenia and autoimmune diseases.
- **Love, eye contact and the developmental origins of empathy v. psychopathy**  
*British J Psychiatry 2012 200:191-6*  
A propensity to attend to other people's emotions is a necessary condition for human empathy. The study aimed to test the hypothesis that psychopathic disorder begins as a failure to attend to the eyes of attachment figures, using a 'love' scenario in young children. Children with oppositional defiant disorder, assessed for callous-unemotional traits, and a control group were observed in a love interaction with mothers. Eye contact and affection were measured for each dyad. Impairments in eye contact were found to be characteristic of children with callous-unemotional traits, and these impairments were independent of maternal behaviour.
- **Adolescent Irritability: Phenotypic Associations and Genetic Links With Depressed Mood**  
*Am J Psychiatry 2012;169:47-54*  
Irritability has been proposed to underlie the developmental link between oppositional problems and depression. Little is known, however, about the genetic and environmental influences on irritability and its overlap with depression. Drawing on the notion of generalist genes (genes of general effect that underlie phenotypic overlap between disorders), the authors test the hypothesis that the association between irritability and depression is accounted for by genetic factors. The study found that irritability showed a significantly stronger phenotypic relationship with depression than with delinquency, whereas headstrong/hurtful behaviors were more strongly related to delinquency than to depression.
- **Intervention for first episode psychosis in India – The SCARF experience**  
*Asian Journal of Psychiatry 2012; 5: 58-62*  
A 2-year follow-up of a sample of 47 patients with first episode psychosis, of which complete data was available on 39 subjects at 2 years. There was significant improvement from baseline

to 1st year with maximal improvement seen at 3 months after intake. More women relapsed and more men dropped out. 25 out of 28 subjects with shorter DUP (<2 years) were in remission at 2 years as against 3 out of 10 with >2 years DUP. Three different patterns of course of the disorder were found. Single episode followed by total remission for 2 years (52.6%) was the commonest. The others were relapses followed by remissions (21.1%), and continuous illness (26.3%).

- **Internet addiction and modeling its risk factors in medical students, Iran**

*Indian J Psychological Medicine* 2011; 33: 158-62

The study aimed to estimate the prevalence of internet addiction and some of the related factors among medical students, Iran. An analytical cross-sectional study was conducted on 426 students selected through two-stage sampling method. Yang standard internet addiction questionnaire was used for data collection. The overall prevalence of internet addiction was 10.8%, with moderate and severe internet addiction equal to 8% and 2.8%, respectively. As internet addiction affects the students adversely, some measures should be taken to plan and improve the use of internet.

- **Delusion content across the 20th century in an American psychiatric hospital**

*Int J Soc Psychiatry* 2012; 58: 323-7

The current study seeks to contribute to this growing database by reporting delusion content from a sample in the US across a 100-year period. Archival medical records of 102 patients hospitalized for psychosis across the 20th century were examined for types of delusion content. Random samples were selected from each decade. Persecutory was the most common delusion category, followed by religious, somatic and grandiose. Greater frequency of persecutory delusions occurred after 1950. Delusion content also reflected sociocultural factors during the associated time period. Delusion content paralleled sociocultural changes, as has been reported in non-American samples

- **Vitamin D Deficiency Among Psychiatric Inpatients**

*Prim Care Companion CNS Disord* 2012;14

This descriptive study looked at 107 unselected consecutive admissions to a psychiatric inpatient service in New York City. Nearly 52% patients were deficient in vitamin D. Further, 71% of patients from age 18 to 34 years were deficient in vitamin D.

- **Young people's beliefs about the harmfulness of alcohol, cannabis and tobacco for mental disorders: findings from two Australian national youth surveys**

*Addiction* 2012;107: 838-847

A national computer-assisted telephone survey was conducted on a representative sample of Australian youths aged 15-25 years. A total of 3021 young people were presented with a case vignette portraying depression, depression with suicidal thoughts, psychosis, social phobia, depression with alcohol misuse or post-traumatic stress disorder in a young person. More than 75% of respondents agreed that the three substances were harmful for the young people in the vignettes, and that not using marijuana or drinking alcohol in excess is preventive. Males, young adults and more distressed respondents were less likely to endorse these beliefs.