

reflect the relevance of resilient coping in the activation of non-kin relationships in old age.

**Keywords** Personal social networks; Ego-centred networks; Resilient coping; Elderly

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### Being afraid of compassion: Fears of compassion as mediators between early emotional memories and psychopathological symptoms in adulthood

M. Matos\*, J. Duarte, J. Pinto-Gouveia

University of Coimbra, Cognitive and Behavioral Centre for Research and Intervention CINEICC University of Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal

\* Corresponding author.

**Introduction** There is evidence suggesting that for some individuals self-generating compassion and being open to compassion from others can be difficult or aversive. To date, however, no study has explored how these fears of compassion are associated with early emotional memories, such as shame or safeness memories, and to symptoms of depression and anxiety in adulthood. The current study set out to investigate the mediator effect of fears of compassion on the relationship between the traumatic and centrality features of shame memories, early memories of warmth and safeness, and symptoms of depression and anxiety.

**Method** In this cross-sectional study, participants were 302 individuals (171 women; age  $M = 36.28$ ;  $SD = 11.45$ ) recruited from the general community population, who completed self-report measures of fears of compassion (for self, for others and from others), shame memories, safeness memories, depression and anxiety.

**Results** Path analysis showed that fears of compassion for self and of receiving compassion from others mediated the effects of shame traumatic memory, centrality of shame memory and early memories of warmth and safeness on depressive and anxiety symptoms. Fear of compassion for self was the best predictor of depression and anxiety.

**Conclusions** Fears of compassion may render an individual more vulnerable to defeat and threat responses when faced with stressful life events, which can manifest as symptoms of depression or anxiety. Clinical implications might be derived from these findings as these fears, as well as the negative emotional memories fuelling them, may need to be addressed in therapy to assist patients in self-generating and receiving compassion.

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### Oral communications: Rehabilitation and psychoeducation and schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders

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#### Genetic counselling in psychiatric disorder with high suicide risk

D. Cozman<sup>1,\*</sup>, R. Moldovan<sup>2</sup>, B. Nemes<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Iuliu Hatieganu University of Medicine and Pharmacy Cluj-Napoca, Department of Medical Psychology, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

<sup>2</sup> Babes-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca, Psychology, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

\* Corresponding author.

**Introduction** A better understanding of the genomics of mental illnesses allowed genetic counselling to be provided to individuals with severe mental illness and their families.

**Aim** The present study was aimed at assessing the efficacy of genetic counselling for severe mental illnesses with high suicide risk.

**Method** Assessment was performed before and after genetic counselling session. Measures used were evaluation of traumatic events in childhood, multidimensional scale for perception of social support (SMSSP), positive and negative affect schedule (PANAS-X), Brief Psychiatric Rating Scale (BPRS), Paykel questionnaire and Genetic Counselling Outcome Scale (GCOS). Paykel's questionnaire consists of five questions about suicidal thoughts and attempts, including: life-weariness, death wishes, suicidal ideation, suicidal plans and suicide attempts. Intervention and assessment lasted approximately one and a half hour. Data from 48 patients was analysed.

**Results** Mean age of participants was  $M = 38.4$ ,  $SD = 9.7$ , and the group was better represented by females (57%). The participants had various diagnoses, 22% had schizophrenia, 36% bipolar disorder and 42% recurrent depressive disorder. Forty percent of participants reported suicidal ideation and 22,5% had a past history of suicide attempt. Genetic counselling had a direct positive influence upon GCOS specific items and reduced the Paykel scores among participants presenting with suicidal ideation.

**Conclusion** Genetic counselling offers information about the disorder, the role of genetics and the impact of environmental factors. Preliminary data suggest that providing genetic counselling decreases the suicidal ideation frequency.

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#### Analysing CYP2D6\*4 Allele frequency in patients with schizophrenia

V. Djordjevic<sup>1,\*</sup>, T. Jevtovic Stoimenov<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Clinical center Nis, Daily hospital, Nis, Serbia

<sup>2</sup> Medical Faculty, Institute of Biochemistry, Nis, Serbia

\* Corresponding author.

**Introduction** Schizophrenia is treated with antipsychotics and other psychotropic medications, many of which are substrates for the highly polymorphic CYP2D6 enzyme. The most frequent variant allele is CYP2D6\*4- leading cause of poor metabolism (PM) phenotype. PM causes the reduction of therapeutic response, increase the risk of adverse drug reactions and increase the plasma concentration of both drug and its metabolites above the levels of toxicity.

**The Aim** Analysing CYP2D6\*4 allele frequency among schizophrenic patients for further individualisation and rationalisation of therapy.

**Patients and methods** Research was conducted on 38 schizophrenic patients and 110 healthy individuals. CYP2D6\*4 allele was detected with allele specific PCR.

**Results** Both wild type allele carriers are 55% of the schizophrenic patients, 45% are wild type/\*4heterozygous, and \*4/\*4 homozygous are not identified. There is a statistically significant difference in the genotype distribution ( $P < 0.05$ ) between schizophrenic patients and healthy individuals. Significantly higher \*4 allele frequency (37%) comparing to healthy individuals ( $P < 0.0001$ ) indicates the necessary caution in administration of CYP2D6 substrates. A lower frequency of PMs in schizophrenic patients than in healthy individuals could be explained with CYP2D6 neuroactive substrate metabolism. Forty-five percent of the schizophrenic patients are intermediate metabolisers carrying the higher risk of adverse