

Department of Public Health and Community Medicine
Section of Psychiatry and Section of Clinical Psychology
University of Verona



WHO Collaborating Centre for Research and
Training in Mental Health and Service Evaluation

Head: Professor Michele Tansella

Scientific Report 2011

(with 2011 Impact Factor scores)



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The WHO Collaborating Centre in Verona is located in a refurbished building, within the University General Hospital of Verona (Policlinico G.B. Rossi, Piazzale L.A. Scuro 10, 37134 Verona, Italy). It was designated by WHO as *Collaborating Centre for Research and Training in Mental Health* on **23 February 1987**. According to WHO regulations the designation lasts for four years and may be continued, with periodic reviews by WHO of the scientific performance of the Centre. The designation was confirmed in **1992**. In September **1996** the Centre was re-designated as a *WHO Collaborating Centre for Research and Training in Mental Health and Service Evaluation* and since then this designation was further confirmed in **2001**, **2005** and **2009**.

The main research activities, carried out by the six Research Units of the Centre, focus on epidemiological and social psychiatry (including economics and geography of mental health studies), genetics and neuroimaging of schizophrenic and bipolar disorders, clinical psychopharmacology, communication in medicine and evaluation of mental health services. The staff (more than 50 persons) includes psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, computer scientists, physicists, geographers and social scientists, statisticians, technicians and secretaries.

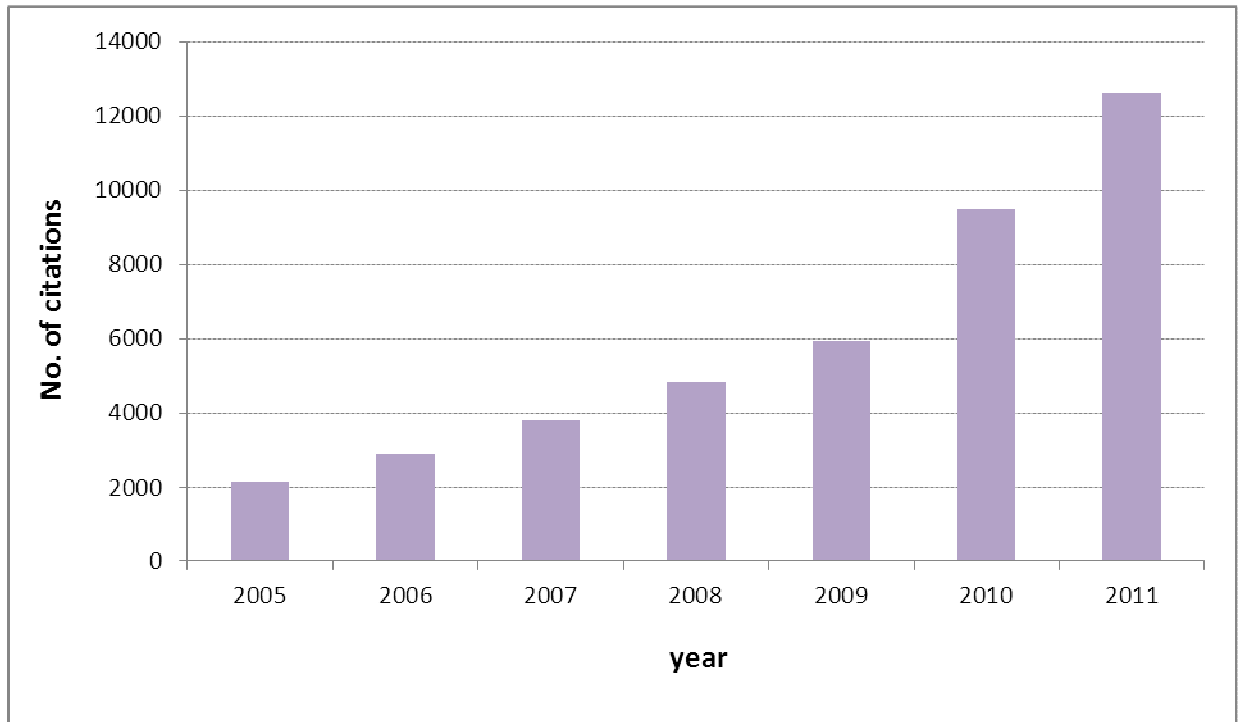
Total Impact Factor (IF) of Papers Published by Members of the WHO Centre of Verona

2004:	IF 83.134	2009:	IF 234.473 (IF 2009)
2005:	IF 116.637	2010:	IF 174.288 (IF 2010)
2006:	IF 76.469	2011	IF 393.135 (IF 2011)
2007:	IF 224.870	In press:	IF 212.418 (IF 2011)
2008:	IF 144.833		

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No. of citations, in the years 2005-2011, of all papers published from 1990 onwards by the Heads of the Units of the Verona WHO Centre.



List of peer-reviewed Journals that published in 2011 papers by members of our Centre and Impact Factor (2011)

International Journals	Number of papers	Impact Factor	Total
<i>American Journal of Psychiatry</i>	1	12.539	12.539
<i>Applied Health Economics and Health Policy</i>	1		
<i>Biological Psychiatry</i>	2	8.283	16.566
<i>British Medical Journal</i>	1	14.093	14.093
<i>BMJ Clinical Evidence</i>	1		
<i>Brain Research Bulletin</i>	1	2.818	2.818
<i>British Journal of Psychiatry</i>	1	6.619	6.619
<i>Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews</i>	2	5.715	11.430
<i>Drug Safety</i>	1	3.634	3.634
<i>Epidemiology and Psychiatric Sciences</i>	13	3.160	41.080
<i>European Archives of Psychiatry and Clinical Neuroscience</i>	1	3.494	3.494
<i>European Journal of Public Health</i>	1	2.728	2.728
<i>Gender Medicine</i>	1	2.101	2.101
<i>German Journal for Evidence and Quality in Health Care</i>	1		
<i>International Journal of Imaging Systems and Technology</i>	1	0.779	0.779
<i>International Journal of Mental Health Systems</i>	1		
<i>International Journal of Methods in Psychiatric Research</i>	1	2.462	2.462
<i>Journal of Affective Disorders</i>	1	3.517	3.517
<i>Journal of Clinical Psychopharmacology</i>	1	4.098	4.098
<i>Journal of Interprofessional Care</i>	1	1.116	1.116
<i>Journal of Neural Transmission</i>	1	2.730	2.730
<i>Lancet</i>	2	38.278	76.566
<i>Molecular Psychiatry</i>	2	13.668	27.336
<i>Nature Genetics</i>	2	35.532	70.464
<i>Neuroscience Letters</i>	1	2.105	2.105
<i>Patient Education and Counseling</i>	6	2.305	13.830
<i>Plos Medicine</i>	2	16.269	32.538
<i>Progress in Neuro-Psychopharmacology & Biological Psychiatry</i>	2	3.247	6.494
<i>Psychiatry Research</i>	1	2.524	2.524
<i>Psychiatry Research: Neuroimaging</i>	1	2.964	2.964
<i>Psychological Medicine</i>	2	6.159	12.318
<i>Schizophrenia Bulletin</i>	1	8.800	8.800
<i>Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology</i>	2	2.696	5.392
TOTAL	59		393.135

H index of scientific staff of the Verona WHO Centre with a tenured position

Scientific staff of the Verona WHO Centre with a tenured position (Scopus database, Citations from 1996)	h index (Total)	h index (2003-2012)
<i>Professor Francesco Amaddeo</i>	16	16
<i>Professor Corrado Barbui</i>	30	30
<i>Dr. Marcella Bellani</i>	9	8
<i>Dr. Chiara Bonetto</i>	11	11
<i>Dr. Paolo Brambilla*</i>	35	35
<i>Professor Lorenzo Burti</i>	8	7
<i>Dr. Andrea Cipriani</i>	19	19
<i>Dr. Doriana Cristofalo</i>	6	6
<i>Dr. Katia De Santi</i>	1	1
<i>Dr. Nicola Dusi</i>	7	7
<i>Dr. Lidia Del Piccolo</i>	12	12
<i>Dr. Claudia Goss</i>	10	9
<i>Dr. Antonio Lasalvia</i>	16	12
<i>Dr. Maria Angela Mazzi</i>	14	13
<i>Dr. Michela Nosè</i>	12	12
<i>Dr. Gianluca Rambaldelli</i>	9	8
<i>Dr. Michela Rimondini</i>	6	6
<i>Dr. Alberto Rossi</i>	8	8
<i>Professor Mirella Ruggeri</i>	27	17
<i>Dr. Roberta Siani</i>	2	1
<i>Professor Michele Tansella</i>	34	21
<i>Dr. Sarah Tosato</i>	10	10
<i>Professor Christa Zimmermann</i>	14	9

*Department of Experimental and Clinical Medical Sciences, University of Udine and Inter-University Centre for Behavioural Neurosciences (ICBN), University of Udine and University of Verona, Italy.

The Hirsch index (h index) is an indicator of citations of a researcher's scientific publications, proposed in 2005 by Professor Jorge E. Hirsch, University of California, San Diego, USA (Hirsch, 2005; 2007).

This index may be defined as the number of papers with citation number equal or higher than h (for example h index 5 means that at least 5 papers by that author were cited at least 5 times). Higher the h index, higher is supposed to be the impact of the researcher in his/her scientific community. H index depends from the level of seniority of the researcher.

It has been stated that h index is preferable to other single-number criteria commonly used to evaluate scientific output of a researcher, as follows (Hirsch, 2005):

(i) **Total number of papers** (N_p). Advantage: measures productivity. Disadvantage: does not measure importance or impact of papers.

(ii) **Total number of citations** ($N_{c,tot}$). Advantage: measures total impact. Disadvantage: hard to find and may be inflated by a small number of "big hits," which may not be representative of the individual if he or she is a coauthor with many others on those papers. In such cases, the relation in Eq. 1 will imply a very atypical value of a , ≈ 5 . Another disadvantage is that $N_{c,tot}$ gives undue weight to highly cited review articles versus original research contributions.

(iii) **Citations per paper** (i.e., ratio of $N_{c,tot}$ to N_p). Advantage: allows comparison of scientists of different ages. Disadvantage: hard to find, rewards low productivity, and penalizes high productivity.

(iv) **Number of "significant papers,"** defined as the number of papers with $\geq y$ citations (for example, $y \geq 50$). Advantage: eliminates the disadvantages of criteria *i*, *ii*, and *iii* and gives an idea of broad and

sustained impact. Disadvantage: y is arbitrary and will randomly favor or disfavor individuals, and y needs to be adjusted for different levels of seniority.

(v) **Number of citations to each of the q most-cited papers** (for example, $q = 5$). Advantage: overcomes many of the disadvantages of the criteria above. Disadvantage: It is not a single number, making it more difficult to obtain and compare. Also, q is arbitrary and will randomly favor and disfavor individuals.

To calculate their h index, the researchers may now use **ResearcherID** (<http://www.researcherid.com>), a facility recently made available by ISI Thomson Reuters. **ResearcherID** is a global, multi-disciplinary scholarly research community. With a unique identifier assigned to each author in ResearcherID, you can *eliminate author misidentification* and view an author's citation metrics instantly. Search the registry to find collaborators, review publication lists and explore how research is used around the world.

Many database can be used to calculate the h index. Therefore it may change according to the database and also according to the time span covered by the database. It is therefore necessary to indicate, together with the h index, the database used and the time span (number of years) covered by the database.

The Library of the School of Medicine of the University of Verona estimates the h index on papers included in the ISI *Web of Knowledge* published from 1990 onwards.

In several Universities abroad and in some scientific institutions in Italy it is suggested to researchers to include their h index in their CV, so it may be considered, together with other indicators and characteristics, for promotion and selection, when new positions become available.

References

- Hirsch J.E. (2005) An index to quantify n individual's scientific research output. *Proc.Nat.Acad.Sci USA*, 102, 16569-16572.
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The South-Verona Community-Based Mental Health Service Clinical and Teaching Activities

The WHO Collaborating Centre of Verona is part of the **Section of Psychiatry and Clinical Psychology, Department of Public Health and Community Medicine, University of Verona**, that provides Research, Clinical Activity and Education and Training.

Clinical Activity

Clinical activity takes place in the Academic General Hospital of Verona (*University Department of Psychiatry and Psychiatric University Clinic and University Department of Psychosomatics and Clinical Psychology*), in the *South-Verona Mental Health Centre* (a multi-purpose facility providing outpatient consultations, day care, crisis intervention, home visits and rehabilitation), in the *staffed residential facilities and apartments for long-term patients*, in the *Outpatient Departments*, and in other community-based facilities, which constitute an integrated Service: **the South-Verona Community Psychiatric Service (CPS)** (Head: Professor Michele Tansella). Attached to the *University Department of Psychiatry and Psychiatric University Clinic* there are three Clinical Units: The *Unit of Psychotherapy* (Professor Lorenzo Burti) that provides individual and family psychotherapy, the *Unit of Psychology and Therapy of Eating Disorders* (Dr. Roberta Siani) and the *Unit of Monitoring and Evaluating Patterns of Care* (Professor Francesco Amaddeo). Our clinical facilities include also the *University Department of Psychosomatics and Clinical Psychology* (Head: Professor Mirella Ruggeri), with the attached *Clinical Unit of Clinical Psychology and Communication in Medicine* (Professor Christa Zimmermann), that provide specialist outpatient care by psychiatrists and clinical psychologists for patients with panic attacks and obsessive-compulsive disorders, as well as consultations for patients and doctors of other departments of the Verona Academic General Hospital (800 beds) and psychological assessments and treatment.

The South-Verona CPS was established in 1978, according to the provision of the Italian Psychiatric Reform, and is responsible for providing comprehensive psychiatric care (prevention, therapy and rehabilitation) for all those living in South-Verona, an area of 100,000 inhabitants.

The South-Verona Community Psychiatric Service (CPS)

General organization

The **South-Verona Community Psychiatric Service (CPS)** is made by two University Departments: *The Department of Psychiatry* and the *Department of Psychosomatics and Clinical Psychology*. It was designed as a unitary service, in which great emphasis is given to communication between staff and to integration between the various clinical activities. It is first described here in general terms. The various facilities and services available to South-Verona residents are then detailed. Staff members are divided into two multidisciplinary teams, each serving a sub-sector of the South-Verona catchment area. The two teams are organised according to a "*single staff module*": with the exception of nurses, all staff (psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers) work both inside and outside the hospital setting and retain responsibility for the same patients across different components of the service and through all phases of treatment. There are hospital nurses (who provide 24 hour cover over three shifts in the general hospital ward), hostel nurses, Mental Health Centre nurses and community nurses (who provide cover over two shifts, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., and are on call, two at a time, during the weekends and overnight). Of the nursing staff, only the community nurses are assigned to one of the three teams.

This module was designed to ensure continuity of care, both longitudinal continuity (through the different phases of treatment) and cross-sectional continuity (through the different components of the service). Within each team, each patient is assigned to one particular member of the staff (the "case manager"). Case managers may be psychiatrists, psychologists or senior nurses.

The South-Verona CPS is well integrated, allowing patients easy access to most components and easy transfer from one component to another, according to need. A "drop in" approach is encouraged at the Mental Health Centre and patients can seek care from specialist services directly, without referral from GPs. However most patients are referred by GPs and referred back to them by the CPS, when it is felt that less stigmatising care can be provided through primary care. There are good relations between primary and secondary care and regular meetings are held with GPs to discuss how to improve the primary care / mental health service interface

Components of the CPS

The Mental Health Centre is the linchpin of the **CPS** and is where staff meetings take place and interventions are planned and initiated. The Centre, located in an old, recently refurbished three-floor building with a garden, not far away from the University general hospital, is open on weekdays, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Therapeutic programs include crisis intervention, day care for acute and chronic patients and social skills groups. The Centre also serves as an informal meeting place for Service "users", and it is conceived as a flexible resource whose organisation can be modified from time to time to meet the users' changing needs.

The psychiatric ward (University Psychiatric Clinic) is an open ward of 16 beds located in the University general hospital which has in total about 800 beds. It is a traditional hospital ward, similar to all other medical wards in the hospital and its door is locked when there are patients who have been compulsory admitted.

The outpatient department provides psychiatric consultations and individual and family therapy. Offices are located in the general hospital and in the Mental Health Centre.

The consultation liaison service for other medical and surgical departments (run by the *University Department of Psychosomatics and Clinical Psychology* directed by Professor M. Ruggeri) maintains psychiatric integration with other hospital-based medical activities and ensures continuing contact with our patients when hospitalised for medical reasons; it runs also a series of out-patients activities, including visits for patients with mental disorders in comorbidity with physical illnesses and patients affected by Panic Disorder. **Unit of Clinical Psychology and Communication in Medicine** (Professor Christa Zimmermann), that provides psychological assessment and care for a variety of mental disorders and for psychological suffering and runs courses and teaching activities for improving the quality of communication between patients and members of the clinical teams.

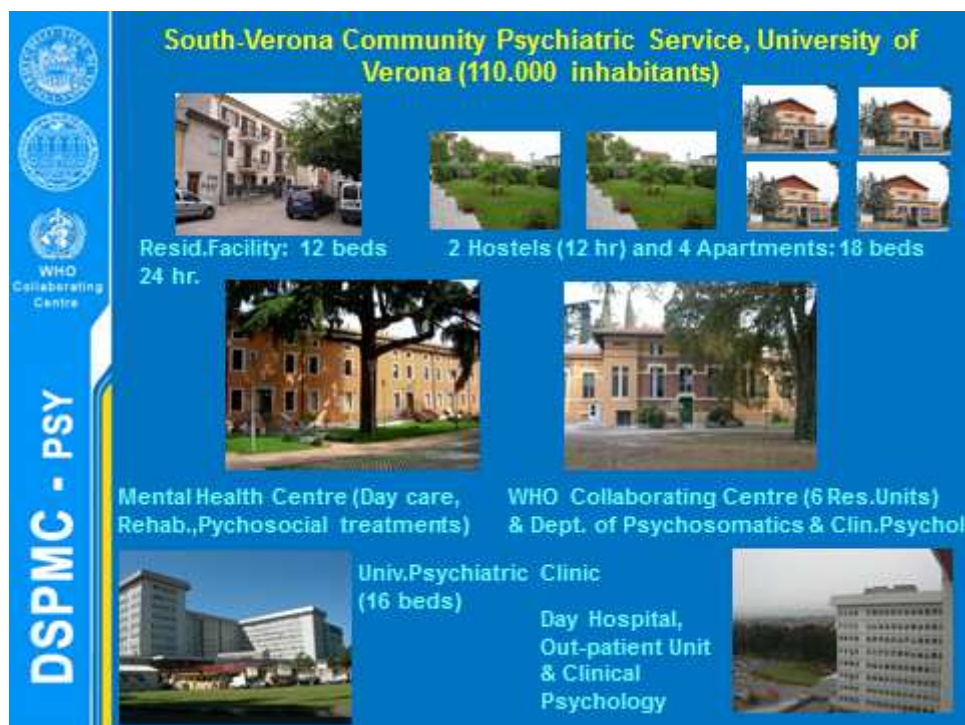
The emergency service. There is a psychiatric emergency service at the general hospital, open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It is run by a psychiatrist from our team, who is on call. To ensure therapeutic continuity, he/she is usually assisted during working hours by the treatment team members who are (or will be) in charge of the patient requiring the urgent intervention.

Additionally, during **night and week-end**, two psychiatric nurses from our team, supervised by a psychiatrist, are on call to provide care in the supported flats and hostel, as well as at patients' homes.

Home visits can be made to provide crisis intervention in response to emergency calls, but for chronic patients these are usually planned in advance and offer regular, long-term support and care to patients and their families with the goal of minimising relapses and hospital admissions. Home visits are highly regarded by the service and are well accepted by patients and families.

Two group homes and four apartments (with a total number of 18 beds), offering different levels of supervision, and **one hostel** (with 12 beds, supervised 24 hours a day by support workers and counsellors and occasionally visited by nurses), are also available.

Unit of Psychotherapy (Professor Lorenzo Burti), that provides individual and family psychotherapy. **Unit of Psychology and Therapy of Eating Disorders** (Dr. Roberta Siani), that provides assessment and therapy and coordinates long-term care for people with eating disorders. **Unit of Monitoring and Evaluating Patterns of Care** (Professor Francesco Amadeo) that provides data and coordinates care for long-term care of patients with mental disorders.



Distinctive features of South-Verona Community Psychiatric Service

The features of the South-Verona Community Psychiatric Service that could be considered "distinctive" to the service are as follows:

- a.** It is not experimental; the South-Verona initiative is a long-term undertaking, implemented by legislation in 1978 and based on a National Act flexible enough to permit development of a system of care which is suited to local needs;
- b.** It was designed and is still functioning to substitute, not to supplement, the old hospital-based system of care. The front doors of the mental hospital have been closed to new admissions since May 1978 and to all admissions since January 1982;

c. The clinical model developed in South-Verona is "systemic" and with a "single-staff module": all staff apart from nurses work both in the hospital and in the community and remain responsible for the care of the same patients across different components of the service and through the different phases of care. The "single staff" module is designed to ensure continuity of care and to encourage commitment and the assumption of full responsibility by the service.

d. The South-Verona CPS is well integrated, and allows easy and informal access to patients. It is a public service run by the National Health Service. Payment is not required, except for a fee for out-patient visits (this applies only to more affluent patients and for those who are not considered long-term).

e. Every effort is made to meet user's needs with individual care plans. A well established clinical practice in South-Verona is the critical examination of the user's explicit requests, in order to recognise what his/her real needs are. Included in this process is the need to question who originated the request for intervention (the real, often disguised or secret client), besides the usual assessment of psychosocial, precipitating and intervening factors.

f. Although not designed as an experiment, the South-Verona initiative was from the beginning associated with a series of long-term research projects for monitoring and evaluating the changes in service organisation. Many projects use an epidemiological approach and include evaluations of needs, costs and outcomes.

Education & Training

Education and training is provided for undergraduate medical students, for post-graduate residents at the *Scuola di Specializzazione in Psichiatria* of the University of Verona (advanced courses in Clinical Psychiatry, Social Psychiatry, Clinical Psychology, Psychotherapy and Clinical Psychopharmacology) (Director: Professor Mirella Ruggeri), for post-graduate Ph.D. students in Psychology and Psychiatry (*Dottorato di Ricerca in Scienze Psicologiche e Psichiatriche*) (Director: Professor Mirella Ruggeri), and for undergraduate students in psychosocial rehabilitation (*Corso di Laurea in Tecniche della Riabilitazione Psichiatrica*) (Director: Professor Lorenzo Burti). Short courses in Psychiatry, Medical and Clinical Psychology, Psychosomatics, and Psychogeriatrics are also provided for other Schools of Specialisation within the Medical School of the University of Verona.

The South-Verona CPS provides undergraduate and postgraduate students with the opportunity to obtain up-to-date education, and to receive their training in settings identical to those that they will find in their professional life, under the supervision of experienced personnel.

This list includes full papers, chapters of books and monographs and volumes published in 2011. The latest Impact Factor (I.F.) scores (2010) are indicated.

The list includes also Letters, but only those peer-reviewed and published in outstanding Journals. According to the rules of the Scientific Committee of the Medical School of the University of Verona these Letters are given an I.F. score that is 10% of the original score.

*Abstracts of papers presented at scientific Meetings and Congresses and posters are **NOT** included.*

For further information and for receiving copies of papers included in this list, please contact our Librarian:

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C) PAPERS PUBLISHED IN ITALIAN JOURNALS

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D) PAPERS PUBLISHED IN ITALIAN BOOKS AND MONOGRAPHS

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E) INTERNATIONAL BOOKS

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**List of peer-reviewed Journals that published in 2012 or
have in press papers by members of our Centre
and Impact Factor (2011)**

International Journals	Number of papers	Impact Factor	Total
<i>Acta Psychiatrica Scandinavica</i>	3	4.220	12.660
<i>American Journal of Alzheimers Disease and Other Dementias</i>	1	1.453	1.453
<i>BMC Psychiatry</i>	1	2.552	2.552
<i>Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews</i>	2	5.715	11.430
<i>Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (Protocol)</i>	1		
<i>Epidemiology and Psychiatric Sciences</i>	11	3.160	34.760
<i>European Journal of Clinical Pharmacology</i>	1	2.845	2.845
<i>European Journal of Public Health</i>	1	2.728	2.728
<i>European Psychiatry</i>	1	2.766	2.766
<i>Evidence Based Mental Health</i>	1		
<i>Functional Neurology</i>	2	1.518	3.036
<i>Human Brain Mapping</i>	1	5.880	5.880
<i>International Journal of Mental Health Systems</i>	2		
<i>International Review of Psychiatry</i>	1	1.798	1.798
<i>Journal of Clinical Psychopharmacology</i>	1	4.098	4.098
<i>Journal of Neural Transmission</i>	1	2.730	2.730
<i>Journal of Psychiatric Research</i>	2	4.664	9.328
<i>Lancet</i>	1	38.278	76.556
<i>Lancet (Letter) (10% of the I.F.)</i>	1	3.828	3.828
<i>Molecular Psychiatry</i>	1	13.668	13.668
<i>Neuropsychobiology</i>	1	2.675	2.675
<i>Patient Education and Counseling</i>	4	2.305	9.220
<i>Psychiatry Research</i>	2	2.524	5.040
<i>Psychological Medicine</i>	4	6.159	24.636
<i>Schizophrenia Research</i>	1	4.748	4.748
<i>Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology</i>	2	2.696	5.392
<i>Statistics in Medicine</i>	1	1.877	1.877
<i>Trials</i>	2	2.496	4.992
TOTAL	52		212.418

A) PAPERS ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION IN INTERNATIONAL JOURNALS

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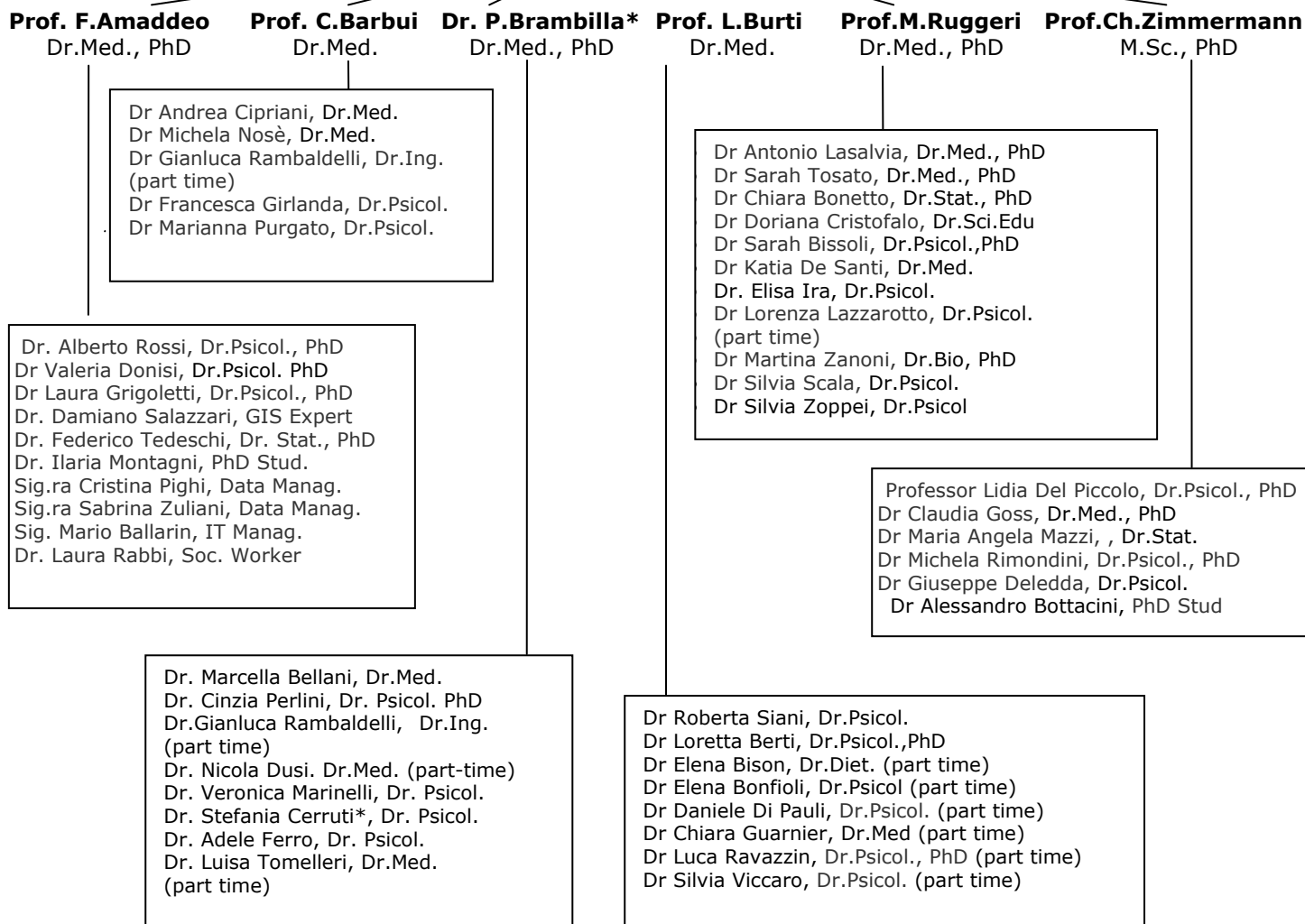
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Scientific Staff

Professor Michele Tansella, Dr.Med.
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The main research activities carried out by the six Research Units of the Verona WHO Centre are the following:

1) Psychiatric Register, Economics and Geography of Mental Health

Coordinator: **Professor Francesco Amaddeo**

A psychiatric case register (PCR) was started on 31 December 1978 and is used for clinical, administrative and research purposes. For research, the PCR is used for: longitudinal analyses of patterns of care; studies on incidence and prevalence and related factors; services utilisation; comparisons with other case-register areas; and costs of care and outcome. The PCR has facilitated the detailed observation of changes in Italian mental health care since the Italian psychiatric reform.

The Unit has conducted a series of studies in prevalence and incidence samples to explore the relationships between the socio-demographic and clinical characteristics of patients and the costs of community-based mental health care, to study the mortality of psychiatric patients, to assess the association between Socio-Economic Status (SES), services utilisation and costs.

Recently, the Unit has participated to a national study that has permitted to develop a new funding system. The Unit is coordinating Centre for a National study on "Socio-economic status, urbanisation and mental health" that use an health geography approach (both studies have been funded by the Italian Ministry of Health).

The Unit is involved in validating clinical instruments such as the DIP (Diagnostic Interview for Psychosis, Italian Version), and conducting studies about the compassion fatigue of social and clinical workers and the social capital of psychiatric patients.

The Unit is Coordinator of a FP7 international project (Research on Financing systems' Effect on the Quality of Mental Health Care – REFINEMENT) funded by the EU. The overarching aim of the REFINEMENT project is to look at the relationship between different models of health care financing and the extent to which mental health care services can meet the goals of high quality, equity, efficiency and better long term health outcomes. Ultimately we will use the results of our research to make recommendations on best practice health care financing models that may be used in different part of Europe where different mixes of tax, social health insurance, private health insurance and out of pocket payments are used to help achieve these goals. The study involves 9 European Countries (Italy, United Kingdom, Austria, Spain, Norway, Finland, France, Estonia and Romania).

2) Clinical Psychopharmacology and Drug Epidemiology

Coordinator: **Professor Corrado Barbui**

The main research interests of the Unit include: (a) pharmacoepidemiology, oriented to describe the beneficial and harmful effects of psychotropic drugs in ordinary practice; (b) randomised clinical trials, oriented to assess the efficacy and tolerability profile of psychotropic drugs in experimental conditions; (c) systematic reviews, oriented to summarize clinical trial findings using meta-analytical techniques. Recent achievements of the Unit include the development of a psychotropic register that collects information on psychotropic drugs prescribed within the South-Verona catchment area, the development of a network of psychiatric services that is currently collecting patients for a multi-centre clinical trial, the production of systematic reviews in the field of antidepressants and antipsychotics, and the development of tools oriented to assist the World Health Organization to improve the rational use of psychotropic drugs in low and middle income countries. The projects of the Unit are financially supported by organisations not linked with drug companies.

3) Brain Imaging and Neuropsychology

Coordinator: **Dr. Paolo Brambilla**

The Unit of Brain Imaging and Neuropsychology (RUBIN) was first established in the spring of 2003. Since 2005 it is a member of the ICBN InterUniversity Center of Behavioral Neuroscience (University of Udine and University of Verona). Our main interest is to better understand the neurobiological underpinnings of the major psychoses (bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and unipolar depression) and to study the possible connection with outcome, neuropsychological and biological measures, using a multidimensional approach. The main aim of our research group is to increase the knowledge of possible neural circuitry in these disorders, to study the timing and development of the neuroanatomical alterations, in order to achieve the knowledge for an early detection and treatment of these disorders. The two main fields of research are: 1) Brain Imaging: Different neuroimaging techniques based on Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) are being used to investigate the neurobiological bases of affective and psychotic spectrum disorders, i.e. structural MRI, diffusion tensor imaging (DTI), tractography, perfusion weighted imaging (PWI), MR spectroscopy (MRS), and functional MRI (fMRI). They allow to finely investigate brain microstructure, connectivity, vascular organization, biochemistry and activation. The samples taking part to the studies are assessed at baseline after a 12 month follow up. 2) Neuropsychology: A full neuropsychological assessment has been designed to assess specific

neuropsychological components that may be impaired in major psychoses, such as executive functions, language and cerebral communication. The subjects are studied at baseline and at after a 12 month follow up in order to build a neuropsychological profile of patients to be compared with neuroanatomical and functional data. Moreover, we have recently started a collaboration with the Neuroimmunology Unit of Ospedale San Raffaele in Milan, to characterize the immunological profile of our sample, by the blood level of inflammatory and pro-inflammatory cells and antibodies.

4) Integrating physical health, mental health and human rights

Coordinator: **Professor Lorenzo Burti**

The research Unit mainly addresses human rights, dignity and general health status of psychiatric patients. The Unit has been involved in two multicentric three-year EU projects: *European Network for Promoting the Health of Residents in Psychiatric and Social Care Institutions* (HELPS), and *Institutional treatment, human rights and care assessment* (ITHACA), both recently closed. Currently, the protocol *Physical co-morbidity, poor health behaviour and health promotion in South Verona patients with functional psychoses: a prevalence study and a randomised controlled Study* (PHYSICO) has been extended to the four Mental Health Services (MHS) of the Verona Local Health Authority (ULSS 20) and funded by the CariVerona Foundation. The PHYSICO project address the physical health of mental patients and draws on the synergy between the South Verona Community Mental Health Service and the Department of Prevention (ULSS20 Verona), resulting in the intervention program studied. The collaboration with the Department of Prevention, initiated in 2005, was recently strengthened in 2010 by means of the agreement for a National Project for Physical Activity (PNPAM) that was accomplished with the publication of the Guidelines for the promotion of healthy lifestyles in psychiatric patients in July 2011. Moreover, the Unit is working on the Bio.Ve.D.A. (BIObanca VEneta per i Disturbi dell'Alimentazione) project aiming to develop a register of eating-disorders taking advantage of the fact that the Unit of Psychotherapy, which hosts this Research Unit, has been appointed Regional Centre for Eating Disorders. Finally, Self-Help II, now in the phase of processing data, investigates the contribution of a large consumer self-help group, based in Verona, to improve participation of mental patients in society at large.

5) Environmental, Clinical and Genetic Determinants of the Outcome of Mental Disorders

Coordinator: **Professor Mirella Ruggeri**

The Unit has worked since the '80s with the aim of characterizing the outcome of the mental disorders. Many longitudinal studies both in prevalence and incidence samples have been carried on to identify predictive patterns of favourable and unfavourable outcomes in naturalistic settings, using a multidimensional approach to include objective and subjective variables, and taking into account the relative role of clinical, social, service variables and genetic factors on the course of illness. Currently, the *Psychosis Incident Cohort Outcome Study* (PICOS), a multicentric study involving 28 mental health services in the Veneto Region, is ongoing. The PICOS aims to test the relationship between clinical and genetic features of psychosis in an epidemiologically representative sample of first episode psychotic subjects. Recently, the Research Program GET UP (*Genetics, Endophenotypes and Treatment: Understanding early Psychosis*), with Professor Ruggeri as National Coordinator, has been funded by the Ministry of Health. It is constituted by four partner projects. Its main axis is a controlled randomized Trial that involves 116 Mental Health Centres covering a 10 million inhabitant catchment area and aims to: **1)** test the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of multi-component psychosocial intervention, fostering evidence-based innovation in the area of FEP; **2)** verify the clinical routine limits of this approach, i.e. identifying barriers that obstacle its application and situations in which this type of treatment might not be effective or appropriate; evaluate it is a cluster randomized, controlled trial; **3)** identify clinical, psychological, and environmental predictors of treatment efficacy in first episode psychosis.

Secondary aims are: 1) to evaluate the role of pharmaco-genetic analysis in improving pharmacological treatment efficacy and 2) to identify morpho-functional and neuropsychological factors influencing stress, treatment response, and outcome.

Moreover, the Unit is collaborating in the SGENE project, a large scale genome-wide association study of schizophrenia addressing variation in expressivity and contribution from environmental factors. Additionally it runs some projects in the area of Liaison Psychiatry with the aim to develop innovative treatments for patients affected by mental disorders in comorbidity with physical illnesses, and evaluate their effectiveness.

From 2011 the Unit has joined, as associated partner, in the EU GEI (*European network of national schizophrenia network studying Gene-Environment Interaction*), a EU funded multisite international research which aims to identify, over a 5-year period, the interactive genetic, clinical and environmental determinants, involved in the development, severity and outcome of schizophrenia. The partners in EU GEI represent the nationally funded schizophrenia / mental health networks of the UK, Netherlands, France, Spain, Turkey and Germany, as well as other research institutes and a number of SME's in Austria, Belgium, Ireland, Italy, Switzerland, and outside the EU in Hong Kong/China and Australia. The project, started on May 1, 2010, will run until May 1, 2015.

6) Clinical Psychology and Communication in Medicine

Coordinator: **Professor Christa Zimmermann**

During the last decade, the Unit has developed and standardised several instruments and methodologies to study doctor patient interactions both in Primary Care and in Psychiatry. The unit has developed, together with European researchers (Verona network on sequence analysis), a consensus based coding system (VR-CODES) for identifying patient cues and concerns expressed in a medical encounter and subsequent health provider responses. The Unit has carried out the evaluation of the efficacy of training courses in improving communication skills of General Practitioners and Psychiatrists, and has studied the information-giving process in primary care consultations and in psychiatric outpatient intake interviews. Currently, the Unit is engaged in three studies: one multi-centre study on patients' perception of the doctors' clinical communication skills (Verona, Liverpool, Utrecht), one randomized clinical trial on the informative needs of breast cancer patients and their involvement in treatment decisions (Verona, Brescia) and one on the informative needs of patients with early onset of psychosis, a multi-centre study, sub project of the GET-Up study coordinated by Prof. Ruggeri, University of Verona.

Appointments and administrative positions of members of our Centre

Professor Francesco Amaddeo	<p>Scientific Societies and Associations. Executive Committees: <i>Società Italiana di Epidemiologia Psichiatrica</i> (President) <i>Società Italiana di Psichiatria (Sezione Veneta)</i> (Executive Committee)</p> <p>Scientific National Journals <i>Psichiatria di Comunità</i> (Editorial Board)</p> <p>Scientific International Journals <i>Epidemiology and Psychiatric Sciences</i> (Associate Editor) <i>Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology</i> (Editor)</p>
Professor Corrado Barbui	<p>Scientific Societies and Associations WHO Guidelines Development Group of the mhGAP Intervention Package (Member)</p> <p>Scientific National Journals <i>Dialogo Sui Farmaci</i> (Editorial Board) <i>Economia e Politica del Farmaco</i> (Editorial Board) <i>Informazioni Sui Farmaci</i> (Editorial Board)</p> <p>Scientific International Journals <i>Cochrane Depression, Anxiety, & Neurosis Group - The Cochrane Collaboration</i> (Editorial Board) <i>Epidemiology and Psychiatric Sciences</i> (Associate Editor) <i>European Psychiatry</i> (Editorial Board) <i>Evidence Based Mental Health</i> (Associate Editor) <i>Internet Mental Health</i> (Editorial Board)</p>
Dr. Paolo Brambilla	<p>Scientific Societies and Associations Collegium Internationale Neuro-Psychopharmacologicum (CINP) (Member) World Federation of Societies of Biological Psychiatry (WFSBP) (Member) European College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ECNP) (Member) Neuroimaging section of the Association of European Psychiatrists (AEP) (Member) Association of European Psychiatrists (AEP) (Member) Schizophrenia International Research Society (SIRS) (Member) Comitato Tecnico Scientifico della “Fondazione Imago-7” Neuroimaging Network” dell’ECNP Networks Iniziative (Member) Associazione culturale “Loco&motiva” (Funding Member) World Psychiatric Association (WPA) Section on Neuroimaging</p> <p>Scientific National Journals <i>Minerva Psichiatrica</i> (Editorial Board)</p> <p>Scientific International Journals <i>Epidemiology and Psychiatric Sciences</i> (Editorial Board) <i>European Psychiatry</i> (Advisory Board) <i>International Journal of Mental Health</i> (Editorial Board) <i>The Open Neuroimaging Journal</i> (Editorial Board) <i>Psychiatry Research: Neuroimaging</i> (Editorial Board) <i>World Journal of Psychiatry</i> (Editorial Board) <i>Scientific World Journal</i> (Editorial Board)</p>
Professor Lorenzo Burti	<p>Scientific Societies and Associations. Executive Committees: Società Italiana di Riabilitazione Psicosociale (SIRP) (Honorary President; Funding) World Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation (Member)</p> <p>Scientific International Journals <i>Community Mental Health Journal</i> (International Correspondent)</p>
Dr Andrea Cipriani	<p>Scientific International Journals <i>Clinical Evidence: Depressive Disorders in Adults</i> - BMJ Publishing Group (Review Team Co-ordinator) <i>Cochrane Depression, Anxiety, & Neurosis Group</i>, The Cochrane Collaboration (Editorial Board) <i>Current Drug Therapy</i> (Advisory Board) <i>Epidemiology and Psychiatric Sciences</i> (Editorial Board)</p>
Dr Antonio Lasalvia	<p>Scientific National Journals <i>Psichiatria di Comunità</i> (Executive Board)</p> <p>Scientific International Journals <i>Epidemiology and Psychiatric Sciences</i> (Associate Editor)</p>

Dr Michela Rimondini	Scientific Societies and Associations. Executive Committees: European Association of Communication in Healthcare (Teaching Board)
Professor Mirella Ruggeri	Scientific Societies and Associations. Executive Committees: Società Italiana di Epidemiologia Psichiatrica (SIEP) (Past President) European Network for Mental Health Services Evaluation - ENMESH (Chairperson) International Federation of Psychiatric Epidemiology (IFPE) (Board Member) Association of European Psychiatrists (EPA) – (Section of Epidemiology and Social Psychiatry) (Board Member) Scientific National Journals <i>Psichiatria di Comunità</i> (Editorial Board) Scientific International Journals <i>Epidemiology and Psychiatric Sciences</i> (Associate Editor) <i>Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology</i> (Editorial Board)
Professor Michele Tansella	Scientific Societies and Associations. Executive Committees: Società Italiana di Epidemiologia Psichiatrica (Honorary President) Association of European Psychiatrists (Section of Epidemiology and Social Psychiatry, Board Member) World Psychiatric Association (Section on Epidemiology and Public Health, Board Member) Comitato Tecnico Scientifico (CTS) dell'IRCS – Fatebenefratelli di Brescia Expert Advisory Panel on Mental Health, World Health Organization Expert Advisor on the External Strategic Advisory Board (ESAB), Biomedical Research Centre for Mental Health (BRC-MH) at South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust and Institute of Psychiatry, King's College, London. Scientific National Journals <i>Psichiatria di Comunità</i> (Advisory Board) <i>Rivista di Psichiatria</i> (Advisory Board) Scientific International Journals <i>Archivos de Psiquiatria</i> (Advisory Board) <i>Acta Psychiatrica Scandinavica</i> (Advisory Board) <i>British Journal of Psychiatry</i> (International Editorial Board) <i>Early Intervention in Psychiatry</i> (Advisory Board) <i>Epidemiology and Psychiatric Sciences</i> (Chief Editor) <i>European Journal of Psychiatry</i> (Advisory Board) <i>International Journal of Mental Health Systems</i> (Advisory Board) <i>International Journal of Methods in Psychiatric Research</i> (Advisory Board) <i>International Review of Psychiatry</i> (Advisory Board) <i>Psychological Medicine</i> (Advisory Board) <i>Socijalna Psihijatrija</i> (Advisory Board) <i>World Psychiatry</i> (Advisory Board)
Professor Christa Zimmermann	Scientific International Journals <i>Epidemiology and Psychiatric Sciences</i> (International Advisory Board) <i>Patient Education and Counseling</i> (Associate Editor) International Committees <i>Member of EuroPsy Committee (AIP delegate) for Psychotherapy European Certification</i>

Lectures and Seminars given by invited speakers at the Verona WHO Centre

The WHO Collaborating Centre and the Section of Psychiatry and Psychology have organized the following **CONFERENCES and EVENTS**:

“Translating Treatment from theory in Eating Disorders”

(Verona, February 11th 2011)

- Janet Treasure

“9th European workshop of the Verona Network on sequence analysis”

(Verona, February 25th and 26th, 2011)

- Akke Abbada (Utrecht, NL)
- Jozien Bensing (Utrecht, NL)
- Stephanie Demaesschalck , Ghent, BE)
- Hilde Eide (Oslo, NO)
- Arnstein Finset (Oslo, NO)
- Lena Heyn (Oslo, No)
- Robert Hulsman (Amsterdam, NL)
- Gerry Humphris (St. Andrews, UK)
- Young-Mi Kim (Baltimore, USA)
- Peter Salmon (Liverpool, UK)

“Obesità in adolescenza”

(Verona, April 15th 2011)

- Lorenzo Burti
- Roberta Siani
- Maria Grazia Zenti
- Claudio Maffeis
- Daniele Di Pauli
- Alessia Minniti
- Elena Bison

"Neuropsychological function across the lifespan in schizophrenia: from the premorbid period to old age"

(Verona, June 8th 2011)

- Larry J. Seidman

“10° Congresso Nazionale della Società Italiana di Riabilitazione Psicosociale: Nuovi bisogni e risposte innovative: la riabilitazione che cambia”

(Verona, September 14-16, 2011)

- Francesco Amaddeo
- Domenico Berardi
- Roberto Bertolino
- Lorenzo Burti
- Eva Campagnolo Masconale
- Paolo Corsini
- Jessica Dagani
- Bernardo Dalla Bernardina
- Giorgio D'Allio
- Giovanni De Girolamo
- Michael Fitzgerald
- Tatsuya Fujii
- Michela Gatta
- Ernesto Guerriero
- Roberto Keller
- Dario Lamonaca
- José Mannu
- Ignazio Marino
- Franco Nardocci
- Mirella Ruggeri
- Shohei Sakai
- Nicola Salerno

- Nicola Sartor
- Fabio Sbattella
- Roberta Siani
- Michele Tansella
- Ilaria Tarricone
- Giovanni Tognoni
- Massimo Valsecchi
- Paolo Vanzini
- Teruo Yanaka
- Leonardo Zoccante

“10° Congresso Nazionale della Società Italiana di Riabilitazione Psicosociale: Nuovi bisogni e risposte innovative: la riabilitazione che cambia”: corso precongressuale **“I disturbi del comportamento alimentare”**

(Verona, September 14-16, 2011)

- Elena Bison
- Daniele Di Pauli
- Alessia Minniti
- Roberta Siani
- Sarah Tosato

“Sesta giornata di informazione indipendente sugli psicofarmaci. Innovare in psicofarmacologia, tra storia, mercato e attese per il futuro”

(Verona, September 23th, 2011)

- Clive E Adams
- Vittorino Andreoli
- Matteo Balestrieri
- Corrado Barbui
- Adriana Bazzi
- Giovanni Biggio
- Nello Martini
- Massimo Miele
- Carmine Pariante
- Michele Tansella

“Quando il disagio diventa patologia: i disturbi del comportamento alimentare nei giovani adolescenti”

(Verona, November 5th, 2011)

- Nadia Micali
- Roberta Siani
- Lorenzo Burti
- Yolande Pigaiani
- Maria Sole Castellazzi

Lectures and Seminars given by the Scientific staff of the Verona WHO Centre

Lectures and Seminars given in Italy:

Professor Corrado Barbui

April 9-11, 2011, Florence

Mid-Year meeting of the International Society for Pharmacoepidemiology (ISPE)

“Multiple-treatments meta-analysis”

June 30th – July 2nd 2011, Brescia,.

V Brixia International Conference. Standards of care in clinical psychopharmacology: which future?

“Pharmacological treatment of mood disorders: what do meta-analyses tell us?”

“Community-based psychiatric care and outcome measures: an old controversy and new promises”

24 ottobre 2011, Milano

“Innovare in psicofarmacologia: back to fundamentals. Psichiatria: neuroscienze, contesti di vita e metodo scientifico”

Dr. Marcella Bellani

17/03/2011, Bergamo

Neurodegenerative and psychiatric disease: new frontiers in neuroimmunology. CRNI. San Raffaele Hospital and Associazione Italiana Neuroimmunologia.

“Immunity and mind”

10/06/2011, Udine

Corso di Perfezionamento Avanzato dell'Università degli studi di Verona “Implementazione e valutazione di interventi innovativi per i pazienti all'esordio psicotico e i loro familiari nei DSM”. Modulo: “Interpretazione e significato clinico delle alterazioni neuropsicologiche nei pazienti all'esordio psicotico”.

“Connettività cerebrale nelle psicosi maggiori”

10-11/10/ 2011, Udine

Il ruolo dell'imaging nelle ricerche in psichiatria.

“Spettroscopia in schizofrenia e disturbo bipolare”

Dr. Paolo Brambilla

28 /01/2011, Udine

La cura dei DCA in Ospedale: “Dall'ingresso alla dimissione”. Corso di Aggiornamento interdepartimentale, AOU – Udine.

“Attività di ricerca nei DCA in Ospedale”

19-22/01/ 2011, Bressanone

Giornate di Neuropsicologia dell'Eta' Evolutiva – VI edizione. Società Italiana di Neuropsichiatria dell'Infanzia e dell'Adolescenza.

“Precursori neuropsicologici nelle psicosi adolescenziali”

16 -19/03/2011, Bergamo

11° Corso Residenziale Di Neuroimmunologia. Associazione Italiana Neuroimmunologia.

“Immunità e schizofrenia”

Professor Lorenzo Burti

4 February 2011, Padova

Comunità Terapeutica Riabilitativa Protetta della Clinica Psichiatrica - III Serv.Psichiatrico

“Seminario supervisione operatori”

14 May 2011, Verona

Rotary Club.

“Che Piacere” : una strategia multimodale e pluriennale per la prevenzione del consumo di alcol negli adolescenti”

23 November 2011 Verona

2^ Conferenza Aziendale sulla Ricerca: Neuroscienze, Salute mentale e Psicologia clinica, Azienda Ospedaliera Universitaria Integrata

“Diritti umani e salute fisica nei pazienti psichiatrici territoriali e istituzionalizzati”

Dr. Katia De Santi

21 May 2011, Negrar (Verona)

Convegno “Per una vita come prima”, Ospedale Sacro Cuore Negrar (Verona)

“Supporto psicologico-psichiatrico nelle cure palliative: ai pazienti e ai familiari”

25-26 November 2011, Napoli

5° Corso CA.M.ME.O. (Carcinoma Mammario Metastatico Oggi)

“Dalla parte del paziente: aspetti psicologico-psichiatrici”

Dr. Claudia Goss

7, 8 ottobre 2011 – Lucignano (AR)

AutoMS Investigators' Meeting

“OPTION training”

Dr. Antonio. Lasalvia

14-16 September 2011, Verona

10° Congresso Nazionale Società Italiana di Riabilitazione Psicosociale: Nuovi bisogni e risposte innovative: la riabilitazione che cambia.

“L’impatto della disabilità sociale sulla vita quotidiana dei pazienti psicotici all’esordio: l’effetto del contesto sul ruolo di genere. Dati dal PICOS-Veneto”

29 November 2011, Legnago (VR)

Corso di formazione aziendale DSM ULSS 21, “Il trattamento integrato degli esordi psicotici”

“Il programma Strategico GET UP”

Dr. Cinzia Perlini

10/06/2011, Udine

Corso di Perfezionamento Avanzato dell’Università degli studi di Verona “Implementazione e valutazione di interventi innovativi per i pazienti all’esordio psicotico e i loro familiari nei DSM”. Modulo: “Interpretazione e significato clinico delle alterazioni neuropsicologiche nei pazienti all’esordio psicotico”.

“I disturbi del linguaggio nelle psicosi maggiori”

Dr. Gianluca Rambaldelli

10-11/10/ 2011, Udine

“Il ruolo dell’imaging nelle ricerche in psichiatria”.

“Spettroscopia nei primi episodi psicotici” e “Spettroscopia in schizofrenia e disturbo bipolare”

Professor Mirella Ruggeri

23 November 2011, Verona

2° Conferenza Aziendale sulla Ricerca Neuroscienze, Salute Mentale e Psicologia Clinica

“Psichiatria, Psicosomatica e Psicologia Clinica: l’utilità del modello bio-psico-sociale nelle pratiche di routine”

29 November and 6 December 2011, Verona

Evento formativo Aziendale: L’intervento tempestivo e precoce nei casi di psicosi all’esordio attraverso una presa in carico intensiva di Case Management.

“L’intervento precoce nelle psicosi all’esordio”

Dr. Roberta Siani

8,15,22 February, 9,16,23 March 2011, Verona

Istituto Professionale di Stato per i Servizi Alberghieri e della Ristorazione Angelo Berti

“I disturbi alimentari”

23,25,26 May 2011, Verona

La Valutazione del rischio stress correlato ai sensi D.Lgs 81/80: finalità e modello operativo aziendale, Azienda Ospedaliera Universitaria Integrata

“I soggetti e gli strumenti per la promozione del benessere organizzativo in Azienda”.

14 September 2011, Verona

10° Congresso Nazionale della Società Italiana di Riabilitazione Psicosociale: Nuovi bisogni e risposte innovative: la riabilitazione che cambia. corso pregressuale: Disturbi del Comportamento Alimentare.

“Introduzione e inquadramento diagnostico”

21 October 2011, Arcugnano (VI)

Convegno inter-regionale SISDCA Triveneto

“La presa in carico”.

19 November 2011, Verona

Medicina del dolore: cultura, diritto e terapia, Azienda Ospedaliera Universitaria Integrata

“L’approccio psicologico al dolore”

Professor Michele Tansella

Professor Michele Tansella in 2011 has given Seminars and Lectures in Venezia (January 28), Urbino (February 4), Milano at the S. Paolo Hospital (April 13), Bari (April 15), Verona (September 14), Trieste at the Summer School organised by the WHO Collaborating Centre (September 19), Cagliari (October 21), Milano at the Mario Negri Institute (October 24), Bologna (December 1) and Mestre (December 16).

Dr. Sarah Tosato

1-3 December 2011, Bologna

10° Congresso Nazionale della Società Italiana di Epidemiologia Psichiatrica

“L’abuso di sostanze nei pazienti all’esordio psicotico: dati dallo studio PICOS-Veneto”

14-16 September 2011, Verona

10° Congresso Nazionale Società Italiana di Riabilitazione Psicosociale: Nuovi bisogni e risposte innovative: la riabilitazione che cambia

“La genetica dei disturbi della condotta alimentare”

15-19 February 2011, Roma

15° Congresso della Società Italiana di Psicopatologia

“Vantaggi e limiti dell’implementazione e la valutazione di interventi innovativi per l’esordio psicotico nei Dipartimenti di Salute Mentale italiani”

“Vulnerabilità genetica e fattori di rischio nel percorso che conduce all’esordio psicotico”

Journal Club. Critical review of recent international literature

<i>Date</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Presenter</i>
17/01/2011	Major depressive disorder with subthreshold bipolarity in the National Comorbidity Survey Replication	Dr. Romana Rama
31/01/2011	Modification of cognitive performance in schizophrenia by Complexin 2 Gene Polymorphisms	Dr. Damiano Pecile
14/02/2011	Reassessing the long-term risk of suicide after a first episode of psychosis	Dr. Alessandro Pompoli

Lectures and Seminars given abroad

Professor Corrado Barbui

November 18 – November 29, 2011, Athens, Greece. Annual EPAPSY Meeting.
“Rational Use of Psychotropic Drugs”

Dr. Paolo Brambilla

January 30 – February 2, 2011, Innsbruck, Austria. 16th Biennial Winter Workshop in Psychoses.
“Neuropsychological markers of juvenile patients at high clinical risk of Bipolar Disorder”

March 12-15, 2011, Vienna, Austria. 19th AEP Congress.
“Brain structural changes and antipsychotics”

May 10th, 2011, Milan, Italy. 4th INNOPSY Congress.
“Discussant of imaging studies in bipolar disorders”

May 13th, 2011, Monterrey, Mexico. University of Monterrey and Dr. Manuel Camelo Foundation.
“Key note speaker on major psychoses and autism”

May 29 – June 2, 2011, Prague, Czech Republic. 10th World Congress of Biological Psychiatry.
“Altered mRNA levels of chemokines and cytokines in schizophrenia and bipolar disorder”

June 2nd, 2011, Prague, Check Republic. WFSBP Congress.
“Abnormal neurodevelopment and dopaminergic neurotransmission in schizophrenia: The potential role of prenatal infection and immune system”

October 20 - 22, 2011, Santander, Spain. 9th International Meeting on the Early Phases of Mental Illness, University of Cantabria.
“Neurocognitive features of children and adolescents at high clinical risk for major psychoses: can they be used as markers for early diagnosis and for innovative prevention strategies?”

Dr. Andrea Cipriani

7 luglio 2011, Oxford, United Kingdom. European College of Neuropsychopharmacology - International School of Neuropsychopharmacology.
“Antidepressants: meta-analysis”

Dr. Antonio Lasalvia

May 6th, 2011, Rovigo, Italy, “Innovations in Mental Health Training” ENTER’s International Conference
“Feasibility barriers and effectiveness of specific treatments for early psychosis in routine mental health care”

June 23 – 25, 2011, Ulm, Germany, 9th ENMESH International Conference.
“A survey on experienced and anticipated discrimination in first-episode psychotic patients: findings from the PICOS project”

Professor Michele Tansella

Professor Michele Tansella in 2011 has given Seminars and Lectures in London (June 10), Ulm (June 23-25), and Thessaloniki (November 4).

Dr. Sarah Tosato

June 23 – 25, 2011, Ulm, Germany, 9th ENMESH International Conference.
“Substance misuse in first episode psychotic patients: sociodemographic, premorbid and clinical correlates. Data from the PICOS-Veneto study”

Research Grants

The following projects have been funded during the year 2008-2010:

DESCRIPTION	Funding Institution	Scientific Coordinator	Total/Grant
Promozione della salute fisica mediante intervento sugli stili di vita relativi ad attività motoria e abitudini alimentari in pazienti affetti da psicosi funzionali afferenti ai Servizi Psichiatrici Territoriali del Dipartimento Interaziendale per la Salute Mentale di Verona (PHYSICO-DSM-VR)	Fondazione CariVerona, Verona	Professor L. Burti	300.000,00 €
“European networks for the promotion of the healthy living conditions in psychiatric care institutions” (HELPS)	Public Health Executive Agency (PHEA), London	Professor L. Burti	52.000,00 €
“GET UP (Genetics, Endophenotypes and Treatment: Understanding early Psychosis)”	Ministry of Health, Rome	Professor M. Ruggeri	760.000,00 €
“Systematic review of meta-analyses on the efficacy of SSRI and SNRI in the treatment of Major Depression”	German Medicine Health Authority	Professor C. Barbui	20.000,00 €
“Anti Stigma Programme: European Network (ASPEN)”	European Commission, Directorate General for Health and Consumer Affaire, Public Health Executive Agency	Dr. A. Lasalvia	76.309,00 €
“Institutional Treatment, Human Rights and Care Assessment” (BURTITHACA)	Public Health Executive Agency (PHEA), London	Professor L. Burti	80.798,27 €
“Randomized evaluation of the effectiveness of lithium in addition to standard treatment in individuals with depression and suicide risk. An independent, pragmatic, multicentre, parallel-group, superiority trial (Studio CHAT)”	AIFA, Rome	Professor C. Barbui	470.000,00 €
"I percorsi di cura dei pazienti inseriti nelle strutture residenziali psichiatriche. Analisi dei bisogni e dei costi."	MIUR ex 60%	Professor F. Amaddeo	5.596,00 €
	MIUR ex 60%	Professor C. Barbui	7.471,00 €
“Efficacy and acceptability of escitalopram compared with other antidepressants: a systematic review and meta-analysis”	MIUR ex 60%	Dr. A. Cipriani	8.922,00 €
“The clinical correlates of Neurological Soft Signs in a representative sample of first episode psychosis patients”	MIUR ex 60%	Professor M. Ruggeri	7.016,00 €
	MIUR ex 60%	Professor C. Zimmermann	6.367,00 €
	MIUR ex 60%	Professor M. Tansella	7.316,00 €
	MIUR ex 60%	Professor L. Burti	3.809,00 €

Update of World Health Organization (WHO) the list of Essential Medicines for mental disorders	WHO, Geneva	Professor C. Barbui	
Establishing a regional genetic and clinical register of eating disorders (5 centres)	Bio.Ve.D.A.	Professor L. Burti	40.000 € (sulla quota totale di 200.000 €)

The following Institutions and Funding Bodies have provided financial support and Grants to Research projects of our Centre during the previous years:

DESCRIPTION	Funding Institution	Scientific Coordinator	Total/Grant
Implementing Mental Health Promotion Action (TANSIMHPA)	European Union	Professor M. Ruggeri / Dr. M. Stegagno	10.382,00 €
Donation (TANSPFIZER)	Pfizer Italia SRL	Professor M. Tansella	75.000,00 €
Mental Health Economics-European Network (AMADDLSE)	European Community (LSE), London	Professor F. Amaddeo	11.181,50 €
“Promuovere la ricerca scientifica per migliorare la qualità delle cure. Il Centro OMS di Ricerca sulla Salute Mentale, Verona” (TANSFOND06) (Three year research program)	Fondazione CariVerona	Professor M. Tansella	600.000,00 €
Disabilità Cognitiva E Comportamentale Nelle Demenze E Nelle Psicosi. Sotto-Obiettivo A.9. Basi Morfofunzionali Cognitive E Genetiche Delle Psicosi Maggiori: Uno Studio Integrato Longitudinale” (BRAINIMAG) (Three year research program)	Fondazione CariVerona	Dr Paolo Brambilla	140.339,50
Disabilità Cognitiva E Comportamentale Nelle Demenze E Nelle Psicosi. Sotto-Obiettivo A.9. Basi Morfofunzionali Cognitive E Genetiche Delle Psicosi Maggiori: Uno Studio Integrato Longitudinale” (Genetics) (Three year research program)	Fondazione CariVerona	Professor M. Ruggeri	94.374 €
“Identification and treatment of depression in comorbidity with physical illness” (RUGMSALU)	Ministry of Health, Rome	Professor M. Ruggeri	150.000,00 €
“Toward a new definition of schizophrenia: the biological basis of a core phenotype” (RUGJOINT07)	Glaxo SmithKline Spa and University of Verona	Professor M. Ruggeri	90.000,00 €
“Economic evaluation of psychiatric care in Ukraina, Moldova and Georgia”	WHO-Regional Office for Europe, Copenhagen	Professor F. Amaddeo	11.680,44 €
“Genotype, endophenotype and phenotype: identifying etiopathogenetic factors of psychoses for the development of preventive models and individualised therapeutic strategies”	Veneto Region, Azienda Ospedaliera di Verona	Dr. A. Lasalvia	70.000,00 €
“Geographical distance, socio-economic status (SES) and utilization of community-based mental health services”	MIUR ex 60%	Professor M. Tansella	7.248,00 €

“Socio-economic Status, urbanicity and mental health”	Italian Ministry of Health	Professor F. Amaddeo	153.000,00 €
Donation for PICOS project	AITSAM	Professor M. Ruggeri	2.000,00 €
“The development of the Italian version of the Diagnostic Interview for Psychosis”	MIUR ex 60%	Professor F. Amaddeo	5.205,00 €
“Selective serotonin-reuptake inhibitors versus other types of pharmacotherapy for depression: systematic reviews and meta-analyses of randomised controlled trials”	MIUR ex 60%	Professor C. Barbui	12.494,00 €
“Comparative efficacy and acceptability of 12 new generation antidepressants: a mixed-treatment comparison meta-analysis”	MIUR ex 60%	Dr. A. Cipriani	9.391,00 €
“Relationship between COMT and affective symptoms in schizophrenia: a 6-year follow-up study”	MIUR ex 60%	Professor M. Ruggeri	6.795,00 €
Citizens’ preferences concerning communication issues in medicine. A multicentre study	MIUR ex 60%	Professor C. Zimmermann	5.665,00 €
Update of World Health Organization (WHO) the list of Essential Medicines for mental disorders	WHO, Geneva	Professor C. Barbui	

Research Unit: Psychiatric Register, Economics and Geograpy of Mental Health

Head: **Professor Francesco Amaddeo, MD, PhD**

Research on Financing systems' Effect on the Quality of Mental Health Care – REFINEMENT, funded by the EU-FP7 (F. Amaddeo, L. Grigoletti, V. Donisi, I. Montagni, D. Salazzari & F. Tedeschi)

Mortality and avoidable mortality among psychiatric patients. A 20-year case register study (G. Perini, A. Biggeri, L. Grigoletti, A. Rossi, C. Barbui, M. Tansella & F. Amaddeo)

Mortality for cancer in Verona in psychiatric patients and in the general population (M. Tansella, F. Amaddeo, C. Barbui, G. Perini, L. Grigoletti, M. Nosè & A. Rossi)

Geographical distance, socio-economic status (SES) and utilization of community-based mental health services (L. Grigoletti, J. Jones, G. Zulian, R. Pertile, V. Donisi, M. Ballarin, M. Tansella & F. Amaddeo)

Economic evaluation of psychiatric care in Ukraina, Moldova and Georgia (F. Amaddeo)

Atlas of Mental Health Care in the Verona Health District (G. Zulian, F. Amaddeo, L. Grigoletti)

Urbanicity and psychiatric care (G. Zulian, V. Donisi, L. Grigoletti, R. Pertile, A. Rossi, E. Rigon, M. Tansella & F. Amaddeo)

Mobility of psychiatric patients in community-based mental health centres (G. Zulian, V. Donisi, R. Pertile, L. Grigoletti, L. Rabbi & F. Amaddeo)

Continuity of care and outcome in a community-based system of mental health care (A. Rossi, V. Vailati Venturi & F. Amaddeo)

The evaluation of a new funding system for mental health departments: results from a multi-centre Italian study (*I-psycost*) (L. Grigoletti, A. Grassi, M. Boldrini, M. Chiappelli, M. Percudani, F. Catapano, A. Fiorillo, L. Bartoli, M. Bacigalupi, P. Albanese, S. Simonetti, F. Perali, P. De Agostini, M. Tansella & F. Amaddeo)

Research Unit: Clinical Psychopharmacology & Drug Epidemiology

Head: **Professor Corrado Barbui, MD**

Monitoring the use of psychotropic drugs in clinical practice: analysis of a psychotropic drug register (M. Nosè, E. Esposito, M. Bianchini, P. Petrosecolo & C. Barbui)

Selective serotonin-reuptake inhibitors versus other types of pharmacotherapy for depression: systematic reviews and meta-analyses of randomised controlled trials. (A. Cipriani, M. Dieterich & C. Barbui)

Comparative efficacy and acceptability of 12 new generation antidepressants: a mixed-treatment comparison meta-analysis. (A. Cipriani, T. A. Furukawa, G. Salanti, J.R. Geddes, R. Churchill, J. Higgins, H. McGuire, N. Watanabe, A. Nakagawa, I.M. Omori & C. Barbui)

Clozapine, Haloperidol, Aripiprazole Trial (CHAT): Randomized evaluation of the effectiveness of clozapine and aripiprazole versus clozapine and haloperidol in the treatment of schizophrenia. An independent, pragmatic, multicentre, parallel-group, superiority trial. (C. Barbui, A. Cipriani, M. Nosè, A. Veronese, E. Esposito, P. Petrosecolo, S. Accordini & M. Tansella)

Randomized evaluation of the effectiveness of lithium in subjects with treatment-resistant depression and suicide risk. An independent, pragmatic, multicentre, parallel-group, superiority trial. (C. Barbui, A. Cipriani, M. Nosè, M. Purgato, F. Girlanda, E. Esposito, G. Bisoffi & M. Tansella)

Pharmacological treatment of mental disorders in primary health care". Development of a booklet to assist WHO in increasing the rational use of psychotropic drugs in low and middle income countries

(C. Barbui, & A. Cipriani)

Comparative efficacy and acceptability of pharmacological treatments for acute mania. A multiple treatment meta-analysis.

(A. Cipriani, C. Barbui, G. Salanti, J. Rendell, R. Brown, S. Stockton, M. Purgato, LM. Spineli, GM. Goodwin, JR. Geddes)

Fluoxetine versus other type of pharmacotherapy for deopression (Cochrane Systematic Review)

(C. Barbui, L. Magni,, C. Gastaldon, M. Purgato, A. Cipriani)

Paroxetine versus other antidepressive agents for depression. (Cochrane Systematic Review)

(A. Cipriani, M. Purgato, D. Papola, C. Barbui)

Subjective tolerability of antipsychotic drugs: an epidemiological perspective using the Liverpool University Neuroleptic Side-Effects Rating Scale

(M. Nosè, E. Esposito, M Bianchini, P. Petrosecolo & C. Barbui)

Development of an essential health package to assist WHO to scale up care for mental, neurological and substance use disorders (mhGAP Intervention Package)

(C. Barbui)

Research Unit: Brain Imaging & Neuropsychology

Head: **Dr. Paolo Brambilla**, MD, PhD

Disabilità Cognitiva E Comportamentale Nelle Demenze E Nelle Psicosi

Obiettivo A.9 “Basi Morfofunzionali, Cognitive E Genetiche Delle Psicosi Maggiori: Uno Studio Integrato Longitudinale”

(M. Bellani, C. Perlino, A. Ferro, S. Cerruti, N. Dusi, V. Marinelli, G. Rambaldelli, S.Tosato M. Tansella A. Beltramello, M. Ruggeri & P. Brambilla)

GET UP – Contrabass. COgnitive Neuroendophenotypes for Treatment and RehAbilitation of psychoses: Brain imaging. inflAMmation and Stress.

(C. Perlino, V. Marinelli, M. Bellani, G. Rambaldelli, A. Bertoldo, M. Atzori, F. Mazzi, P. Carpeggiani, A. Beltramello, F. Alessandrini, F. Pizzini, G. Zoccatelli, M.Sberna, A. Konze)

Following Imaging and Resilience features in Schizophrenia and affecTive disorders (FIRST)

(M. Bellani, C. Perlino, N. Dusi R. Cerini, R. Pozzi-Mucelli, A. Ferro, S. Cerruti, V. Marinelli, G. Rambaldelli, M. Tansella & P. Brambilla)

Prevention on Psychotic and Affective Events (PREVENT)

(M. Bellani, C. Perlino, N. Dusi A. Ferro, L. Tomelleri, M. Atzori, G. Rambaldelli, A. Beltramello, F. Alessandrini, F. Pizzini, G. Zoccatelli, M. Tansella & P. Brambilla)

The neurobiological underpinnings of social psychiatry

(N. Dusi, M. Bellani, G. Rambaldelli, C. Perlino, R. Cerini, R. Pozzi-Mucelli, M. Tansella & P. Brambilla)

Perfusion imaging studies in human brain

(G. Rambaldelli, D. Peruzzo, M. Bellani, M. Atzori, A. Bertoldo, F. Zanderigo, M. Tansella, C. Cobelli & P. Brambilla)

Cognitive and language disturbances in schizophrenia

(C. Perlino, V. Marinelli, A. Ferro, S. Cerruti, M. Bellani, G. Rambaldelli, F. Fabbro, A. Marini, M. Tansella & P. Brambilla)

Investigation of brain connectivity in twins

(M. Bellani, C. Fagnani, S. Cerruti, C. D’Ippolito, G. Rambaldelli, S. Alviti, C. Perlino, M. Tansella, M. Balestrieri, S. Stazi, P. Brambilla)

Neurodevelopmental markers of Autism

(L. Zocante, A. Ferro, G. Rambaldelli, M. Bellani, C. Perlino, M. Tansella, B. Dalla Bernardina, P. Brambilla)

Evaluation of white matter alterations using diffusion tensor imaging techniques.

(M. Bellani, C. Perlino, G. Rambaldelli, V. Marinelli, S. Cerruti, A. Ferro, N. Dusi, L. Squarcina, A. Bertoldo, G. Zoccatelli, F. Alessandrini, F. Pizzini, A. Beltramello, M. Tansella, P. Brambilla)

A European multicentre Voxel Based Morphometry study of major psychoses (JEVESAMI, Jena-Verona-Santander-Milan)

(I. Nenadic, F. Crespo Facorro, F. Benedetti, C. Gaser, G. Rambaldelli, M. Bellani, C. Perlino, V. Marinelli, S. Cerruti, A. Ferro, N. Dusi, P. Brambilla)

Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) in Psychiatric Imaging

(C. Corradi Dell'Acqua, C. Perlino, M. Bellani, G. Rambaldelli, L. Tomelleri, R. Cerini, R. Pozzi-Mucelli, M. Tansella, P. Brambilla)

Classification of psychiatric disorders using brain imaging data

(U. Castellani, M. Bellani, D. Cheng, S. Cerruti, G. Rambaldelli, C. Perlino, M. Tansella, V. Murino, P. Brambilla)

Research Unit: Integrating physical health, mental health and human rights

Head: **Professor Lorenzo Burti, MD**

Helps. European network for promoting health of residents in psychiatric and social care institutions

(L. Burti, L. Berti, G. Imperadore, R. Kilian & Th. Becker)

Physico: Physical co-morbidity, poor health behaviour and health promotion

(L. Berti, E. Bonfioli, G. Imperadore, M. Mazzi & L. Burti)

Self-Help II: The Verona self-help group: Patterns of members' participation and ability of the program to meet their expectations

(L. Berti, C. Bonetto, D. Cristofalo, E. Guerriero, P. Vanzini & L. Burti)

Bio.Ve.D.A.: Establishing a regional genetic and clinical register of eating disorders

(R. Siani, E. Bison, D. Di Pauli, C. Guarnier, L. Ravazzin, S. Tosato, S. Viccaro, P. Santonastaso & L. Burti)

Research Unit: Environmental, Clinical and Genetic Determinants of Outcome of Mental Disorders

Head: **Professor Mirella Ruggeri, MD, PhD**

GET UP (Genetics, Endophenotypes and Treatment: Understanding early Psychosis)

(M. Ruggeri, A. Lasalvia, S. Tosato, P. Brambilla, M. Bertani, C. Bonetto, S. Bissoli, D. Cristofalo, C. Perlino, K. De Santi & M. Tansella)

SGENE: A Large Scale Genome-Wide Association Study of Schizophrenia addressing variation in expressivity and contribution from environmental factors

(S. Tosato, C. Bonetto & M. Ruggeri)

European network of national schizophrenia network studying Gene-Environment Interaction (EU GEI)

(M. Ruggeri, A. Lasalvia, S. Tosato, K. De Santi, D. Cristofalo, C. Bonetto, G. Zanatta & E. Dal Corso)

Toward a new definition of schizophrenia: the biological basis of a core phenotype – Joint Project Glaxo/University of Verona

(S. Tosato, C. Bonetto, M. Bertani, M. Zanoni & M. Ruggeri)

Identification and treatment of depression in comorbidity with physical illness: the DECO-TRE Project.

(M. Ruggeri, K. De Santi, D. Cappellari, A. Cipriani & C. Barbui)

PICOS- Psychosis Incident Cohort Outcome Study. A multisite collaborative project on the clinical, social and biological factors predicting outcome in the new cases of psychoses in the Veneto Region, Italy

(M. Ruggeri, A. Lasalvia, S. Tosato, P. Brambilla, M. Bertani, C. Bonetto, S. Bissoli, D. Cristofalo, E. Ira, M. Zanoni, G. Marrella, K. De Santi, G. Zanatta, L. Lazzarotto, M. Tansella & Gruppo PICOS)

Genotype, endophenotype and phenotype: identifying etiopathogenetic factors of psychoses for the development of preventive models and individualised therapeutic strategies

(M. Ruggeri, S. Tosato, A. Lasalvia, C. Bonetto, D. Collier, M. Di Forti, R. Murray & M. Tansella)

Schizotaxia: epidemiology and clinical and neuropsychological validation

(A. Lasalvia, M. Ruggeri, S. Scala, M. Tansella, C. Bonetto, D. Berardi, D. Cristofalo, G.F. Placidi & S. Scarone)

Implementing mental health promotion action (IMHPA Study)

(M. Ruggeri & M. Bertani)

Assessing self-perceived discrimination and stigma following the first episode of psychosis by using the DISC-11 Scale
(A. Lasalvia, S. Zoppei, G. Thornicroft, M. Bertani, S. Bissoli, D. Cristofalo, L. Lazzarotto & M. Ruggeri)

Relationship between the presence of candidate gene (Dysbindin, Neuregulin 1, BDNF) for schizophrenia and illness onset and severity: a 6-year follow-up study
(M. Ruggeri, S. Tosato, C. Bonetto, M. Zanoni, A. Lasalvia, D. Collier, M. Di Forti, R. Murray & M. Tansella)

International Study of Discrimination and Stigma Outcomes (INDIGO Multisite Study)
(L. Burti, A. Lasalvia & M. Tansella)

Implementing NICE Guidelines of schizophrenia in routine clinical practice: a multisite project in Italian mental health services
(L. Burti, A. Lasalvia, S. Bissoli, D. Semisa & M. Ruggeri)

Comparison of drug abuse among patients at their first episode of psychosis in Italy and the UK
(S. Tosato, A. Lasalvia, R. Murray & M. Ruggeri)

Extended endophenotypes in early psychosis.
(E. Ira, M. Zanoni, C. Bonetto, M. Ruggeri & S. Tosato)

Comparison of gender differences among patients at their first episode of psychosis in Italy and the UK
(M. Bertani, A. Lasalvia, R. Murray & M. Ruggeri)

Outcome evaluation of sheltered hostels for mentally disabled people in 17 Italian Regions.
(M. Ruggeri, A. Lasalvia, S. Bissoli, R. Radici, S. Zizolfi & G. Fioretti)

Physical health and lifestyle in patients at their psychosis onset. A multicentric European Study
(A. Lasalvia, P. Santo, S. Tosato & M. Ruggeri)

Anti Stigma Programme: European Network (ASPEN)
(A. Lasalvia, C. Bonetto, L. Burti, D. Cristofalo & S. Zoppei)

Research Unit: Clinical Psychology & Communication in Medicine

Head: Professor Christa Zimmermann, Dr. Psychol., PhD.

Information giving in psychiatric and general hospital patients
(C. Goss, L. Del Piccolo, M.A. Mazzi, S. Fontanesi, F. Moretti, M. Rimondini & Ch. Zimmermann)

The involvement of psychiatric patients in the decision making process
(Ch. Zimmermann, L. Del Piccolo, C. Goss, T. Pozzan, M.A. Mazzi & M. Rimondini)

The evaluation of communication skills training in psychiatry.
(M. Rimondini, L. Del Piccolo, C. Goss, M.A. Mazzi & Ch. Zimmermann)

Validation of the consensus definitions of patient cues/ concerns and related physician behaviour during medical consultations.
(L. Del Piccolo, C. Goss, M.A. Mazzi, F. Moretti, M. Rimondini & Ch. Zimmermann)

Citizens' view and preferences concerning communication issues in medicine. A multicentre study
(F. Moretti, Jozién Bensing, Ian Fletcher, M. Rimondini, M.A. Mazzi, L. Del Piccolo, C. Goss, G. Deledda & Ch. Zimmermann)

The informative needs of breast cancer patients and their involvement in treatment decisions
(C. Goss, C. Zimmermann, G. Deledda, M.A. Mazzi, A. Bottacini)

The informative needs of psychotic patients and their family members and their involvement in treatment decisions
(C. Goss, C. Zimmermann, G. Deledda, M.A. Mazzi, A. Bottacini)