



Azienda Ospedaliera
Universitaria Integrata Verona



Azienda ULSS 20 Verona



**Department of Public Health and Community Medicine
University of Verona**

Section of Psychiatry (Head: Professor Mirella Ruggeri)

Section of Clinical Psychology (Head: Professor Lidia Del Piccolo)

**WHO Collaborating Centre for Research and Training in Mental Health
and Service Evaluation (Director: Professor Corrado Barbui)**

SCIENTIFIC REPORT 2013



The main research activities carried out by the Research Units of **the Section of Psychiatry and the Section of Clinical Psychology** focus on geography of mental health, costs evaluation, evaluation of mental health services, effectiveness of psychosocial interventions, environmental, clinical and biological predictors of outcome, genetics and neuroimaging of schizophrenic and bipolar disorders, clinical psychopharmacology, communication in medicine. The staff (more than 50 persons) includes psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, computer scientists, physicists, geographers and social scientists, statisticians, technicians and secretaries.

In 1987 the Section of Psychiatry and Clinical Psychology has been designated by the World Health Organization (WHO) - due to its reputation in research, teaching and training activities - as **WHO Collaborating Centre for Research and Training in Mental Health and Service Evaluation**. The last redesignation occurred in November 2013 and will last four years.

Total Impact Factor (IF) of Papers

2013: IF 430.488 (IF 2012)

2012: IF 223.167 (IF 2012)
2011: IF 393.135 (IF 2011)
2010: IF 174.288 (IF 2010)
2009: IF 234.473 (IF 2009)
2008: IF 144.833

2007: IF 224.870
2006: IF 76.469
2005: IF 116.637
2004: IF 83.134

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TABLE OF CONTENTS



Research **Education
and
Training** **Care
and
Treatment**

- Peer reviewed Journals that published in 2013 papers
by members of Section of Psychiatry - Impact Factor (2012) pag. 1
- Peer reviewed Journals that published in 2013 papers
by members of Section of Clinical Psychology - Impact Factor (2012) pag. 2
- H Index and number of citations of scientific staff of the
Sections of Psychiatry and Clinical Psychology with a
tenured position pag. 3
- The Research Units of the Section of Psychiatry pag. 5
- The Research Units of the Section of Clinical Psychology pag. 9
- The WHO Collaborating Centre for Research and Training
in Mental Health and Service Evaluation pag. 10
- Papers and books pag. 12
- Research Grants pag. 24
- The South-Verona community-based mental health
Service: clinical and teaching activities pag. 29
- Appointments and administrative positions of members
of the Verona WHO Centre with a tenured position (2013) pag. 32
- Main on-going Research projects 2010-2013 pag. 35

**PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS THAT PUBLISHED IN 2013
PAPERS BY MEMBERS OF SECTION OF PSYCHIATRY
IMPACT FACTOR (2012)**

International Journals	No. of papers	Impact Factor	Total Impact Factor
<i>Applied Health Economics and Health Policy</i>	1		
<i>Biological Psychiatry</i>	1	9.247	9.247
<i>British Journal of Psychiatry</i>	3	6.606	19.818
<i>BMC Psychiatry</i>	1	2.233	2.233
<i>Case Reports in Psychiatry</i>	1		
<i>Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews</i>	4	5.785	23.140
<i>Computational and Mathematical Methods in Medicine</i>	1	0.791	0.791
<i>Cost Effectiveness and Resources Allocation</i>	1		
<i>Current Opinion in Psychiatry</i>	1	3.422	3.422
<i>Epidemiology and Psychiatric Sciences</i>	16	2.938	47.008
<i>Evidence Based Mental Health</i>	1		
<i>Frontiers in Pharmacology</i>	1		
<i>General Hospital Psychiatry</i>	1	2.977	2.977
<i>International Journal of Clinical Practice</i>	1	2.427	2.427
<i>International Journal of Mental Health Systems</i>	1	1.062	1.062
<i>JAMA</i>	1	29.978	29.978
<i>Journal of Affective Disorders</i>	1	3.195	3.195
<i>Journal of Clinical Psychopharmacology</i>	1	3.513	3.513
<i>Journal of Comparative Effectiveness Research</i>	1		
<i>Journal of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research</i>	1		
<i>Journal of Psychiatry and Neuroscience</i>	1	6.242	6.242
<i>Journal of Psychiatric Research</i>	1	4.066	4.066
<i>Lancet</i>	3	39.060	156.24
<i>Lancet (Authors' reply) (10% of the I.F.)</i>	2	3.906	3.906
<i>Nature Genetics</i>	1	35.209	35.209
<i>PLOS Genetics</i>	1	8.517	8.517
<i>PLOS Medicine</i>	2	15.253	30.506
<i>PLOS One</i>	1	3.730	3.730
<i>Psychiatry Research</i>	1	2.456	2.456
<i>Psychological Medicine</i>	2	5.587	11.174
<i>Psyco-Oncology</i>	1	3.506	3.506
<i>Schizophrenia Research</i>	1	4.590	4.59
<i>Statistics in Medicine</i>	1	2.044	2.044
TOTAL	58		418.059

**PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS THAT PUBLISHED IN 2013
PAPERS BY MEMBERS OF SECTION OF CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY
IMPACT FACTOR (2012)**

International Journals	No. of papers	Impact Factor	Total Impact Factor
<i>BMJ Open</i>	1	1.583	1.583
<i>Patient Education and Counseling</i>	3	2.372	7.116
<i>PLOS One</i>	1	3.730	3.730
TOTAL	5		12.429

H INDEX AND NUMBER OF CITATIONS OF SCIENTIFIC STAFF OF THE SECTIONS OF PSYCHIATRY AND CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY WITH A TENURED POSITION

Scopus database, Citations from 1996 (search completed on January 13, 2014)	h index (Total)	No. of citations (Total)
<i>Professor Francesco Amaddeo**</i>	18	1060
<i>Professor Corrado Barbui**</i>	34	4498
<i>Dr. Marcella Bellani</i>	10	379
<i>Dr. Chiara Bonetto</i>	14	840
<i>Dr. Paolo Brambilla***</i>	40	4410
<i>Professor Lorenzo Burti*</i>	10	395
<i>Dr. Andrea Cipriani</i>	22	2330
<i>Dr. Doriana Cristofalo</i>	8	269
<i>Dr. Katia De Santi</i>	2	15
<i>Professor Lidia Del Piccolo**</i>	14	466
<i>Dr. Nicola Dusi</i>	8	163
<i>Dr. Claudia Goss</i>	11	339
<i>Dr. Antonio Lasalvia</i>	18	881
<i>Dr. Maria Angela Mazzi</i>	15	599
<i>Dr. Michela Nosè</i>	13	735
<i>Dr. Cinzia Perlini</i>	10	242
<i>Dr. Gianluca Rambaldelli</i>	10	283
<i>Dr. Michela Rimondini</i>	9	229
<i>Dr. Alberto Rossi</i>	7	188
<i>Professor Mirella Ruggeri*</i>	29	4376
<i>Dr. Roberta Siani</i>	2	48
<i>Professor Michele Tansella* (Retired June 9, 2013)</i>	40	5924
<i>Dr. Sarah Tosato</i>	13	2472
<i>Professor Christa Zimmermann* (Retired July 31, 2013)</i>	18	688

*Full Professor

**Associate Professor

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

Light blu members of Psychiatry Section and white members of Clinical Psychology Section

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.

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.
- Hirsch J.E. (2007) Does the *h index* have predictive power? *Proc.Nat.Acad.Sci. USA*, 104, 19193-19198.

THE RESEARCH UNITS OF THE SECTION OF PSYCHIATRY

(Head: Professor Mirella Ruggeri)

Head until June 9, 2013: [Professor Michele Tansella](#)

OVERALL VIEW

The Section of Psychiatry (Department of Public Health and Community Medicine, University of Verona) provides care, education and research.

Clinical activity takes place in the Psychiatric University Clinic, in the Mental Health Centre, 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 system of mental health care, dedicated to the residents in the South-Verona area (100.000 inhabitants) and run by the University of Verona in collaboration with the Hospital Trust and the Local Health Trust No.20.

Education and training is provided for undergraduate students in medicine, in psychosocial rehabilitation and in other health professions, post-graduate residents and post-graduate Ph.D. students.

The areas of research regard epidemiological psychiatry, outcome of psychosocial interventions, genetics and neuroimaging of schizophrenic and bipolar disorders, clinical psychopharmacology, geography of mental health, costs evaluation and evaluation of mental health services.

1) Environmental, Clinical and Genetic Determinants of Outcome of Mental Disorders

Coordinator: [Professor Mirella Ruggeri](#)

Dr. Chiara Bonetto, Dr. Doriana Cristofalo, Dr. Katia De Santi, Dr. Elisa Ira, Dr. Antonio Lasalvia, Dr. Sara Poli, Dr. Sarah Tosato, Dr. Silvia Zoppei

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. At the beginning of 2005 the Unit launched the *Psychosis Incident Cohort Outcome Study (PICOS)*, a multisite longitudinal naturalistic research involving 28 mental health services in the Veneto Region. The PICOS aimed to explore the relationships between clinical and genetic factors in predicting the outcome in an epidemiologically representative cohort of first-episode psychotic patients treated by public mental health services. The 5-year follow-up is nearly finished.

The Unit has recently conducted the Research Program GET UP (*Genetics, Endophenotypes and Treatment: Understanding early Psychosis*), funded by the Italian Ministry of Health with Professor Ruggeri as National Coordinator. It is constituted by four partner projects. Its main axis is a cluster randomized controlled trial (PIANO trial) involving 116 Mental Health Centres located in a catchment area of nearly 10 million inhabitants: The PIANO trial aimed to: 1) test the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of multi-component psychosocial intervention, fostering evidence-based innovation in the area of first-episode psychosis; 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; 3) identify clinical, psychological, and environmental predictors of treatment efficacy in first-episode psychosis. The GET UP also aimed to: 1) evaluate the role of pharmaco-genetic analysis in improving pharmacological treatment efficacy, and 2) identify morpho-functional and neuropsychological factors influencing stress, treatment response, and outcome. The study was ended

in 2012 and publication of findings is currently in progress. 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 developing innovative treatments for patients affected by mental disorders in comorbidity with physical illnesses, and evaluate their effectiveness.

Since 2011 the Unit has joined, as associated partner, 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.

The Unit is currently WP leader of the multisite COFI research (*COmparing policy framework, structure, effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of Functional and Integrated systems of mental health care*), a EU project funded under 7th Framework Programme. The overall aim of COFI is to compare the outcomes of functional (i.e. after hospital admission other clinicians are in contact with the patient for outpatient treatment after discharge) and integrated (i.e. after hospital admission the same clinician is in contact, in face-to-face meetings, with the patient for outpatient treatment after discharge) systems of mental health care across 5 European countries (Belgium, England, Germany, Italy and Poland) in a one year-follow up. The project, started on February 1, 2014, will run until January 31, 2018.

2) Psychiatric Register, Economics & Geography of Mental Health

Coordinator: Professor Francesco Amaddeo

Sig. Mario Ballarin, Dr. Gaia Cetrano, Dr. Valeria Donisi, Dr. Laura Grigoletti, Dr. Ilaria Montagni, Sig.ra Cristina Pighi, Dr. Laura Rabbi, Dr. Alberto Rossi, Dr. Damiano Salazzari, Dr. Federico Tedeschi, Sig.ra Sabrina Zuliani

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 been conducted a samaddeoeries 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 and to assess the association between Socio-Economic Status (SES), services utilisation and costs. Lately the Unit has developed researches regarding the mortality of psychiatric patients, analyzing in detail the general mortality, the avoidable mortality, and the mortality for cancer. Data on mortality of psychiatric patients will also be compared with those of a psychiatric Service in Tromso, Norway. The Unit is conducting a comparison between this Psychiatric Service in Tromso and the Psychiatric Service of Verona Sud.

Recently, the Unit has participated to a national study (funded by the Ministry of Health) that has permitted to develop a new funding system for community-based Mental Health Services. The Unit is the coordinating Centre for a National study on "Socio-economic status, urbanisation and mental health" that use a health geography approach. The Unit collaborated with the WHO centres based in Geneva and Copenhagen on a research project consisting in an evaluation of the psychiatric assistance in Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova.

3) Clinical Psychopharmacology and Drug Epidemiology

Coordinator: Professor Corrado Barbui

Dr. Irene Bighelli, Dr. Mariasole Castellazzi, Dr. Francesca Girlanda, Dr. Michela Nosè, Dr. Marianna Purgato, Dr. Gianluca Rambaldelli (part time)

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) randomized controlled 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 recruiting patients for a multi-centre study; 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.

4) Brain Imaging and Neuropsychology

Coordinator: Dr. Paolo Brambilla

Dr. Marcella Bellani, Dr. Olivia Danzi, Dr. Nicola Dusi, Dr. Veronica Marinelli, Dr. Cinzia Perlini (part-time), Dr. Gianluca Rambaldelli (part time), Dr. Letizia Squarcina

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 major psychoses (bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and unipolar depression) and autism 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 subjects are usually followed in order to have a better idea of the neural profile over time. The main fields of research include brain imaging, neuropsychology, and neuropsychimmunology.

5) Integrating Physical Health, Mental Health & Human Rights

Coordinator: Professor Lorenzo Burti

Dr. Loretta Berti, Dr. Elena Bison (part time), Dr. Elena Bonfioli (part time), Dr. Daniele Di Pauli (part time), Dr. Chiara Guarnier (part time), Dr. Luca Ravazzin (part time), Dr. Silvia Viccaro (part time)

The Research Unit mainly addresses factors necessary to create and successfully implement policy to promote human rights, dignity and general health status of psychiatric patients. The Unit is involved in two multicentric three-year EU projects: ITHACA, recently closed, and HELPS, in its last stage. Currently, the PHYSICO protocol is ongoing, it addresses 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. Moreover,

the Unit is working on the Bio.Ve.D.A., a 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.

THE RESEARCH UNITS OF THE SECTION OF CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

(Head: Professor Lidia Del Piccolo)

Head until July 31, 2013: Professor Christa Zimmermann

OVERALL VIEW

The Section of Clinical Psychology (Department of Public Health and Community Medicine, University of Verona) provides care, education and research.

Clinical activity takes place in the Service of Psychosomatics and Clinical Psychology, which provides outpatient care for patients with panic attacks and affective disorders related to medical conditions, as well as consultations for patients and doctors of other departments of the Academic General Hospital (800 beds).

Education and training is provided either for undergraduate students in medicine, in psychosocial rehabilitation and in other health professions, post-graduate residents and post-graduate Ph.D. students or physicians who attend master courses in risk management and communication skills.

The areas of research regard Clinical Psychology and Communication in Healthcare.

1) Clinical Psychology and Communication in Healthcare

Coordinator: Professor Lidia Del Piccolo

Dr. Alessandro Bottacini, Dr. Giuseppe Deledda, Dr. Claudia Goss, Dr. Andrea Devigili, Dr. Maria Angela Mazzi, Dr. Cinzia Perlini (part-time), Dr. Michela Rimondini

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, the *Verona Coding of Emotional Sequences* (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 five main studies:

- 1) a multi-centre study on patients' perception of the doctors' clinical communication skills (GULIVER: Gent, Verona, Liverpool, Utrecht) where the principal investigators are *Dr. Maria Angela Mazzi* and *Dr. Michela Rimondini*
- 2) a randomized clinical trial on the informative needs of breast cancer patients and their involvement in treatment decisions (Verona, Brescia) where the principal investigator is *Claudia Goss*
- 3) a study 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.
- 4) a multi-centre study in collaboration with the Besta Neurological Institute of Milan denominated "AutoMS: Autonomy preferences, risk knowledge and decision-making performance in multiple sclerosis patients, coordinated by dr. A. Solari.
- 5) a study on the psycho-physiological correlates (skin conductance, hearth and respiratory rate) of doctor-patient communication, in collaboration with other European labs (NIVEL - Netherlands Institute for Health Services Research, Oslo University and AMC Amsterdam University). Title of the study: "*Prognostic disclosure in the palliative phase of breast cancer: Quality of communication from a patient perspective*". The principal investigator is *Lidia Del Piccolo*.

THE WHO COLLABORATING CENTRE FOR RESEARCH AND TRAINING IN MENTAL HEALTH AND SERVICE EVALUATION

(Director: Professor Corrado Barbui)

Head until June 9, 2013: Professor Michele Tansella

In 1987 the Section of Psychiatry and Clinical Psychology has been designated by the World Health Organization (WHO) - due to its reputation in research, teaching and training activities - as *WHO Collaborating Centre for Research and Training in Mental Health and Service Evaluation*. The last redesignation occurred in November 2013 and will last four years.

The main activities of the WHO Collaborating Centre are:

1. Participation in collaborative projects under the Organization's leadership, including systematic reviews and meta-analyses, implementation studies and analyses of existing WHO databases.
2. Planning, organising and conducting, jointly with WHO, training activities such as courses and seminars and information exchange.
3. Collecting, collating and disseminating, on behalf of WHO, scientific information on selected topics, as well as providing expert comments and advice on various draft documents circulated by WHO.

Recent achievements of the WHO Collaborating Centre include the following.

(1) Contribution to the development of mhGAP Programme

In recent years WHO has developed the Mental Health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP). An essential component of mhGAP is the development of an integrated package of interventions for mental disorders identified as conditions of high priority in the programme for the low and middle income countries (LAMIC). The WHO Collaborating Centre in Verona has been assisting WHO by:

- developing evidence profiles using the Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation (GRADE) methodology;
- revising evidence profiles developed by WHO staff and external consultants;
- harmonising all evidence profiles that were subsequently used to draft the mhGAP Intervention Guide;
- updating and revising evidence profiles using the GRADE methodology.

Current version of the WHO mhGAP Intervention Guide is available at

http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2010/9789241548069_eng.pdf

(2) Contribution to the development of a WHO Evidence Resource Centre

The WHO Collaborating Centre in Verona supported WHO in the development of an Electronic Library of Interventions for Mental Disorders, called mhGAP Evidence Resource Centre (ERC). The purpose of the ERC is to provide easy access to the best clinical and non-clinical

information and best practice to everyone in health and social care who takes decisions about treatments. The WHO Collaborating Centre in Verona assisted WHO by:

- Drafting some documents that were published in the ERC;
- Revising all materials that were published in the ERC;
- Conducting literature searches on several international databases to identify systematic reviews on treatments included in the mhGAP programme and in the ERC;
- Updating all the background evidence that was incorporated in the updated evidence profiles.

The WHO mhGAP Evidence Resource Centre is available at http://www.who.int/mental_health/mhgap/evidence/en/index.html

(3) Contribution to the development of WHO Stress-related guidelines

Considering that Agencies working in post-conflict and natural disaster settings are increasingly interested in mental health care, WHO developed a module on the management of problems and disorders specifically related to stress (SPE-STRESS). Within the SPE-STRESS project, the WHO Collaborating Centre in Verona assisted WHO by:

- Conducting literature searches;
- Developing GRADE tables that were incorporated into evidence profiles;
- Revising evidence profiles developed by WHO staff and external consultants;
- Harmonising evidence profiles that were subsequently used to draft a WHO SPE-STRESS module;
- Revising the WHO SPE-STRESS module.

Current version of the WHO SPE-STRESS module is available at http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/85119/1/9789241505406_eng.pdf?ua=1

PAPERS and BOOKS

This list includes full papers, chapters of books and monographs and volumes published in 2013. The Impact Factor (I.F.) scores reported refer to the 2012 release, i.e. the one valid at the date of publication or of the paper's acceptance by the journal. 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: Dr. Lucia Convertino Tel. +39 045 812 6415 lucia.convertino@univr.it

Section of Psychiatry

Published in 2013

A) Papers published in international Journals

- Amadeo F. & Tansella M. (2013). Quality of mental health care indicators to improve care. *Epidemiology and Psychiatric Sciences* 22, 1-2. **I.F. 2012: 2.938**
- Barbui C, Bertolazzi A, Hanife B, Cipriani A. (2013). Treatment choices in women with bipolar disorder seeking pregnancy: a clinical case illustration. *Case Reports in Psychiatry*: 630732.
- Barbui C, Bighelli I. (2013). A new approach to psychiatric drug approval in Europe. *PLOS Medicine* 10: e1001530. **I.F. 2012: 15.253**
- Barbui C. & Bighelli I. (2013). Regulatory science in Europe - the challenging case of schizophrenia trials. *Lancet* 382, 1234-1235. **I.F. 2012: 39.060**
- Barbui C, Conti V, Purgato M, Cipriani A, Fortino I, Rivolta AL, Lora A. (2013). Use of antipsychotic drugs and mood stabilizers in women of childbearing age with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder: epidemiological survey. *Epidemiology and Psychiatric Sciences* 22, 355-361. **I.F. 2012: 2.938**
- Barbui C, Gastaldon C, Cipriani A. (2013). Benzodiazepines and risk of dementia: true association or reverse causation? *Epidemiology and Psychiatric Sciences* 22, 307-8. **I.F. 2012: 2.938**
- Barbui C, Tansella M. (2013). Mental disorders and conditions specifically related to stress. *Epidemiology and Psychiatric Sciences* 22, 195-6. **I.F. 2012: 2.938**

- Bellani, M.; Calderoni, S.; Muratori, F.; Brambilla P. (2013). Brain anatomy of autism spectrum disorders I. Focus on corpus callosum. *Epidemiology and Psychiatric Sciences* 22, 217-221.
I.F. 2012: 2.938
- Bellani M, Calderoni S, Muratori F, Brambilla P. (2013). Brain anatomy of autism spectrum disorders II. Focus on amygdala. *Epidemiology and Psychiatric Sciences* 22, 309-312.
I.F. 2012: 2.938
- Bellani M., Nobile M., Bianchi V., van Os J., Brambilla P. (2013). Genotype by environment interaction and neurodevelopment II. Focus on adversities in paediatric depression: the moderating role of serotonin transporter. *Epidemiology and Psychiatric Sciences* 22, 21-28.
I.F. 2012: 2.938
- Bellani M., Nobile M., Bianchi V., van Os J., Brambilla P. (2013). Genotype by environment interaction and neurodevelopment III. Focus on the child's broader social ecology. *Epidemiology and Psychiatric Sciences* 22, 125-129.
I.F. 2012: 2.938
- Bennie M., Bishop I., Godman B., Barbui C., Raschi E., Campbell S., Miranda J. & Gustafsson L.L. (2013). Are specific initiatives required to enhance prescribing of generic atypical antipsychotics in Scotland?: International implications. *International Journal of Clinical Practice* 67, 170-180.
I.F. 2012: 2.427
- Brambilla P., Perlini C., Bellani M., Tomelleri L., Ferro A., Cerruti S., Marinelli V., Rambaldelli G., Christodoulou T., Jogia J., Dima D., Tansella M., Balestrieri M. & Frangou S. (2013). Increased salience of gains versus decreased associative learning differentiate bipolar disorder from schizophrenia during incentive decision-making. *Psychological Medicine* 43, 571-580.
I.F. 2012: 5.587
- Brambilla P., Perlini C., Rajagopalan P., Saharan P., Rambaldelli G., Bellani M., Dusi N., Cerini R., Mucelli RP., Tansella M., Thompson PM. (2013). Schizophrenia severity, social functioning and hippocampal neuroanatomy: three-dimensional mapping study. *British Journal of Psychiatry* 202, 50-55.
I.F. 2012: 6.606
- Cipriani A., Accordini S., Nosè M., Purgato M., Girlanda F., Tansella M. & Barbui C. (2013). Aripiprazole versus haloperidol in combination with clozapine for treatment-resistant schizophrenia: a 12-month randomized, naturalistic trial. *Journal of Clinical Psychopharmacology* 33, 533-537.
I.F. 2012: 3.513
- Cipriani A, Barbui C. (2013). Review: short-term benefit of escitalopram versus citalopram for depression uncertain, but big difference in French health insurance costs. *Evidence Based Mental Health* 16, 51.
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Zimmermann C., Del Piccolo L., Goss C., Deledda G., Mazzi M.A., Rimondini M. (2013). Training mental health providers in better communication with their patients. In *Improving Mental Health Care: The Global Challenge* (Eds G. Thornicroft, M. Ruggeri, D. Goldberg). John Wiley & Sons, Chichester, UK.

C) Papers published in Italian Journals

Comincini V, Del Piccolo L. (2013) Il ruolo della musicoterapia nel recupero del deficit uditivo. Un'indagine tra i professionisti che lavorano con bambini sordi e tra i fruitori. *Recenti Progressi in Medicina*, 103: 59-62.

In press

A) Papers accepted for publication in international Journals

Arcuri L, Montagnini B, Calvi G & Goss C. The perception of shared medical decision making of expert and lay people: Effects of observing a movie clip depicting a medical consultation. *Patient Education and Counseling*.

I.F. 2012: 2.372

Mazzi MA, Rimondini M, Deveugele M, Zimmermann C, Moretti F, Vliet L, Deledda G, Fletcher I, Bensing J. What do people appreciate in physicians' communication? An international study with focus groups using videotaped medical consultations. *Health Expectation*.

I.F. 2012: 2.110

Del Piccolo L, Danzi O., Fattori N., Mazzi MA, Goss C. How psychiatrist's communication skills and patient's diagnosis affect emotions disclosure during first diagnostic consultations. *Patient Education and Counseling*.

I.F. 2012: 2.372

Del Piccolo L, Goss C, Bottacini A, Rigoni V, Mazzi MA, Deledda G, Ballarin M, Molino A, Fiorio E, Zimmermann C. Asking questions during breast cancer consultations: Does being alone or being accompanied make a difference? *European Journal of Oncology Nursing*.

IF 2012 : 1.685

Brambilla P, Bellani M, Isola M, Bergami A, Marinelli V, Dusi N, Rambaldelli G, Tansella M, Maria Finardi A, Martino G, Perlini C, Furlan R. Increased M1/decreased M2 signature and signs of Th1/Th2 shift in chronic patients with bipolar disorder, but not in those with schizophrenia. *Translational Psychiatry*.

RESEARCH GRANTS

The following Grants have been active during the years 2009-2013:

Description	Funding Institution	Scientific Coordinator	Total/Grant
Gr 2010-2319022 immune gene expression and white matter pathology in first - manic patients before and after treatment. A multimodal imaging genetic study	Ministry of Health, Rome - Regione Veneto, AOUI	Dr. M. Bellani	€ 305.200,00
REsearch on FINancing systems' Effect on the quality of MENTAL health care (REFINEMENT)	European Commission, DG Health, FP7	Professor F. Amaddeo	831.040,00 (Total Fund Euro 3.000.000,00 (European Coordinator: Professor F. Amaddeo)
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, ULSS 20	Professor L. Burti	300.000,00 €
Genetics, Endophenotypes and Treatment: Understanding early Psychosis (GET UP)	Ministry of Health, Rome, AOUI	Professor M. Ruggeri	760.000,00 €
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 €
Efficacia del litio nella depressione con rischio suicidario. Studio indipendente, pragmatico, multicentrico, di superiorità (Studio LAST)	AIFA, Rome	Professor C. Barbui	478.000,00 €
Disabilità Cognitiva e Comportamentale nelle Demenze e nelle Psicosi. Sotto-Obiettivo A.9. Basi Morfofunzionali Cognitive E	Fondazione CariVerona	Dr Paolo Brambilla	140.339,50

Genetiche Delle Psicosi Maggiori: Uno Studio Integrato Longitudinale” (BRAINIMAG)			
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)	Fondazione CariVerona	Professor M. Ruggeri	94.374 €
Establishing a regional genetic and clinical register of eating disorders (5 centres)	Bio.Ve.D.A.	Professor L. Burti	40.000 € (Total Fund: 200.000 €)
Update of World Health Organization (WHO) the list of Essential Medicines for mental disorders	WHO, Geneva	Professor C. Barbui	€ 5.000,00

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
Promuovere la ricerca scientifica per migliorare la qualità delle cure. Il Centro OMS di Ricerca sulla Salute Mentale, Verona (Three year research program)	Fondazione CariVerona	Professor M. Tansella	600.000,00 €
Identification and treatment of depression in comorbidity with physical illness	Ministry of Health, Rome	Professor M. Ruggeri	150.000,00 €
Institutional Treatment, Human Rights and Care Assessment	Public Health Executive Agency (PHEA), London	Professor L. Burti	80.798,27 €
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 €
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 €
Socio-economic Status, urbanicity and mental health	Ministry of Health, Rome	Professor F. Amaddeo	153.000,00 €
Toward a new definition of schizophrenia: the biological basis of a core phenotype	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 €
Implementing Mental Health Promotion Action (IMPHA)	European Commission	Professor M. Ruggeri /	10.382,00 €

		Dr. M. Stegagno	
Donation	Pfizer Italia SRL	Professor M. Tansella	75.000,00 €
Mental Health Economics-European Network	European Community (LSE), London	Professor F. Amaddeo	11.181,50 €
Donation for PICOS project	AITSAM	Professor M. Ruggeri	2.000,00 €
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)		Professor C. Barbui	
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 €
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 €
Fondo ex 60%	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	MIUR ex 60%	Professor M.	7.016,00 €

Neurological Soft Signs in a representative sample of first episode psychosis patients		Ruggeri	
Prognostic disclosure in the palliative phase of breast cancer: Quality of communication from a patient perspective	MIUR ex 60%	Professor L. Del Piccolo	2.416,00 €
Fondo ex 60%	MIUR ex 60%	Dr. C. Goss	1.804,00 €
Fondo ex 60%	MIUR ex 60%	Dr. M. Rimondini	1.772,00 €
Fondo ex 60%	MIUR ex 60%	Professor M. Tansella	7.316,00 €
Fondo ex 60%	MIUR ex 60%	Professor L. Burti	3.809,00 €
Caratterizzazione morfofunzionale e cognitiva della schizofrenia e del disturbo bipolare	MIUR ex 60%	Dr. C. Perlini	4.382,00 €

THE SOUTH-VERONA COMMUNITY-BASED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE: CLINICAL AND TEACHING ACTIVITIES

The Section of Psychiatry and the Section of Clinical Psychology, Department of Public Health and Community Medicine, University of Verona, provide Research, Clinical Activity, Education and Training.

Overall view of Clinical Activities

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*, 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 and, since June 10, 2013, Professor Mirella Ruggeri). 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.

Attached to the *University Department of Psychiatry and Psychiatric University Clinic* (Head: Professor Michele Tansella and, since June 10, 2013, Professor Mirella Ruggeri) 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 Amadeo). 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; after August 1st Professor Lidia Del Piccolo), 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.

General organization of the South-Verona Community Psychiatric Service (CPS)

The **South-Verona Community Psychiatric Service (CPS)** 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 Amaddeo) 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 *Specialization School of Psychiatry* (Director: Professor Mirella Ruggeri) of the University of Verona (advanced courses in Clinical Psychiatry, Social Psychiatry, Clinical Psychology, Psychotherapy and Clinical Psychopharmacology), for post-graduate Ph.D. students in Psychology and Psychiatry (*PhD Course in Psychological and Psychiatric Sciences*) (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.

**APPOINTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS
OF MEMBERS OF THE VERONA WHO CENTRE WITH A TENURED
POSITION (2013)**

Professor Francesco Amadeo	<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>DIRECTOR, WHO Collaborating Centre for Research and Training in Mental Health and Service Evaluation, University of Verona, since Novembre 1, 2013</p> <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 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) <i>International Journal of Clinical Psychiatry and Mental Health</i> (Editorial Board) <i>Psychological Abnormalities in Children</i> (Editorial Board) <i>PeerJ</i> (Editorial Board) <i>BMC Psychiatry</i> (Associate Editor) <i>World Journal of Neurology</i> (Editorial Board) <i>Physiology Journal</i> (Editorial Board)</p>
Professor Lorenzo Burti	<p>Scientific Societies and Associations. Executive Committees: <i>Italian Psychiatric Association</i> (Member Executive Committee) <i>Italian Association of Medical Psychotherapy</i> (Member Executive</p>

	<p>Committee) <i>Società Italiana di Riabilitazione Psicosociale (SIRP)</i> (Honorary President; Funding) Scientific International Journals <i>Community Mental Health Journal</i> (International Correspondent)</p>
<p>Dr. Andrea Cipriani</p>	<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>
<p>Professor Lidia Del Piccolo</p>	<p>Scientific International Journals <i>Patient Education and Counseling</i> (Editorial Board) Scientific Societies and Associations. <i>European Association of Communication in Healthcare (EACH)</i> (Member Research Committee and Steering Committee) <i>American Association for Communication in Healthcare (AACH)</i></p>
<p>Dr. Antonio Lasalvia</p>	<p>Scientific International Journals <i>Epidemiology and Psychiatric Sciences</i> (Associate Editor)</p>
<p>Dr. Michela Rimondini</p>	<p>Scientific Societies and Associations. Executive Committees: European Association of Communication in Healthcare (Teaching Board)</p>
<p>Professor Mirella Ruggeri</p>	<p>Scientific Societies and Associations. Executive Committees: <i>European Network for Mental Health Services Evaluation - ENMESH</i> (Chairperson) <i>International Federation of Psychiatric Epidemiology (IFPE)</i> (Board Member) <i>Association of European Psychiatrists (EPA)</i> – (Section of Epidemiology and Social Psychiatry) (Board Member) Scientific International Journals <i>Epidemiology and Psychiatric Sciences</i> (Associate Editor) <i>Psychological Medicine</i> (Advisory Board) <i>Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology</i> (Editorial Board)</p>
<p>Professor Michele Tansella</p>	<p>Scientific Societies and Associations. Executive Committees: <i>Società Italiana di Epidemiologia Psichiatrica</i> (Honorary President) <i>Association of European Psychiatrists (Section of Epidemiology and Social Psychiatry)</i>, Board Member) <i>World Psychiatric Association</i> (Section on Epidemiology and Public Health, Board Member) <i>Comitato Tecnico Scientifico (CTS) dell'IRCS – Fatebenefratelli di Brescia</i> Expert Advisory Panel on Mental Health, World Health Organization Expert Advisor on the External Strategic Advisory Board (ESAB), Biomedical Research <i>Centre for Mental Health (BRC-MH) at South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation, Trust and Institute of Psychiatry, King's College, London.</i> Scientific National Journals <i>Rivista di Psichiatria</i> (Advisory Board) Scientific International Journals</p>

	<p><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>Socijalna Psihijatrija</i> (Advisory Board) <i>World Psychiatry</i> (Advisory Board)</p>
<p>Professor Christa Zimmermann</p>	<p>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></p>

MAIN ON-GOING RESEARCH PROJECTS 2010-2013

SECTION OF PSYCHIATRY

Research Unit

Psychiatric Register, Economics and Geography of Mental Health

Coordinator: **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

Environmental, Clinical and Genetic Determinants of Outcome of Mental Disorders

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

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

(M. Ruggeri, A. Lasalvia, S. Tosato, P. Brambilla, M. Bertani, C. Bonetto, S. Bissoli, D. Cristofalo,

C. Perlini, 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)

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)

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)

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)

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 Psychopharmacology & Drug Epidemiology

Coordinator: **Professor Corrado Barbui**, MD

Use of Psychotropic drugs and QTc abnormalities in psychiatric inpatients: a multicentre study
(*M. Nosè, I. Bighelli, M. Castellazzi & C. Barbui*)

Antidepressants versus placebo for panic disorder: systematic reviews and meta-analyses of randomised controlled trials.
(*M. Castellazzi, I. Bighelli, F. Girlanda & C. Barbui*)

Benzodiazepines versus placebo for panic disorder: systematic reviews and meta-analyses of randomised controlled trials.
(*F. Girlanda, M. Castellazzi, I. Bighelli & C. Barbui*)

Antidepressants versus benzodiazepines for panic disorder: systematic reviews and meta-analyses of randomised controlled trials.
(*I. Bighelli, M. Castellazzi, F. Girlanda & C. Barbui*)

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, I. Bighelli, G. Bisoffi & M. Tansella*)

WHO Mental Health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP)
(*C. Barbui*)

Randomized evidence of psychosocial interventions in children exposed to traumatic events in low and middle income countries.
(*M. Purgato & C. Barbui*)

Antipsychotic drug exposure and risk of pneumonia: systematic review and meta-analysis of observational studies.
(*M. Nosè & C. Barbui*)

Research Unit

Brain Imaging & Neuropsychology

Coordinator: **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. Perlini, 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. Perlini, 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*)

Patologia della Sostanza Bianca ed Espressione Genica Immunitaria nel Disturbo Bipolare: uno Studio di Brain Imaging Multimodale (MANDRAKE).

(M. Bellani, C. Perlino, L. Squarcina, N. Dusi, G. Rambaldelli, V. Marinelli, P. Brambilla)

Modulazione Genetica della Neuropsicologia e della Psicopatologia nello Spettro Bipolare. Ricerca multicentrica Udine-Verona-Milano-Bologna-Pavia-Casale Monferrato (GECOBIP).

(sede di Verona: M. Bellani, V. Marinelli, C. Perlino, O. Danzi, N. Dusi, G. Rambaldelli, Paolo Brambilla)

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)

Cognitive and language training as a rehabilitative approach in major psychoses.

(C. Perlino, V. Marinelli, M. Bellani, G. Rambaldelli, P. Brambilla)

The use of Near Infrared Spectroscopy (NIRS) for the investigation of connectivity in psychiatric disease and its potential implementation for the cognitive rehabilitation of major psychoses.

(C. Perlino, N. Dusi, O. Danzi, L. Squarcina, V. Marinelli, M. Bellani, G. Rambaldelli, P. Brambilla)

Investigation of brain connectivity in twins.

(M. Bellani, C. Fagnani, 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, E. Veronese, 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 (Jena, Verona/Udine, Santander, Milan).

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

Classification of psychiatric disorders using brain imaging data.

(U. Castellani, L. Squarcina, M. Bellani, E. Veronese, G. Rambaldelli, C. Perlino, M. Tansella, V. Murino, P. Brambilla)

A multicentre T1/DTI study of bipolar disorder (Paris, Creteil, Verona/Udine, Galway, Mainz, Pittsburgh).

(J. Hoenou, E. Duchesnay, M. Wessa, C. McDonald, M. Philips, G. Rambaldelli, M. Bellani, C. Perlino, V. Marinelli, E. Veronese, A. Ferro, N. Dusi, P. Brambilla)

Research Unit

Integrating physical health, mental health and human rights

Coordinator: **Professor Lorenzo Burti**, MD

Physico-DSM-VR: Physical co-morbidity, poor health behaviour and a preventive intervention in Verona patients with functional psychoses: a randomised controlled study.

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

SECTION OF CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

Research Unit

Clinical Psychology & Communication in Medicine

Coordinator: **Lidia Del Piccolo**, 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.

(C. 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 & C. Zimmermann)

Citizens' view and preferences concerning communication issues in medicine. A multicentre study.

(F. Moretti, J. Bensing, I. Fletcher, M. Rimondini, M.A. Mazzi, L. Del Piccolo, C. Goss, G. Deledda & C. 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)

Prognostic disclosure in the palliative phase of breast cancer: Quality of communication from a patient perspective.

(L. Del Piccolo, A. Devigili, C. Perlini)

