

People suffering from psychosis, in particular from schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, but also from depression, present various disorders of cognitive functions, both in the context of neurocognition and of social cognition. These deficits have a significant negative impact on patient's functioning in the real life and contrast the clinical remission and functional recovery of the patient. The evaluation of these deficits and their treatment are therefore an essential objective of an effective management of subjects with psychiatric disorders in the perspective of recovery and psychosocial reintegration.

The 1st National Conference promoted by the Italian Group for the study and treatment of Cognition in Psychiatry (GICoPsi), held in Naples on 31.5.2017, has addressed the issues of the characteristics of neurocognitive dysfunctions and social cognition in severe mental disorders and their functional impact, that of the use of tools for the assessment of cognition and functioning that are both valid but also easily applicable in clinical practice, as well as that of the possible treatments of cognitive deficits. The role of drugs available today and that of targeted cognitive rehabilitation interventions applied to the main psychiatric disorders have also been reviewed. Finally, some qualified experiences of implementation of cognitive rehabilitation techniques within the Mental Health Services of our Country were presented and compared.

This Special Issue of the Journal of Psychopathology collects the speakers' contributions to the Congress, the inaugural moment at the national level of the Group.

The Italian Group for the Study and Treatment of Cognition in Psychiatry (GICoPsi) is an Association established with the aim of promoting the study and scientific research in the areas of characterization, assessment and treatment of cognitive dysfunctions in the main psychiatric disorders.

In particular, objectives of the Association are:

- a) to promote initiatives aimed at developing, among psychiatrists and mental health workers, the study of alterations of cognitive functions in the main psychiatric disorders and their treatment;
- b) to sensitize the public opinion and public structures on the need to develop and support this branch of psychiatry;
- c) to promote the organization of conferences, congresses, courses and seminars, for the purposes referred to in the previous points;
- d) to collaborate with authorities, bodies and associations for the development of initiatives that are part of its aims;
- e) to promote and encourage scientific studies and publications, collect data and news, also at the international level, and carry out research projects in the field of characterization, assessment and treatment of cognitive dysfunctions in the main psychiatric disorders;
- f) to encourage the development of initiatives related to the educational and professional updating of associates.

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