SYMPOSIUM
October 6th

PROBLEMATIC INTERNET USE: MOVING FORWARD FROM TREATMENT TOWARD PREVENTION

Naomi Anne Fineberg

Professor of Psychiatry Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (HPFT), where she leads the HPFT centre within the NHS England, Highly Specialised Service for Obsessive Compulsive and Related Disorders (OCRD). She currently chairs the World Psychiatric Association (WPA) Anxiety &Obsessive Compulsive Disorders Scientific Sectionand the European Union COST Action into Problematic Internet Usage, and is Secretary of the International College of Obsessive Compulsive Spectrum Disorders. Professor Fineberg has a substantial track record in the investigation at the University of Hertfordshire, and a Consultant Psychiatrist at of the neurobiology and treatment of anxiety, obsessive-compulsive disorders and behavioural addiction. She has published widely in the field, her publications are highly cited and she holds editorial positions.

Marc Potenza

Dr. Potenza is a board-certified psychiatrist with sub-specialty training in addiction psychiatry. He has trained at Yale University receiving a combined BS/MS with Honors in Molecular Biochemistry and Biophysics and a PhD in Cell Biology, the latter concurrent with the MD through the Medical Scientist Training Program. He completed internship, psychiatric residency and addiction psychiatry fellowship training at Yale. Currently, he is a Professor of Psychiatry, Child Study and Neuroscience at the Yale University School of Medicine where he is the Director of the Division on Addictions Research, the Problem Gambling Clinic, the Center of Excellence in Gambling Research, the Women and Addictive Disorders Core of Women's Health Research at Yale and the Yale Research Program on Impulsivity and Impulse Control Disorders. He is also a Senior Research Scientist at the Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling. He is on the editorial boards of fifteen journals (including editor-in-chief of Current Addiction Reports) and has received multiple national and international awards for excellence in research and clinical care. Recently, he has received lifetime achievement research awards from the Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling and the National Council on Problem Gambling and research awards from the Society for the Advancement of Sexual Health and Turkish Green Crescent Society (Phoenix Award for Addiction Research). He has consulted to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, National Registry of Effective Programs, National Institutes of Health, American Psychiatric Association and World Health Organization (WHO) on matters of addiction.

Dr. Potenza's research has focused on the neurobiology and treatment of substance and non-substance (behavioral) addictions and other disorders characterized by impaired impulse control and reward-related motivations. The majority of this work has focused on understanding clinical and neurobiological underpinnings of these disorders, and their co-occurrences with other mental health disorders, in order to advance prevention and treatment strategies. Dr. Potenza's research has applied brain imaging, genetic, epidemiological and clinical trials methodologies to gain knowledge and improve prevention and treatment strategies for addictive disorders.

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Susumu Higuchi

Director of the National Hospital Organization Kurihama Medical and Addiction Center, the director of the National Center for Addiction Services Administration, and the director of the WHO Collaborating Centre on Research and Training on Substance Use and Addictive Behaviours. He has written more than 290 peer-reviewed scientific papers, published in established international journals, and more than 650 papers in domestic journals.
For several decades he has worked on alcohol and gambling policy and programs, and has served as chair or committee member on many initiatives of the Japanese government. He has also closely collaborated with WHO in the field of disorders due to substance use and addictive behaviours. Clinically, he has been a leading psychiatrist in the field of alcohol dependence and behavioral addictions, particularly in relation to gaming and gambling disorders in Japan.

Takanobu Matsuzaki

Chief of psychiatry at the National Hospital Organization Kurihama Medical and Addiction Center. He is also a member of several domestic and international societies related to psychiatry and addiction. Prior to working at the Kurihama Center, Dr. Matsuzaki served for three years as a senior official for addiction at the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare. For the past five years, while working at the National Hospital Organization Kurihama Medical and Addiction Center, Dr. Matsuzaki has been engaged in treatment and research into disorders due to substance use and addictive behaviors, particularly in relation to gaming disorder. In the course of his research and clinical work, Dr. Matsuzaki has played a significant role in informing and educating the general public, medical professionals, and educators about gaming disorder in Japan.

Pim Cuijpers

Pim Cuijpers is Professor of Clinical Psychology at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, the Netherlands and director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Research and Dissemination of Psychological Interventions in Amsterdam. He is specialised in conducting randomised controlled trials and meta-analyses on prevention and psychological treatments of common mental disorders across the life span. Much of his work is aimed at prevention of mental disorders, psychological treatments of depression and anxiety disorders, and Internet-delivered treatments. He has also published on several other research topics, including global mental health and student mental health. Pim Cuijpers has published more than 1,000 peer-reviewed papers, chapters, reports and professional publications, including more than 800 papers in international peer-reviewed scientific journals. He is on the Thomson-Reuter Web of Science lists of the 'highly cited researchers' since the first edition of this list in 2014 (http://highlycited.com/)

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Ausra Saudargiene

Professor working at the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, Neuroscience Institute and Vytautas Magnus University, Department of Informatics.
Her research areas include statistical and artificial neural network methods for data analysis in psychology and neuroscience, theoretical and computational modeling of learning and memory in healthy and diseased brain. Ausra also works in Human Brain project where her main research interest is computational modeling of synaptic plasticity in hippocampus, and she has developed biophysical and molecular models of synaptic plasticity and models of memory encoding and retrieval in hippocampal CA1 microcircuit and cortex.

Julius Burkauskas

Researcher, clinical psychologist leading laboratory of Behavioral Medicine at Lithuanian University of Health Sciences Neuroscience Institute. He performed internships at Harvard (USA) and Hertfordshire (UK) universities and is currently appointed as Honorary Lecturer (Clinical) at the Department of Clinical & Pharmaceutical Sciences (CAPS) at Hertfordshire (UK) university. Julius has published 32 scientific publications in journals indexed by CA database, 3 book chapters and received numerous national and international awards: ECNP Certificate (2013), IBRO Travel award (2015, 2017), AACN Edith Kaplan Award (2015), WFSBP Young Investigator Award (2017), and IFMAD best poster awards (2017).

Dovile Simkute

Dovile graduated a bachelor's degree in Public Health and a master's degree in Neurobiology from the University of Vilnius. Currently a last year PhD student and Researcher in the project "Effect of the Problematic Internet Usage on brain activity: an EEG study" at the Institute of Biosciences, Life Science Center, Vilnius University. Works at the lab of Brain States Research group at the Department of Neurobiology and Biophysics and investigates the impact of Internet Usage on psychophysiology in the non-clinical population with the main focus on identification of changes in the brain occurring in the context of excessive internet use. She is actively involved in the teaching process and dissemination of scientific knowledge - starting this year reads the elective course on the topic of Internet Use and Brain Activity for exchange students at Vilnius University and holds a Teaching Assistant of Physiology position since 2019.