

DR. MARIA DE GRACIA DOMINGUEZ WINS EUROPEAN PSYCHIATRY ASSOCIATION RESEARCH AWARD IN CHILD AND ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY



Congratulations to Dr. Mari Dominguez who has just been awarded the **2014 European Psychiatry Association research prize for the best scientific paper in child and adolescent psychiatry**. The prize is awarded annually to young researchers working in the field of psychiatry to recognize the very best peer-reviewed psychiatric research in Europe.

Dr. Dominguez received the Prize from **Professor Danuta Wasserman, President of the European Psychiatry Association**. The Award Ceremony took place during the official Opening Ceremony of the **22nd European Congress of Psychiatry on the 1st March 2014 in Munich, Germany**. The EPA congress is a major meeting of international psychiatrists dedicated to promoting European psychiatry and to improving mental health around the globe.

Dr. Dominguez won the award for her paper on **‘Duration of untreated psychosis in adolescents: ethnic differences and clinical profiles’ published last year in Schizophrenia Research**. Dr. Dominguez and colleagues showed that adolescents with psychosis face long treatment delays. Their duration of untreated psychosis (DUP) is approximately twice than seen in adults, UK study findings show. Factors associated with this long delay include white ethnicity, younger age of onset and lifetime cannabis use. White adolescents DUP far exceeded the UK Department of Health’s target of less than 3 months. White adolescents also had the highest rate of cannabis use and the lowest average age of onset. The three factors (ethnicity, cannabis use and age of onset) each independently predicted delayed treatment. The researchers acknowledge that identifying psychosis at early presentation is difficult, and insidious or atypical clinical presentations may lead to adolescents experiencing delays in proper treatment. Further investigation on personal and cultural attitudes to mental illness, service use and treatment; professionals’ management of adolescents presenting with psychotic symptoms and differential pathways to care for ethnic groups may help elucidate the determinants leading to treatment delay for adolescents with psychosis.

Dr. Dominguez works as Honorary Clinical Lecturer at the Academic Unit of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Centre for Mental Health, Imperial College London (UK). Dr. Dominguez’s work was funded by a Koplowitz fellowship from the Alicia Koplowitz Foundation (Spain). The study was conducted together with Dr. Matthew Hodes at Imperial College London, in collaboration with Dr. Helen Fisher at the Institute of Psychiatry, Kings College London, Professor Sonia Johnson at University College London, and the MiData Consortium.

* Article link: http://ac.els-cdn.com/S0920996413004544/1-s2.0-S0920996413004544-main.pdf?_tid=bb54737a-b2bf-11e3-b9af-00000aacb35f&acdnat=1395602410_66d11618c1dbad7a2e286e2d850c2dd2