



WSMD2017 - Workshop on Schizophrenia and other Mental Disorders

15-16 June 2017
Europe/Rome timezone

A successful and well attended **Workshop on Schizophrenia and other Mental Disorders** was organized at the University of Pisa and Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare on the 15th and 16th June 2017. The Workshop was organized in collaboration with the European Commission Directorate General for Research and Innovation and the EU Joint Undertaking Initiative "Innovative Medicines Initiative" and is under the patronage of the European Psychiatric Association.

The aims of the Workshop were to showcase the latest developments in EU-funded research in the field of brain imaging tools for mental disorders (diagnosis, monitoring and management) and to explore the research and innovation challenges to be addressed for advancing the field.

The Workshop brought together the investigators involved in all collaborative research projects funded by the EU through the Seventh Framework Programme (call HEALTH.2013.2.2.1-2: Development of effective imaging tools for diagnosis, monitoring and management of mental disorders) and the "Innovative Medicines Initiative". EU-funded projects on neurodegenerative diseases were also represented to gain a broader view on the state-of-play of brain imaging tools for brain disorders. Participants presented the results of their projects, discussed their findings and had the opportunity to explore ways of coordinating their efforts and capitalize on their results.

The first day of the Workshop was focused on FP7 and Horizon 2020 funded projects, associated with Mental Disorders and exciting new ways to monitor and treat such diseases. **Prof. Alberto Del Guerra** opened the Workshop and welcomed all speakers. An overview of the current trends in diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders was given by **Silvana Galderisi** (University of Campania "Luigi Vanvitelli"), followed by a review on the FP7 and Horizon 2020 funding strategy of projects on mental disorders by **Lara Passante** (EU-DG for Research and Innovation) and **Francois Junique** (EU-DG CONNECT). Several thrilling and stimulating FP7 and Horizon 2020 funded projects were presented, including:

- **OPTIMISE**: Optimization of Treatment and Management of Schizophrenia in Europe (**Inge Winter-van Rossum**, University of Utrecht)
- **PRONIA**: Personalized Prognostic Tools for Early Psychosis Management (**Nikolaos Koutsouleris**, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München)
- **PSYSCAN**: Translating neuroimaging findings from research into clinical practice (**Philip McGuire**, King's College London)
- **TRIMAGE**: A dedicated trimodality (PET/MR/EEG) imaging tool for schizophrenia (**Alberto Del Guerra**, University of Pisa)
- **MINDVIEW**: Multimodal Imaging of Neurological Disorders (**Jose Benlloch**, University of Valencia)
A view of the Pharmaceutical European Industry in Neuroscience (**Luc Truyen**, Johnson & Johnson)
- **IMAGEMEND**: IMAGing GENetics for MENTAL Disorders (**Giuseppe Blasi**, University of Bari)
- **BRAINTRAIN**: Taking imaging into the therapeutic domain: Self-regulation of brain systems for mental disorders

- **BIOCOG:** Biomarker Development for Postoperative Cognitive Impairment in the Elderly (**David Linden**, Cardiff University)
- **METSY:** Neuroimaging platform for characterization of metabolic co-morbidities in psychotic disorders (**Georg Winterer**, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin)
- **LIFEBRAIN:** Healthy minds from 0-100 years: Optimizing the use of European brain imaging cohorts (**Matej Oresic**, University of Turku)
- **LIFEBRAIN:** Healthy minds from 0-100 years: Optimizing the use of European brain imaging cohorts (**Klaus P. Ebmeier**, University of Oxford)

The day closed with a session focused on The IMI contribution in Brain studies. **Elisabetta Vaudano** (IMI) presented *The IMI consortium and the IMI funded projects in Central Nervous System (CNS)*, **Nikolay Manyakov** (Janssen Pharmaceuticals) explained the *RADAR CNS: Use of Wearable Devices and Mobile Technology to Understand the Course of Brain Diseases* and **Celso Arango** (Gregorio Marañón Hospital) discussed the *PRISM: Psychiatric Ratings using Intermediate Stratified Markers: providing quantitative biological measures to facilitate the discovery and development of new treatments for social and cognitive deficits in Alzheimer's Disease, Schizophrenia, and Major Depression*.

The second day of the Workshop opened with a session focused on Neurodegenerative diseases and the Human Brain Project. **Adriana Maggi** (University of Milano) presented an overview of the Diagnosis, Prognosis and Current Therapy of Alzheimer's Disease. Imaging applications such as 7T MRI neuroimaging for neurodegenerative disorders was addressed by **Mirco Cosottini** (University of Pisa). Synaptic pathology was examined by **Sabina Berretta**, (Harvard Medical School) who talked about *Mortui vivos docet: Recent Advances on the Involvement of Synaptic Pathology in Schizophrenia*. The session closed with **Jan Bjaalie**, (University of Oslo), who presented *The Human Brain Project: a Platform for Big-Data Neuroscience*. The Workshop closed with a Panel discussion titled: *Future Coordination and integration of the results of the FP7 and IMI projects and HBP on Schizophrenia and other Mental Disorders*.

The Workshop was held on the same day with an important festival for San Ranieri in Pisa, the beautiful Luminara, which takes place on the evening of June 16, the eve of the patron saint's day. The other big part of the celebration is the Regata di San Ranieri which takes place in the late afternoon on the actual feast day, June 17. So, participants had the opportunity to enjoy this beautiful festival, upon the completion of the Workshop.



Figure: A photo of the Workshop