INTRODUCTION TO GENERAL PSYCHIATRY

Dpt. of Psychiatry, FM UC and University Hospital

General psychiatry
- basic terminology
- psychopathology
- mental status examination and other assessment in psychiatry
- etiology and pathogenesis of mental disorders, classification
- therapy in psychiatry and prevention of mental disorders
- legal issues in psychiatry and forensic psychiatry

Psychiatry
- Johann Christian Reil (1808)
  - psyché: "soul or mind"; iatros: "healer,"
- independent specialty of medicine
  - two semesters study at Faculty of Medicine
  - third grade of study (PhD)
  - specialization in psychiatry (5 years)
    - gerontopsychiatry, pedopsychiatry, psychiatric sexology, addictology
Goals of Psychiatry

- to study, prevention and treatment of mental disorders

Why mental disorders, not diseases?

- health according WHO: “a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of diseases or illness
  - “a definition could hardly be more comprehensive than that, or more meaningless” (Oxford textbook of Psychiatry)

Mental disorder according ICD-10

- “a clinically recognizable set of symptoms or behavior associated in most cases with distress and with interference with personal functions. Social deviance or conflict alone, without personal dysfunction, should not be included in mental disorder as defined here”
Mental disorder according DSM 5

A mental disorder is a syndrome characterized by clinically significant disturbance in an individual’s cognition, emotion regulation, or behavior that reflects a dysfunction in the psychological, biological, or developmental processes underlying mental functioning. Mental disorders are usually associated with significant distress in social, occupational, or other important activities. An expectable or culturally approved response to a common stressor or loss, such as the death of a loved one, is not a mental disorder. Socially deviant behavior (e.g., political, religious, or sexual) and conflicts that are primarily between the individual and society are not mental disorders unless the deviance or conflict results from a dysfunction in the individual, as described above.”

Goals of Psychiatry

- to study, prevention and treatment of mental disorders
- mental disorder:
  - health condition that changes a person’s thinking, feelings, or behavior (or all three) and that causes the person distress and difficulty in functioning
  - pragmatically - a condition which can be diagnosed according to current classification

Classifications

WHO American Psychiatric Association
Psychopathology – psychopathological symptoms

Basic science (knowledge, discipline) in psychiatry

- Descriptive psychopathology (phenomenology)
  - Description of experience and/or behavior of patient as far as possible without influence of any theory
  - Dynamic psychopathology – based on some theory, dynamic explanation of the symptoms by proposed mechanisms

- Form vs. content
  - Paranoid delusion
    - Patients were monitored by telegraphs now are monitored by electronic chips

- Primary vs. secondary
  - Hypochondriacal delusion secondary primary caused by severe depression
    - Congruent vs. incongruent with mood

Clinical symptomatology

- Consciousness
  - Disturbances in vigilance, lucidity, idiognosia, self-reflection

- Perception
  - Quantitative and qualitative disturbances

- Attention
  - Disturbances in concentration, tenacity, capacity, distractibility

- Memory
  - Short-term & long-term, explicit & implicit

- Intellect
  - Premorbid & present intellect functioning

- Thinking
  - Speed, quality of structure & coherence, contents & pathological contents

- Emotivity
  - Mood, affectivity, higher emotions

- Behaviour and psychomotorics
  - Disturbances of will, speed, condition & behaviour & activity, qualitative disturbances

- Drives
  - Disturbances in appetite, sexual drive, self-protection drive

- Physiological functions & vegetative signs
  - Disturbances in sleep-wake cycles, somatic signs

- Personality
  - Personality traits and their differentiation & stability, character, format, temperament