

304 - Mental healthcare services and advocacy for older people amidst the COVID crisis: Voices from South Asia

(Jointly organized by World Psychiatric Association – Indian Psychiatric Society – SAARC Psychiatric Federation – Asian Federation of Psychiatric Associations)

Abstract:

Asia has some of the fastest developing economies and largest conglomerations of populations in the world. One such geographically unique region is South Asia, which accounts for nearly 25% of the global population and one-fifth of the psychiatric morbidity worldwide. This region is also ageing rapidly compared to rest of the world due to modifications in healthcare facilities, hygiene, and lifestyle as well as improved sanitation and infection control. Besides, some of the South Asian countries have also been worst-hit by the COVID-19 pandemic which has led to an exaggerated psychosocial crisis among their older people. Many of these nations face issues with community psychiatric care, trained manpower, socio-economic resources, legislation catering to psychological care and health inequalities. However, recent years have also witnessed paradigm shift in mental health policies, infrastructure and technology among these nations. Climate changes, migration, displacement and ecological characteristics further make South Asia unique in mental health needs and challenges.

With this background, leaders in the field of psychogeriatric care from some of the South Asian nations come together to discuss and highlight upcoming strategies for mental health advocacy and service delivery among older people in these regions. Mutual collaboration and cross-country research are globally called upon.

Panelists:

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5. *Dr. Afzal Javed* (President, World Psychiatric Association and Chairman, Pakistan Psychiatric Centre, Fountain House, Lahore) afzalj@gmail.com

Moderator:

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OnDemand Free/Oral Communications

400 - Environmental stimuli in nursing homes during the COVID-19 pandemic: Lessons learned to improve the management of challenging behavior

Inge Knippenberg – Ruslan Leontjevas – Johanna Nijsten – Christian Bakker – Raymond Koopmans - Debby Gerritsen

Challenging behavior is common in nursing home residents, especially in those with dementia. Our previous study suggested that a decrease in environmental stimuli (i.e., events that take place around residents but are not specifically directed at them) in nursing homes due to restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic, may affect residents differently. To improve future care, the experience of