Journal of the Italian Society of Psychiatry

Editorial

SIP Virtual Congress Next Generation Psychiatry: "Lezioni della-dalla pandemia"

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The lifestyle changes imposed by the pandemic have profoundly affected us as individuals and as health professionals involved in the emergency. The rapid spread of vaccination practices finally means that precautionary anti-pandemic restrictions have been overcome. Starting in the summer, autumn 2021, we will gradually return to our pre-COVID lifestyle, and we look forward to a return to normality without masks and without the fear of physical contact with others that has affected us so much during these long months of pandemic and lockdown. What will remain in our memories of this trauma and how much have we changed internally from our previous lives? Nice used to say that whatever doesn't kill you makes you stronger! Will this really be true for everyone? Psychiatric professionals question the personal changes as therapists, the changes in their patients and society in general, brought about by the experience since March 2020. What is the value of overcoming this experience and what are the challenges it leaves us as individuals and in the practice of our profession? The serious problems that were already affecting mental health services before the pandemic, partially mitigated by the health emergency, must now be tackled with determination. We need to be able to assert in public opinion and institutions the rights of our patients and their families and to raise awareness of the importance of investment in mental health in the post-COVID era.

With this in mind, the Italian Society of Psychiatry encouraged the establishment of the Coordination of Italian Mental Health Department (DSM) Directors, which met four times between December 2020 and June 2021 on a zoom platform. Eighty percent of the DSM directors participated in these meetings, representing all the people who work there, as well as patients and their families. The fourth conference, held on 23 June 2021, was attended by representatives of all categories of workers in the DSM. The proposal coming from the conferences is the need to promote a new "Progetto Obiettivo Tuela Salute Mentale 2021/30". Italian mental health urgently needs economic, cultural and organisational investments, which have been summarised in a document sent to the Ministry of Health and which will be supported as a concrete proposal with all the decision-makers, summarised in three key words: Resources, Integration, Innovation.

In addition to this proposal, the organisation of the 2021 SIP National Congress entitled: "Next Generation of Progress: Lezioni della-dalla Pandemia" will be held in virtual mode from 23 to 25 November 2021. The decision to keep the virtual mode stems from investors' uncertainty about organising a large national congress in presence without overcoming COVID-19 limitations. One of the lessons from the pandemic experience is the possibility of organising relevant scientific events in virtual mode. As summarised in the title, the negative and positive legacy of this traumatic and prolonged experience will be discussed in the various fields of psychiatry: the social, the psychodynamic and the biological. Registration will be open from 15 September and is free of charge for members who have paid their 2021 subscription.



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How to cite this article:

di Giannantonio M, Zanalda E. SIP Virtual Congress - Next Generation Psychiatry: Lezioni della-dalla pandemia. Evidence-based Psychiatric Care 2021;7:49-50. https://doi. org/10.36180/2421-4469-2021-8

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