

Impressions from the 13th World Congress of Biological Psychiatry in Copenhagen, Denmark 2017



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Approx. 1500 people have attended the well organised WFSBP congress 2017 in Copenhagen. A wealth of new information was presented, unravelling the molecular and neurobiological underpinnings of mental disorders. Biological Psychiatry – or better biologically based psychiatry - is still at the forefront of leading the progress of new diagnostic tools as well as new therapeutic interventions.

To predict mental illness by machine learning has been developed around 15 years ago in an area of science where prospective studies show that prediction is a means to subdivide patient populations into distinct prognostic subgroups. To develop biomarkers is also an important prerequisite on this pathway (e.g. Symposium 51).

The growing impact of understanding gene environment interactions by unravelling epigenetic regulation was well demonstrated e.g. by Elisabeth Binder in her plenary lecture on 'Epigenetic consequences of early adversity: Implications for psychiatric disorders'.

There was a wealth of symposia, free talks and posters evidently showing intensified work on new treatment targets. To pick only a few, inflammation is still a major area of research in affective and non-affective psychosis, as is ketamine as well as other glutamate receptor modulators which help to understand subgroups of patients with depressive disorder.