



The 3rd Schizophrenia International Research Society Conference, 14–18 April 2012, Florence, Italy: Summaries of oral sessions

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 5 July 2012

Accepted 23 July 2012

Available online 19 August 2012

Keywords:

Schizophrenia

Genetics

Gene–environment interaction

Brain imaging

Treatment

Conference

ABSTRACT

The 3rd Schizophrenia International Research Society Conference was held in Florence, Italy, April 14–18, 2012 and this year had as its emphasis, “The Globalization of Research”. Student travel awardees served as rapporteurs for each oral session and focused their summaries on the most significant findings that emerged and the discussions that followed. The following report is a composite of these summaries. We hope that it will provide an overview for those who were present, but could not participate in all sessions, and those who did not have the opportunity to attend, but who would be interested in an update on current investigations ongoing in the field of schizophrenia research.

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1. Introduction

This was the 3rd international conference on schizophrenia research sponsored by the *Schizophrenia International Research Society*. The theme of this meeting was “The Globalization of Research”. Toward that theme a special emphasis was placed on contributions from a broad net of geographical locations and on providing announcements and travel awards to participants from almost all continents world-wide. Four full days were devoted to topics that ranged from basic science animal model studies to reviews of the latest ongoing new pharmaceutical trials. There were several sessions discussing the underlying brain changes and how they progress over time in people who develop schizophrenia and an equal number of sessions on new genetic approaches for facilitating the

development of treatments, as well as the understanding of how environment interacts with the emerging risk genes. A special session was added on the last day to debate the necessity of including a prodromal diagnosis in the new DSM V criteria. Although the current report is organized by topic and thus cuts across multiple sessions in doing so, the highlights of the conference were the four unique plenary sessions that included updates on the latest advances in psychosocial and pharmacologic treatments, the genetics of schizophrenia, and the emerging information from psychoimmunology. Student travel awardees volunteered to serve as “rapporteurs” of oral sessions to summarize the major findings that were reported and the conclusions in discussions that followed. Similar reports from the 1st and 2nd international conferences have previously been published (Abubaker et al., 2009; Baharnoori et al., 2010).

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