

**Conference Program**  
**"Social Aspects of Mental Health and Mental Disorders"**  
(Organized under the project "Mental Health and Social Inequalities", funded by NSF)  
17-18 June 2022, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", New Conference Hall

**FRIDAY, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (GMT+3)**

**10.30 - 10.45 Welcome and Introduction**

10.45 – 11.45 **Keynote lecture: Stigma and anti-stigma: a neverending story**  
*Mihail Cristian Pirlog (Mental Health Association of South-Eastern Europe)*

11.45 – 12.00 Coffee Break

**12.00- 12.45 Stigma**  
**Moderator: Vladimir Nakov**

**Socio-economic and demographic factors associated with stigmatizing public attitudes towards mental illness in Bulgaria**  
*Veronika Dimitrova (Sofia University)*

**Multiple stigma experience of children in residential care whose biological mothers suffer mental disorder**  
*Radostina Antonova and Zhaklina Andonova (Know-how centre for alternative care of children, New Bulgarian University)*

**12.45-13.30 Institutional care: historical perspectives and good practices**  
**Moderator: Mihail Cristian Pirlog**

**Psychiatry in socialist Bulgaria - mistakes of growth or growth of mistakes?**  
*Vladimir Nakov (National Center for Public Health and Analyses)*

**New forms of care in mental health – the needs, the case, the practice**  
*Gergana Manolova (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and World Health Organization)*

13.30 – 14.15 Launch Break

**14.15 – 16.30 Online session**  
**Moderator: Veronika Dimitrova**

**(online) Ethical arguments against stigmatizing mental illness**  
*Aleksandra K. Traykova (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences)*

**(online) Contested normalities: parental strategies to autism in Bulgaria**

*Gergana Mircheva (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences)*

**(online) Communicating with mentally ill patients – medical, ethical and legal regulations**

*Adolf Alakidi (Medical University of Sofia), Vanina Mihaylova (Medical University of Sofia and Medical University of Plovdiv), Inna Ivanova (Medical University of Sofia), Alexandar Alexsiev (Medical University of Sofia), Antoaneta Bairaktarova (Medical University of Sofia), Mariana Liochkova (Medical University of Plovdiv)*

**(online) Bulgarian legislation for the protection of workers with mental health problems**

*Elka Toseva and Stanislava Harizanova (Medical University of Plovdiv)*

**(online) Exhaustion and Parental Burnout in Families of Children with Disabilities During the First Covid-19 wave in Bulgaria**

*Desislava Zhelyazkova (Medical University of Varna) and Krassimira Zaykova (Medical University of Varna)*

**(online) Web-based platform for psycho-social support for students from Plovdiv medical university during the Covid-19 pandemic**

*Petya Kasnakova (Medical University of Plovdiv), Anna Mihaylova (Medical University of Plovdiv), Stanislava Harizanova (Medical University of Plovdiv), Desislava Bakova (Medical University of Plovdiv)*

**(online) Stress management – a psycho-biological perspective**

*Lavinia Duica (University "Lucian Blaga" Sibiu - Faculty of Medicine)*

16.30 – 17.00 Break

**17.00 – 18.00 (online) Keynote lecture: Supporting Work for People with Severe Mental Illness**

*Howard Goldman (University of Maryland)*

**SATURDAY, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (GMT+3)**

**10.00 – 11.00 Institutional care**

**Moderator: Vladimir Nakov**

**International standards for the protection of the right to mental health of people with disabilities**

*Momchil Mavrov and Mariya Hristozova (Medical University of Plovdiv)*

**Multidisciplinary and assessment of children with psychiatric diagnoses in the center for community support**

*Anton Petrov (Sofia University)*

**Innovative integrated model of health and social services for people with mental disorders at center for mental health – Rousse, Bulgaria**

*Gyonyul Hayredin (Center for mental health-Rousse, University of Rousse)*

11.00 – 11.30 – Coffee Break

**11.30 – 12.30 The worlds of different mental disorders**

**Moderator: Simeon Kurkchiev**

**A Sense of an Ending: Cognitive Mapping in Life Stories about Alcohol Abuse**

*Todor Hristov (Sofia University) and Maria Martinova (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences)*

**Dementia and intersubjectivity?**

*Boryana Bundzhulova (Sofia University)*

**Training Bulgarian caregivers to improve everyday dementia care**

*Felix Diaz (American University in Bulgaria) and Kalina Ekova (Alzheimer Bulgaria Association)*

12.30 – 13.30 Launch Break

**13.30 – 14.15 Parental care**

**Moderator: Maria Martinova**

**Resilience Portrayed by Parents of Children With Disabilities**

*Nikoleta Yoncheva (Karin Dom Foundation – Varna), S. Nikolova (Medical University of Varna), A. Seth (Medical University of Varna), K. Mustafov (Medical University of Varna), Kr. Zaykova (Medical University of Varna), R. Pancheva (Medical University of Varna), B. Cherkezova (Medical University of Varna), M. Tsoneva (Karin Dom Foundation – Varna), V. Tincheva (Karin Dom Foundation – Varna)*

**Theoretical review of psychological processes of loss, grief and mourning among relatives of deceased due to suicide**

*Toska Vlaseva-Ganeva (Sofia University)*

14.15 - 14.30 Break

**14.30 – 15.30 Covid-19 pandemic**

**Moderator: Veronica Dimitrova**

**Stress, distress and burn-out of the staff of a rehabilitation hospital: the impact of Covid-19 pandemic**

*Ivet Koleva (Medical University of Sofia), Borislav Yoshinov (Sofia University), Teodora Assenova (Sofia University), Radoslav Yoshinov (University of Library Studies and Information Technologies)*

**Meaning in Coping During Covid-19**

*Yana Petrova (Sofia University)*

**15.30-16.30 Round table**

**Establishment of a coalition for mental health in Bulgaria. The role of the WHO**

*Mihail Okoliyski (WHO – Country Office (Bulgaria))*

**16.30-17.00 Final remarks and closing the conference.**