

IN THIS ISSUE

This issue features groups of papers on bipolar disorder, neuropsychology and psychophysiology of psychiatric disorders, epidemiology, and relationships of adolescent disorders to parental psychopathology.

Bipolar disorder

In the lead systematic review Kleindienst *et al.* (pp. 1685–1694) examine psychosocial predictors of response to prophylactic lithium and find nine factors consistently related to good or poor outcome, with small to moderate effect sizes. In the lead research paper Dennehy *et al.* (pp. 1695–1706) report important findings on outcome in bipolar disorder, from the Texas Medication Algorithm Project. Better provider adherence to a guideline was found associated with greater improvement in overall symptoms and depression, but not manic symptoms, over time.

Neuropsychology and psychophysiology

Four papers report neuropsychology or psychophysiology studies of psychiatric disorders. Brodaty *et al.* (pp. 1707–1716) report a large systematic study of apathy in stroke patients. Apathy was present in about one quarter of stroke admissions, was not associated with stroke severity, and only weakly so with depression. It was accompanied by reduced attention and speed of information processing, and tended to be associated on MRI with extent of hyperintensities in the right hemisphere and right fronto-subcortical circuit. Nienow & Docherty (pp. 1717–1726) studying schizophrenics, find association between impaired internal source monitoring and missing information reference in speech samples. McCabe *et al.* (pp. 1727–1736) find saccadic distractibility impaired in schizophrenic patients compared with controls, but unimpaired in unaffected relatives, irrespective of strength of genetic loading for the disorder. Barrett *et al.* (pp. 1737–1746) find normal levels of prepulse inhibition of the acoustic startle response in euthymic bipolar patients, in contrast to findings in mania.

Epidemiology

Two papers report epidemiological aspects of generalized anxiety disorder. In findings from the National Epidemiologic Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions, Grant *et al.* (pp. 1747–1759) report 12 months prevalence of 2.1%, higher rates in females, the middle-aged, widowed, divorced and separated persons, lower rates in Hispanics, Asians and Blacks, high co-morbidity with substance abuse and other anxiety disorders, and similar disability to other mood disorders, strongly supporting its existence as an independent disorder. In findings from the National Comorbidity Survey Replication, Ruscio *et al.* (pp. 1761–1772) examine the place of excessive worry in diagnosis of the disorder. They challenge the value of the criterion of excessiveness in the diagnosis of GAD, and argue for its removal. Medina-Mora *et al.* (pp. 1773–1783) report 12 months prevalence of psychiatric disorder from a large survey of the Mexican urban population, with overall 12 months prevalence of 12.1%, high rates of specific phobia, major depression and alcohol abuse or dependence, and a 12 months prevalence of very severe disorders of 3.7% of subjects, of whom only the very low proportion of one quarter utilized any services. In the Northern Plains American Indian Tribe, Sawchuck *et al.* (pp. 1785–1794) report a high lifetime rate of post-traumatic stress disorder of 15%, and a rate of depression of 8%, both associated with cardiovascular disease and its risk factors. In data from an English community survey, Karlsen *et al.* (pp. 1795–1803) find experience of interpersonal racism and perceived racism in ethnic minority groups of Caribbean, Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Irish origin associated with higher rates both of common mental

disorder and of psychosis. In a follow-up of former Soviet immigrants to Israel after 5 years Lerner *et al.* (pp. 1805–1814) find improvement in objective parameters of absorption, but without improvement in psychological distress, the latter being particularly associated with measures of life stress and poor support, and evidently slower to improve than is acculturation.

Adolescent disorders and parental psychopathology

Herndon & Iacono (pp. 1815–1824) report a study of pre-adolescent and adolescent children of parents with antisocial behaviour. They find high rates of a broad range of psychiatric disorders, both externalizing and internalizing. In a population-based sample Ormel *et al.* (pp. 1825–1835) find greater specificity, offspring internalizing disorders being associated with familial loading of internalizing psychopathology, and offspring externalizing disorders with familial loading of externalizing but not internalizing psychopathology.