

## S30-02

### GERIATRIC PSYCHIATRY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN ROMANIA - INVOLUNTARY TREATMENT

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The protection of human rights and the dignity of persons with mental disorders has not a relatively short history in Romania. We have a short review of legislation and of conditions of hospitalization concerning involuntary commitment of the mentally ill people during our history before and after 1989, having more than 30 years experience in the field. Since 1989 it has been necessary to create committees to investigate abuse during involuntary commitment. On the other hand, before 1989 some persons with (or even without) mental disorders were committed to a psychiatry department to protect them. Generally, Romania's legislation is in keeping with principles set out by the World Health Organisation, United Nations and so on, concerning the protection of people with mental illnesses. The legislation calls for adequate treatment and respect for the human rights of the persons with mental disorders.

Standards and practice regarding involuntary commitment in a psychiatric department and also involuntary ambulatory treatment of person with mental disorders have been improved since the introduction of the new mental health law in 2002. We discuss about the assessment of competence in the elderly and ethical aspect of care and research, and about involuntary commitment of incompetent elderly patients. We also refer to the complications and difficulties when trying to apply the civil commitments compulsive hospital admission measure. Involuntary commitment of incompetent patients took in the consideration the best interest of the patient, but also the well-being of the family and the potential risk for others.