

method, the anticipation is demonstrated as for the young generation, the observed age at onset (21.80 years) is smaller than the expected age at onset (24.95 years) ( $p < 0.001$ ). This effect persists when successively taking into account proband effect, cohort effect, presence of an affected father or mother, and bilineality of the illness. Presence of anticipation may accelerate the search for pathological genes implicated in the genesis of schizophrenia.

#### THE ESF PROGRAMME ON THE MOLECULAR NEUROBIOLOGY OF MENTAL ILLNESS. PROGRESS AND PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

Peter McGuffin. *Division of Psychological Medicine, University of Wales College of Medicine, Heath Park, Cardiff CF4 4XN, UK*

The ESF programme coordinates the efforts of over twenty European centres attempting to map genes contributing to the aetiology of schizophrenia and manic depression. The programme has standardised procedures for diagnosis, selection of pedigrees and storage of data and, in addition to genotyping being carried out in individual laboratories, a systematic genome scan is being carried out in selected pedigrees on a centralised basis. This is taking place at the Genethon Laboratories near Paris who have been responsible for producing one of the currently most useful and detailed human genetic linkage maps. Preliminary findings will be presented.

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## S66. European psychopathology: yesterday, today and tomorrow

*Chairmen: J Cutting, P Berner*

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### PSYCHOPATHOLOGY AND BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH

A. Barocka. *Dept. of Psychiatry, University of Erlangen, Schwabachanlage 6, D-91054 Erlangen, Germany*

The relationship of psychopathology and research in biological psychiatry is analysed in this paper. As a historical background, the discussion on "brain mythology" is presented which took place at the beginning of the 20th century. More recent topics to be addressed are brain imaging techniques, neuropsychology and animal models of mental disorders. In conclusion, a better cooperation between research in psychopathology and biological psychiatry is suggested.

### PSYCHOPATHOLOGY — FUTURE ASPECTS

P. Berner. *Universitätsklinik für Psychiatrie, Währinger Gürtel 18–20, A-1090, Vienna, Austria*

During the last decades psychiatry concentrated on inventories and categorizations of symptoms aiming at a high interrater reliability. The scales and operational criteria resulting from this approach have nevertheless not enhanced the establishment of aetio-pathogenetically homogeneous entities. This failure is mainly due to the fact that the psychopathological signs significant for particular primary dysfunctions are often discreet and difficult to define and therefore not included in these instruments. Under the impact of pathoplastic variables different basic disturbances may engender similar foreground symptomatology and, on the other hand, identical causes may evolve to different surface syndromes. Thus, interrater reliability obtained by diagnostic rules neglecting the discreet background symptomatology and the genesis of the actual clinical

picture does not guarantee aetio-pathogenetic validity. Therefore, the identification of significant signs becomes an urgent necessity. Referring to a series of distinctions such as understanding through empathy and observation, static and genetic understanding a framework for this task has been established in the past. Its reactivation and refinement based on progress in neurosciences and their extension to vulnerability markers offers better insights in the aetio-pathogenesis of mental disorders and elaboration of more precise integrative therapeutic strategies.

### DEFINITIONS OF PSYCHOPATHOLOGY

M. Musalek. *Department of Psychiatry, University of Vienna, Währinger Gürtel 18–20, A-1090 Vienna, Austria*

Psychopathology is the science of mental disorders. The term Psychopathology is often used synonymously with the term Clinical Psychopathology. Its main concern should be the description, terminology, systematic order and research of the relations of psychopathological phenomena and features. According to K. Jaspers the methods of clinical psychopathology are the "technical methods" on the one hand and "concrete logical evaluation methods" on the other hand. Since the first publications on psychopathology by Emminghaus, Störing and Jaspers different methodological approaches have been used to enlighten the phenomenology, pathogenesis, significance and nosological position of psychiatric disorders. Definitions and tasks of different psychopathological approaches and their role in contemporary psychiatric research will be discussed in this paper. It becomes clear that psychopathology has to be defined today as a basic integrative science of mental disorders. The main goal of psychopathology — the elucidation of the origin and nature of mental disorders — can only be reached by a close cooperation between clinical psychopathology and other sciences as for example genetics, biochemistry, brain imaging, sociology, psychopharmacology, psychotherapy, transcultural psychiatry etc. The clinical psychopathologist's task therefore is not only to provide the basic psychopathological knowledge for psychiatric research but also to act as an integrative factor in psychiatric research.

### THE PSYCHOPATHOLOGICAL BASIS FOR RESEARCH AND PRACTICE

Andrew Sims. *Division of Psychiatry & Behavioural Sciences in Relation to Medicine, St James's University Hospital, Leeds LS9 7TF*

Descriptive psychopathology is concerned with the meticulous observation of patterns of behaviour and the exploration of the subjective state of patients using empathy as a skilled clinical instrument. All clinicians use descriptive psychopathology in their clinical practice but extra benefits accrue from using the method with insight and precision. Descriptive psychopathology is useful in linking the different areas of psychiatric research: Biological, psychological and social, and it also has implications for the application of research findings to psychiatric practice. This paper will be concerned with showing how biological research and neuro-imaging techniques can be linked with refinements in psychopathology to make a more powerful research tool. There will be discussion of the increasing areas of experimental psychological research concerned with psychopathological entities such as delusions and hallucinations and their psychological treatment. Research into social aspects of psychiatric research and especially transcultural psychiatry will also be considered in relation to descriptive psychopathology. The paper will end with a short discussion concerning the dilemma of brain and mind. It is considered that "unconscious mind" is an unhelpful concept in the practice of psychiatry and that close observation of human behaviour