
Editorial : Intervention in Mental Health and Neuro Sciences: Recent Advances"

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A number of experts from the fields related to the theme of "Intervention in Mental Health and Neuro Sciences" were invited to contribute to this issue. Most of the papers are exhaustive and well supported by recent studies. Dr. Pradhan brings out the paradox between the advances in neurobiology and its utility in understanding the neural basis of behaviour in the practice of clinical psychiatry. With a hope to use the model of multiple-interacting neurochemical systems the author draws attention to a new comprehensive model and provides conjectures and hypotheses for future work in this area.

Dr. Chaturvedi et al project the increase in the psychological disturbances after a physical illness. They have suggested that "psychiatrists should think medically about their patients" as most of the patients who present psychiatric manifestations may have underlying medical disorders. Authors provide a variety of management techniques in the physically ill patients. Dr. Anil Malhotra and his colleagues have discussed the major changes occurred mainly during the last decade in the intervention of substance use disorders. They have quite successfully shown a synchronization between research related advancements in the disorders of substance use, non-pharmacological intervention techniques and HIV infection and AIDS. An interactional holistic approach to deal with substance abuse will be much more useful, according to them.

Recent advances in child psychopharmacology in response to biological basis of many psychiatric disorders have been highlighted by Drs. Savita and Sudipto. In spite of these advancement they emphasize the need to understand the psychosocial contribution in the manifestation of certain disorders. They express the need to combine non-pharmacological methods with drugs after a rigorous scientific investigation about the efficacy of the drugs. Dr. Sarada Menon describes the current trends in rehabilitation in terms of social skills training, vocational rehabilitation and cognitive remediation. She talks about system type intervention creating community support programmes (CSP) and suggests societal rehabilitation intervention model for India.

Drs. S.K. Verma & Shekhar Rao's paper deals with traditional psychological methods of treatment in the context of present reality. The thrust of the paper is its simple and scientific explanation of most of the processes used in the psychological intervention. Recent development in behaviour therapy, cognitive behaviour therapy and behavioural medicine and their application in some specific disorders have been described by Drs. Kumaraiah and Prasad Rao. Authors have envisaged the role of behavioural therapist to bring a viable interaction between the treatment strategies and intra- and extra individual, together with the environmental inputs for better efficacy. Dr. Hema Shah has made efforts to delineate the traditional and emerging role of the profession of psychiatric social work and psychiatric social worker. She highlights the need to bring parity between teaching, practice, and research in the profession.

Recent advances in the understanding and management of tubercular neuroinfections have been described succinctly by Dr. Singhal and colleagues. Dr. Rajshekhar describes the recent advances in stereotactic surgery with real precision and accuracy covering image guided stereotactic surgery and stereotactic radiosurgery. Entire success in this field, author attributes to the development of powerful computers. As of now, most of the neuro-surgeons are well conversant with these two techniques, and sooner the other techniques like frameless stereotactic surgery and robotic surgery will become

routine neurosurgery according to the author. Drs. Das & Mohanty enlist the cerebrovascular disorders amenable to surgical management. In their opinion technological advancements in imaging, patient monitoring and superior quality of operating microscopes have brought qualitative change in cerebrovascular surgery. Their paper highlights the indications, limitations, and reviews the advances in the field.

Dr. Jayakumar and his colleagues while discussing the intervention in stroke enlist the advances in catheter delivery system and microballoon technology and examines the use of liquid polymers in the treatment of AVMS and inoperable aneurysms in the field of interventional neuroradiology through endovascular treatment. In stenotic lesions, techniques of arterial dilatation are used more frequently. According to the authors, intracranial angioplasty is still in the initial phase. Dr. Subhash sketches the progress in interdisciplinary research which has taken place during the last two to three decades in developing suitable therapy in the field of neurochemistry. Outlining the recent research strategies in certain specific areas, the author feels that it has not only advanced our capacity to treat mental illness with newer drugs rather with fewer side effects. He substantiates this with the description of treatment approaches in certain mental disorders.

Dr. Shankar and his colleagues demonstrate how the grafting and transgression with new techniques has made pathology to widen its scope encompassing into neurobiology and other specialities, especially during the 'Decade of the Brain'. With the acceptance of multidisciplinary approach, neuropathology has started grafting with many disciplines and made advancements in intervention in neurosciences. According to authors some of them which are more relevant in Indian context are discussed.

Thus, this special issue of the journal is an excellent source of recent advancements in terms of interventions in the area of mental health and neuro sciences. Readers are welcome to send their comments and views about such special issues of the journal in general, and this issue on recent trends and advances, in particular.