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Editorial

THE PHYSIOLOGICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL mechanisms involved in the development of various disorders are markedly influenced by the social, political, economical, ecological and other sociocultural and technological factors as well as by family background. On the other hand, the lifestyle and technology developments help to deepen our knowledge concerning the regulatory and compensatory mechanisms of the nervous system on the pathological processes originating and developing within the human body. The “state of the art” considerably influences also the psychosomatic versus neurobiological approaches to etiopathogenesis of several diseases from civilization.

A very illustrative example is panic disorder. It is well known that as for the question of the panic disorder aetiology and pathogenesis two main approaches are discussed in the relevant literature.

Behavioural-cognitive approaches based on psychiatric and psychological findings underline the premorbid personality and the actual personality structure of the panic patients (e.g. *catastrophic misinterpretation of bodily sensations; effect of low self-efficacy; person's perception of himself as subject to internal or external danger over which his control is lacking; panic disorder as the result of any form of underlying conflict*).

Neurobiological approaches point to the dysfunction within certain brain regions, impaired attentional filtering and dysfunctions related to abnormalities of the various neurotransmitters function within the brain circuits (e.g. *focus on heritability and the neurological abnormalities that underlie anxiety disorders – limbic system, amygdala, prefrontal cortex, hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis, locus-coeruleus – norepinephrine system; suffocation false alarm signal triggering; “fear network” model; neurotransmitters abnormalities within the lower brain stem, etc.*).

The experts in the field point to the fact that the basic principle of the panic disorder treatment is the individual approach and consequent persuasion, that is the combination of pharmacotherapy with psychotherapy. The imperative message is: the integrative attitude towards sometimes even opposite approaches.

There are some opportunities which help to rear such an attitude. Some of them are also scientific meetings organized by the Collegium Internationale Activitatis Nervosae Superioris (C.I.A.N.S.). Our upcoming International C.I.A.N.S. Conference 2012 (Congress Centre Academia, Stará Lesná, Slovakia, October 10-12th, see: www.brain.sav.sk/conference), and Lifestyle and Risk Factors in Diseases of Civilization Conference (October 13–14th, see: www.lifestyle.sav.sk) are aiming again to promote the interdisciplinary scientific collaboration in the field of cognitive and

behavioural sciences, psychology, physiology, pathology, pharmacology, biomedical sciences and other disciplines concerned with integration of biological, psychological and social sciences relevant to treatment, rehabilitation and prevention of disease and disability, and to promotion of health and quality of life, emphasizing the role of integrative Higher Nervous Functions.

All our friends and supporters are welcome.

Fedor Jagla