89  Antiangiogenic-Induced Hypertension: The Molecular Basis of Signaling Network

99  Effects of Percutaneous Tibial Nerve Stimulation Therapy on Chronic Pelvic Pain
Gokyildiz, S. (Adana); Kizilkaya Beji, N.; Yalcin, O. (Istanbul); Iste, A. (Bingöl)

106  Analysis of RCAS1 Immunoreactivity within Hydatidiform Mole Cells and Decidual Cells according to the Applied Therapeutic Strategy: Surgery or Surgery Followed by Chemotherapy
Wicherek, L. (Bydgoszcz); Basta, P. (Krakow); Wertel, I. (Lublin); Kojs, Z. (Krakow); Malikowski, B.; Grabiec, M. (Bydgoszcz); Pietrus, M.; Krystyna, G. (Krakow)

113  Protein Expression of Estrogen Receptors α and β and Aromatase in Myometrium and Uterine Leiomyoma
Olmos Grings, A.; Lora, V.; Dias Ferreira, G.; Simoni Brum, I.; von Eye Corleta, H.; Capp, E. (Porto Alegre)

118  The TP53 16-bp Duplication Polymorphism Is Enriched in Endometriosis Patients

124  Observational Study of the Local Tolerability of Injectable Progesterone Microspheres
Bernardo-Escudero, R. (Pachuca); Cortes-Bonilla, M. (Mexico D.F.); Alonso-Campero, R. (Pachuca); de Jesús Francisco-Doce, M.T.; Chavarín-González, J.; Pimentel-Martínez, S.; Zambrano-Tapia, L. (Mexico D.F.)

130  Effect of Terbutaline on Latency Period in Preterm Premature Rupture of Membranes
Kulmala, L.; Phupong, V. (Bangkok)

135  Spatial Analysis of the Distribution of Endometriosis in Northwestern Italy
Migliaretti, G.; Deltetto, F.; Delpiano, E.M.; Bonino, L.; Berchiara, P.; Dalmasso, P.; Cavallo, F.; Camanni, M. (Turin)

141  Placental Chorangiosis: The Association with Oxidative Stress and Angiogenesis
Barut, A.; Barut, E.; Kandemir, N.O.; Aktunc, E.; Arikan, I.; Harma, M.; Harma, M.I.; Gun, B.D. (Zonguldak)

152  Vaginal Douching Practices among Turkish Married Women
Erbil, N. (Ordu); Alışarlı, A. (Samsun); Terzi, H.Ç. (Ordu); Özdemir, K. (Sakarya); Kuş, Y. (Istanbul)

158  Uterine Intravascular Fetal Material and Coagulopathy at Peripartum Hysterectomy

162  The Correlation of Maternal Uric Acid Concentration with Small-for-Gestational-Age Fetuses in Normotensive Pregnant Women
Akahori, Y.; Masuyama, H.; Hiramatsu, Y. (Okayama)

168  Cardiometabolic Risk in Chinese Women with Prior Gestational Diabetes: A 15-Year Follow-Up Study
Both parents and offspring are susceptible to adverse environmental conditions that alter their normal brain development and adaptations during reproduction, increasing their risk of mental problems in the short and long term. Pregnancy stress and anxiety alter the cognitive performance, memory, and behavior of mothers. Resulting in suboptimal maternal hormonal signals and inadequate care, they impact directly and indirectly on the developing baby in utero and in the neonatal stage.

This special issue of Neuroendocrinology is a collection of timely review articles from experts in the field of Mental Health Programming presented at the 'Parental Brain' Conference in Edinburgh in September 2010. A variety of mental health topics ranging from the neonatal to the juvenile and parental brain are discussed in detail.

The insight provided here from in-depth research into brain mechanisms underlying altered mental health marks the recent realization that mental health is susceptible to adverse programming from an early age and that real harm can be passed on inadvertently from generation to generation. Therefore 'The Parental Brain' offers valuable reading for scientists and clinicians interested in the impact of environmental conditions on mental health and how parental health contributes to long-term mental health in offspring.

Contents

**Editorial**

Programming Mental Health: Risk from Adverse Experience for Mothers and Offspring: *Douglas, A.J.*

Exposure to Prenatal Psychobiological Stress Exerts Programming Influences on the Mother and Her Fetus: *Sandman, C.A.; Davis, E.P.; Buss, C; Glynn, L.M.*

From Stress to Postpartum Mood and Anxiety Disorders: How Chronic Peripartum Stress Can Impair Maternal Adaptations: *Hillerer, K.M.; Neumann, I.D.; Slattery, D.A.*

Perinatal Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitor Exposure: Impact on Brain Development and Neural Plasticity: *Pawluski, J.L.*

Prenatal Excess Glucocorticoid Exposure and Adult Affective Disorders: A Role for Serotonergic and Catecholamine Pathways: *Wyrwoll, C.S.; Holmes, M.C.*

Post-Weaning to Pre-Pubertal (‘Juvenile’) Stress: A Model of Induced Predisposition to Stress-Related Disorders: *Horovitz, O.; Toory, M.M.; Hall, J; Jacobson-Pick, S.; Richter-Levin, G.*

Author and Subject Index
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All pages should be consecutively numbered beginning with the title page, then the text, acknowledgement, references and legends to figures. The text in original papers should be divided under the headings: Abstract, Introduction, Material(s) and Method(s), Results, and Discussion.

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(b) Papers published only with DOI numbers: Thocharides TC, Boucher W, Spear K: Serum interleukin-6 reflects disease severity and osteoporosis in mastocytosis patients. Int Arch Allergy Immunol DOI: 10.1159/000063858.


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Original Articles
They should not exceed 4 printed pages (3,000 words or approx. 9 manuscript pages double-spaced), including tables, illustrations and references.

Reviews
Reviews are welcomed; however, the Editor-in-Chief is happy to discuss potential articles with authors who would like to contribute.

Systematic Reviews
For systematic reviews of studies examining interventions or diagnostic procedures, we refer to the Cochrane Collaboration (www.Cochrane.org). As they represent ‘the state of the art’, they provide an exceptionally useful handbook. Systematic reviews need not only be the results of intervention studies but can be made on all kinds of research questions, even those that can only be answered by non-experimental studies or interpretive research. For example, a systematic review can be made on qualitative studies – for the ‘Qualitative method group’ of reviews, the Cochrane Collaboration is a useful information source. All systematic reviews must take and document the following steps:

1. Specification of a research question. A systematic review addresses a specific question rather than provides a general summary of the literature on a topic of interest as is in a traditional review, e.g. for an intervention study it must specify population, intervention, control group and outcome.

2. Development of a review protocol. Systematic reviews use a specified method that is planned beforehand and documented in a review protocol to avoid the risk of bias. A review protocol describes the complete review process, including research
questions, literature search strategy, selection criteria, criteria for evaluation of methodological quality and data will be summarized in a meta-analysis.

3. Systematic literature search. For a systematic review, the search strategy for the literature should be reported and should be repeatable. It includes several steps: a literature search to identify optimal key search terms, databases and search strategy; the search itself; the search of the reference lists of all included studies for the identification of additional studies (snowball method).

4. Selection of relevant studies. This must be done on the basis of selection criteria (e.g. populations, outcome measures, ... to include/exclude) described in the protocol. It protects the review from investigator bias, e.g. (un)consciously including studies on the basis of their results.

5. Evaluation of the methodological quality of each study. The quality of a systematic review depends on the quality of the studies included. Therefore, all studies must be assessed for methodological rigor because the results are only valid if the methods are. Critical appraisal of all studies must be reported and, depending on the research design, categories must be be graded.

6. Data collection from individual studies. The data that must be collected depends on the research question and must overcome the different methods of reporting and presenting data in the individual studies. It is useful to use a tool such as a literature table.

7. Synthesis of the findings. The aim of this phase is to summarize the findings from individual studies in an objective manner. The technique depends on the type of studies included. Under certain circumstances (same question, same population, same administration of the intervention, same outcome), the results of experimental studies can be pooled by meta-analysis. The results of noneperimental studies relating to a phenomenon of interest can be summarized in a meta-synthesis which is an interpretive rather than a cumulative exercise used in meta-analysis.

Narrative Reviews

If the authors are of the opinion that a systematic review is not possible for a specific topic/clinical question, they may opt for a narrative review. For narrative reviews, authors are also requested to have an appropriate form of each question, to specify their literature search, to carefully consider and discuss the methodological quality of all studies included, and to give an objective summary of the results and conclusion. Narrative reviews need to contain at least the following items:

• Key words used in the electronic search
• Identification of electronic database(s) searched by authors
• Exact definition of time period of publications searched by authors (start and end dates)
• Number of relevant titles identified by authors
• Number of published abstracts read by authors
• Number of full papers read by authors
• Number of cases published in international peer-reviewed literature (if review on case reports)
• Reason for inclusion or exclusion by authors of specific publications
• Summary table of included publications allowing comparison regarding significant findings
• Summary statement taking into account all available evidence

References


Novel Insights from Clinical Practice

This category replaces the previous Case Report section. We invite contributions to this section that provide novel insights into a clinical problem.

We recognise the value of case reports and thus submissions can be based around a case or a number of similar cases. The most important aspect of the presentation is that it should provide a new perspective on a recognised clinical scenario or may represent an entirely new clinical condition. The novel aspects of the case(s) may be in the phenotype, the presentation, the investigation and/or the management.

We propose that a highlighted box containing one or two bullet points on 'Established Facts' (what is already known) and 'Novel Insights' (what new information has been gained) be placed on the first page of the report. This will reinforce the novelty of the clinical observation. The manuscript should be presented with an unstructured abstract (max. 200 words), brief introduction, case or case series description and results, followed by a discussion. Maximum 3 figures.

Summaries of PhD Theses: A Summary of a PhD Thesis is supposed to give a review of the different papers that are part of a particular PhD thesis which has been successfully defended within the last 3 years. The review should have at least 6,000 words and a maximum of 10,000 words of text with a maximum of 200 references, 5 tables and 5 figures. Considerable emphasis should be given to an overall systematic discussion of the PhD findings, and their implication for clinical practice and/or research.

Letters to the Editor

This section is set aside for critical comments directed to a specific article that has been published in the journal. Letters should be brief (not exceeding 500 words), double spaced and limited to a maximum of 5 citations. The letters and replies should be prepared according to journal format. Illustrative material is only permitted with permission of the Editor-in-Chief. With your correspondence, please include your complete mailing address, telephone and fax numbers, and email addresses, if available. The Editor-in-Chief reserves the right to refuse letters, shorten letters, delete objectional comments, and make other changes to comply with the style of the journal. Send all Letters to the Editor to the above address.

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Contents

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BUILDING CONSENSUS IN GYNECOLOGY, INFERTILITY AND PERINATOLOGY

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BARCELONA, SPAIN • MAY 3-6, 2012

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Overseas Delegate Registration

**Early Bird Till**
Feb 15, 2012

**Regular Till**
April 15, 2012

**After 16th April**
and spot

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>May 31, 2012</strong></th>
<th><strong>June 1, 2012</strong></th>
<th><strong>June 2, 2012</strong></th>
<th><strong>June 3, 2012</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Registration</strong></td>
<td><strong>Registration</strong></td>
<td><strong>Meet the Professor/5 min capsules</strong></td>
<td><strong>Meet the Professor/5 min capsules</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1075 - 0930 hrs</td>
<td>State of the Art Lecture</td>
<td>State of the Art Lecture</td>
<td>State of the Art Lecture</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Workshops

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Early Pregnancy</strong></th>
<th><strong>Evaluation of the Uterus</strong></th>
<th><strong>Fetal Neurosonography</strong></th>
<th><strong>Ultrasound in Urogynecology</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0945 - 1115 hrs</td>
<td>1115 – 1145 hrs</td>
<td>1145 – 1215 hrs</td>
<td>1215 –1330 hrs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>11-14 weeks Fetal Evaluation</strong></th>
<th><strong>Fetal Therapy</strong></th>
<th><strong>Interventional Ultrasound in Gynecology</strong></th>
<th><strong>Fetal Urosonography</strong></th>
<th><strong>Abnormal Vaginal Bleeding</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1230 –1330 hrs</td>
<td>Ultrasound in Infertility</td>
<td>Fetal Therapy</td>
<td>Interventional Ultrasound in Gynecology</td>
<td>Fetal Urosonography</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lunch and Trade

- Technology Update
- Technology Update
- Technology Update

Fetal Growth and Doppler

- **Evaluation of the Adnexa**
- **Fetal Echocardiography**
- **Breast Ultrasound**
- **Multifetal Pregnancy**
- **Gynecology Bladder Bag**

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The conference aims at developing a full overview of current scientific advances in the field of cervical cancer and HPV related diseases of other sites (anus, skin, head & neck), raising the public health profile and increasing the need for responsive health services in this area. The event focuses on translating scientific and evidence based research into clinical practice and offers a high quality and innovative scientific program drawn up by outstanding international leaders from the academic sector as well as professional and patient organizations.

Key objectives:
- Assessing the impact of HPV and associated cancers on public health
- Identifying strategies to prevent and treat HPV associated diseases
- Exchanging information on early detection, new diagnostic and therapeutic procedures and prevention strategies including screening and HPV vaccination.

Target audience:
- Clinicians from several disciplines
  - Gynecologists
  - Oto-rhino-laryngologists/head & neck oncologists
  - Dermato-venereologists
- Basic scientists - Epidemiologists - Cytopathologists - Biologists

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

MAIN TRAINING COURSE (July 8, 2012).
- Full day training course on HPV infection and associated diseases:
  - Fundamentals – Screening and Vaccination - Management – HPV related neoplasia and cancer in the cervix, external genitalia and other sites

MAIN SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS (July 9-10, 2012).
- HPV associated diseases in non anogenital sites
- HPV based screening strategies
- HPV vaccines: update & perspectives
- New screening experiences – HPV vaccine implementation
- Hot topics on HPV infection & diseases
- Controversial issues in the field of HPV – how can models help our understanding?
- HPV DNA & mRNA testing
- Genotyping
- Molecular markers

OTHER SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS (July 10-11, 2012).
The program includes more than 20 other scientific sessions on a wide range of topics. These sessions are open for the presentation of original papers.

OTHER TRAINING COURSES AND EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS
- Colposcopy
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- Vulvar diseases
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International Forum on HPV and Head & Neck Cancer
Oropharyngeal cancer is one of the fastest rising cancers in many countries. This has been attributed to the rise in HPV- head and neck cancer. This new disease entity appears to have significantly better survival outcomes. However, important questions arise regarding its natural history, diagnosis, patient counselling and the best management regimens. This Forum includes dedicated sessions extending over 3 days on HPV infection in head & neck cancers as well as a specialized seminar.

International Forum on HPV and Skin / Dermatovenereology
HPV is definitely involved in the origin and development of genitoanal cancer of both genders. The role of beta papillomaviruses in squamous cell cancer of the skin is subject of numerous scientific investigations. This forum is organized in cooperation with EADV (European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology) and SCOPE (Skin Care in Organ Transplant Patients).
This Forum includes dedicated sessions extending over 3 days on HPV and skin / dermatovenereology as well as a specialized seminar.

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Alle, die sich in diesem Bereich engagieren, werden in diesem Buch wertvolle Hinweise für ihre tägliche Arbeit finden.

Inhalt
Vorwort: Riecher-Rössler, A.
Geleitwort: Brockington, I.
Psychische Probleme und Erkrankungen in Schwangerschaft und Postpartalzeit
Depressionen in der Schwangerschaft: Frisch, U.; Riecher-Rössler, A.
Angststörungen in der Schwangerschaft: Alder, J.; Urech, C.
Pränatalmedizinisch-geburthilfliche Aspekte bei der Betreuung von psychisch kranken Schwangeren: Surbek, D.
Betreuung drogenabhängiger Schwangerer und Mütter: Tschudin, S.
Psychosen in Schwangerschaft und Stillzeit: Riecher-Rössler, A.
Selbstleben von Frauen nach der Entbindung: Bonardi, K.; Grube, M.
Die Rolle des Vaters peripartal: Grube, M.
Depressionen in der Postpartalzeit: Riecher-Rössler, A.
Die Bedeutung postpartaler Depressionen und Angststörungen für die Mutter-Kind-Beziehung: Reck, C.
Speziﬁsche therapeutische Aspekte
Psychopharmakotherapie in Schwangerschaft und Stillzeit: Riecher-Rössler, A.; Heck, A.
Interaktionale Therapie in der Postpartalzeit: Trautmann-Villalba, P.; Hornstein, C.
Gruppentherapie für Mütter mit Depressionen: Frisch, U.; Winterer, S.; Riecher-Rössler, A.
Lichttherapie bei Depressionen in der Schwangerschaft: Frisch, U.; Bader, A.; Wirz-Justice, A.; Riecher-Rössler, A.
Interdisziplinäre Zusammenarbeit bei peripartalen psychischen Erkrankungen: von Ballestrem, C.-L.; Weigle, C.
Prävention
Frühintervention bei Schwangeren zur Prävention perinataler Störungen: Junge-Hoffmeister, J.; Bittner, A.; Weidner, K.
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Anhang
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Nützliche Links
Index

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