



University of Verona
Department of Public Health and Community Medicine
Section of Psychiatry and Clinical Psychology

**WHO Collaborating Centre
for Research and Training in Mental Health and Service Evaluation**

Head: Professor Michele Tansella

Scientific Report 2009

(with 2009 IF scores)



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The WHO Collaborating Centre in Verona is located in a recently refurbished building, within the University General Hospital of Verona (Policlinico G.B. Rossi, Piazzale L.A. Scuro 10, 37134 Verona, Italy). It was designated by WHO as *Collaborating Centre for Research and Training in Mental Health* on 23 February 1987. According to WHO regulations the designation lasts for four years and may be continued, with periodic reviews by WHO of the scientific performance of the Centre. The designation was confirmed in 1992. In September 1996 the Centre was re-designated as a **WHO Collaborating Centre for Research and Training in Mental Health and Service Evaluation** and since then this designation was further confirmed in 2001, 2005 and 2009.

The main research activities, carried out by the six Research Units of the Centre, focus on epidemiological and social psychiatry (including economics and geography of mental health studies), genetics and neuroimaging of schizophrenic and bipolar disorders, clinical psychopharmacology, communication in medicine and evaluation of mental health services. The staff (more than 50 persons) includes psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, computer scientists, physicists, geographers and social scientists, statisticians, technicians and secretaries.

Total Impact Factor (IF) of Papers Published by Members of the WHO Centre of Verona

2004:	IF 83.134	2008:	IF 144.833
2005:	IF 116.637	2009:	IF 234.473
2006:	IF 76.469	In press:	IF 167.109
2007:	IF 224.870		

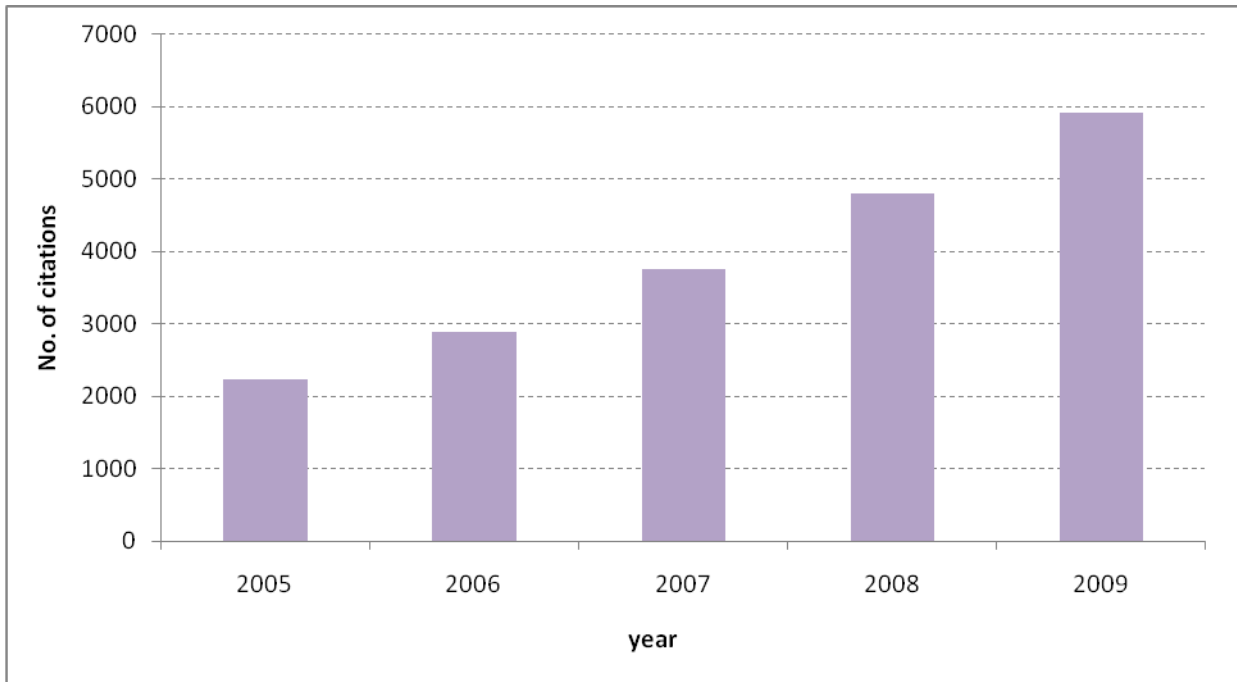
**Indices of Scientific Performance in the last 5 years
of the Heads of the Units of the WHO Centre of Verona**

Prof. F. Amaddeo, Dr. C. Barbui, Dr. P. Brambilla, Prof. L. Burti, Prof. M. Ruggeri, Prof. M. Tansella
and Prof. C. Zimmermann

Indices calculated by Dr. R. Pertile, Statistician

	2004-2008	2005-2009
• No. of papers published in the last 5 years (indexed within Web of Science)	283	276
• No. of citations, collected in the last 5 years, of these papers (Web of Science)	1386	1517
• Mean No. of citations per paper (range)	4.9 (0-55)	5.5 (0-54)
• Combined <i>Hirsch Index</i> for the Heads of Units of the WHO Centre of Verona (based on unduplicated citations of papers published in the last 5 years)	22	20

**No. of citations of all papers published in 1990-2009 by the Heads of Units
of the Verona WHO Centre.**



The WHO Collaborating Centre in Verona is part of the **Section of Psychiatry and Clinical Psychology, Department of Public Health and Community Medicine, University of Verona**, that provides Research, Clinical Activity and Education and Training.

Clinical Activity

Clinical activity takes place in the Academic General Hospital of Verona (*University Department of Psychiatry and Psychiatric University Clinic*), in the *South-Verona Mental Health Centre* (a multi-purpose facility providing outpatient consultations, day care, crisis intervention, home visits and rehabilitation), in the *staffed residential facilities and apartments for long-term patients*, in the *Outpatient Department*, and in other community-based facilities, which constitute an integrated Service: **the South-Verona Community Psychiatric Service (CPS)** (Head: Professor Michele Tansella). Our clinical facilities include also the *University Department of Psychosomatics and Clinical Psychology* (Head: Professor Mirella Ruggeri), with the *Unit of Clinical Psychology and Communication in Medicine* (Professor Christa Zimmermann), that provide outpatient care for patients with panic attacks and obsessive-compulsive disorders, as well as consultations for patients and doctors of other departments of the Academic General Hospital (800 beds), the *Unit of Psychotherapy* (Professor Lorenzo Burti), that provides individual and family psychotherapy and the *Unit for Eating Disorders* (Dr. Roberta Siani).

The South-Verona CPS was established in 1978, according to the provision of the Italian Psychiatric Reform, and is responsible for providing comprehensive psychiatric care (prevention, therapy and rehabilitation) for all those living in South-Verona, an area of 100,000 inhabitants.

The South-Verona Community Psychiatric Service (CPS)

General organization

The **South-Verona Community Psychiatric Service (CPS)** was designed as a unitary service, in which great emphasis is given to communication between staff and to integration between the various clinical activities. It is first described here in general terms. The various facilities and services available to South-Verona residents are then detailed. Staff members are divided into three multidisciplinary teams, each serving a sub-sector of the South-Verona catchment area. The three teams are organised according to a "single staff module": with the exception of nurses, all staff (psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers) work both inside and outside the hospital setting and retain responsibility for the same patients across different components of the service and through all phases of treatment. There are hospital nurses (who provide 24 hour cover over three shifts in the general hospital ward), hostel nurses, Mental Health Centre nurses and community nurses (who provide cover over two shifts, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., and are on call, two at a time, during the weekends and overnight). Of the nursing staff, only the community nurses are assigned to one of the three teams.

This module was designed to ensure continuity of care, both longitudinal continuity (through the different phases of treatment) and cross-sectional continuity (through the different components of the service). Within each team, each patient is assigned to one particular member of the staff (the "case manager"). Case managers may be doctors,

psychologists or senior nurses. Patients seen only at the out-patient department, by a psychiatrist or a psychologist, do not have a case manager.

The South-Verona CPS is well integrated, allowing patients easy access to most components and easy transfer from one component to another, according to need. A "drop in" approach is encouraged at the Mental Health Centre and patients can seek care from specialist services directly, without referral from GPs. However most patients are referred by GPs and referred back to them by the CPS, when it is felt that less stigmatising care can be provided through primary care. There are good relations between primary and secondary care and regular meetings are held with GPs to discuss how to improve the primary care / mental health service interface

Components of the CPS

The **Community Psychiatric Centre** is the linchpin of the **CPS** and is where staff meetings take place and interventions are planned and initiated. The Centre, located in an old, recently refurbished three-storey building with a garden, not far away from the University general hospital, is open on weekdays, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Therapeutic programmes include crisis intervention, day care for acute and chronic patients and social skills groups. The Centre also serves as an informal meeting place for Service "users", and it is conceived as a flexible resource whose organisation can be modified from time to time to meet the users' changing needs.

The psychiatric ward (University Psychiatric Clinic) is an open ward of 16 beds located in the University general hospital which has in total about 800 beds. It is a traditional hospital ward, similar to all other medical wards in the hospital and its door is locked when there are patients who have been compulsory admitted.

The outpatient department provides psychiatric consultations and individual and family therapy. Offices are located in the general hospital and in the Mental Health Centre.

The consultation liaison service for other medical and surgical departments (run by the Department of Psychosomatics and Clinical Psychology) maintains psychiatric integration with other hospital-based medical activities and ensures continuing contact with our patients when hospitalised for medical reasons.

The emergency service. There is a psychiatric emergency service at the general hospital, open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It is run by a psychiatrist from our team, who is on call. To ensure therapeutic continuity, he/she is usually assisted during working hours by the treatment team members who are (or will be) in charge of the patient requiring the urgent intervention.

There is also an **emergency night and week-end service**, co-ordinated by a psychiatrist and run by two psychiatric nurses from our team, who are on call to provide care in the supported flats and hostel, as well as at patients' homes.

Home visits can be made to provide crisis intervention in response to emergency calls, but for chronic patients these are usually planned in advance and offer regular, long-term support and care to patients and their families with the goal of minimising relapses and hospital admissions. Home visits are highly regarded by the service and are well accepted by patients and families.

Two group homes and four apartments (with a total number of 18 beds), offering different levels of supervision, and **one hostel** (with 12 beds, supervised 24 hours a day by support workers and counsellors and occasionally visited by nurses), are also available.



Distinctive features of South-Verona CPS

The features of the South-Verona mental health service that could be considered "distinctive" to the service are as follows:

- a. It is not experimental; the South-Verona initiative is a long-term undertaking, implemented by legislation in 1978 and based on a National Act flexible enough to permit development of a system of care which is suited to local needs;
- b. It was designed and is still functioning to substitute, not to supplement, the old hospital-based system of care. The front doors of the mental hospital have been closed to new admissions since May 1978 and to all admissions since January 1982;
- c. The clinical model developed in South-Verona is "systemic" and with a "single-staff module": all staff apart from nurses work both in the hospital and in the community and remain responsible for the care of the same patients across different components of the service and through the different phases of care. The "single staff" module is designed to ensure continuity of care and to encourage commitment and the assumption of full responsibility by the service.
- d. The South-Verona CPS is well integrated, and allows easy and informal access to patients. It is a public service run by the National Health Service. Payment is not required, except for a fee for out-patient visits (this applies only to more affluent patients and for those who are not considered long-term).
- e. Every effort is made to meet user's needs with individual care plans. A well established clinical practice in South-Verona is the critical examination of the user's explicit requests, in order to recognise what his/her real needs are. Included in this process is the need to question who originated the request for intervention (the real, often disguised or secret client), besides the usual assessment of psychosocial, precipitating and intervening factors.
- f. Although not designed as an experiment, the South-Verona initiative was from the beginning associated with a series of long-term research projects for monitoring and evaluating the changes in service organisation. Many projects use an epidemiological approach and include, evaluations of needs, costs and outcomes.

Education & Training

Education and training is provided for undergraduate medical students, for post-graduate residents at the *Scuola di Specializzazione in Psichiatria* of the University of Verona (advanced courses in Clinical Psychiatry, Social Psychiatry, Clinical Psychology, Psychotherapy and Clinical Psychopharmacology) (Director: Professor M. Tansella), for post-graduate Ph.D. students in Psychology and Psychiatry (*Dottorato di Ricerca in Scienze Psicologiche e Psichiatriche*) (Director: Professor Mirella Ruggeri), and for undergraduate students in psychosocial rehabilitation (*Corso di Laurea in Tecnica della Riabilitazione Psichiatrica*) (Director: Professor L. Burti). Short courses in Psychiatry, Medical and Clinical Psychology, Psychosomatics, and Psychogeriatrics are also provided for other Schools of Specialisation within the Medical School of the University of Verona.

The South-Verona CPS provides undergraduate and postgraduate students with the opportunity to obtain up-to-date education, and to receive their training in settings identical to those that they will find in their professional life, under the supervision of experienced personnel.

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**List of peer-reviewed Journals that published in 2009
papers by members of our Centre and Impact Factor (2009)**

International Journals	Number of papers	Impact Factor	Total
<i>BMC Public Health</i>	1	2.223	2.223
<i>British Journal of Psychiatry</i>	3	5.777	17.331
<i>British Medical Journal</i>	1	13.660	13.660
<i>Biochemical Society Transaction</i>	1	3.378	3.378
<i>Canadian Medical Association Journal</i>	1	7.271	7.271
<i>Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews</i>	6	5.653	33.918
<i>Current Pharmaceutical Design</i>	1	4.414	4.414
<i>Epidemiologia e Psichiatria Sociale</i>	10	1.860	18.600
<i>Evidence Based Mental Health</i>	5	-	-
<i>European Neuropsychopharmacology</i>	1	3.684	3.684
<i>Human Molecular Genetics</i>	1	7.386	7.386
<i>International Journal of Methods in Psychiatric Research</i>	1	3.030	3.030
<i>International Review of Psychiatry</i>	2	2.172	4.344
<i>Journal of Clinical Epidemiology</i>	2	2.956	5.912
<i>Journal of Clinical Psychopharmacology</i>	1	3.442	3.442
<i>Journal of Mental Health Policy and Economics</i>	1	0.645	0.645
<i>Journal of Psychopharmacology</i>	1	3.647	3.647
<i>Lancet</i>	1	30.758	30.758
<i>Lancet [Letter]</i>	1	3.07	3.070
<i>Nature</i>	1	34.480	34.480
<i>Psychiatry Research</i>	2	2.373	4.746
<i>Psychological Medicine</i>	1	5.012	5.012
<i>Psychopathology</i>	1	1.637	1.637
<i>Quality of Life Research</i>	1	2.376	2.376
<i>Schizophrenia Bulletin</i>	1	7.467	7.467
<i>Schizophrenia Research</i>	1	4.458	4.458
<i>Trials</i>	1	2.020	2.020
<i>World Journal of Biological Psychiatry</i>	1	5.564	5.564
TOTAL	51		234.473

h index

An index to quantify an individual's scientific research output

The Hirsch index (h index) is an indicator of citations of a researcher's scientific publications, proposed in 2005 by Professor Jorge E. Hirsch, University of California, San Diego, USA (Hirsch, 2005; 2007).

This index may be defined as the number of papers with citation number equal or higher than h (for example h index 5 means that at least 5 papers by that author were cited at least 5 times). Higher the h index, higher is supposed to be the impact of the researcher in his/her scientific community. h index depends from the level of seniority of the researcher.

It has been stated that h index is preferable to other single-number criteria commonly used to evaluate scientific output of a researcher, as follows (Hirsch, 2005):

- (i) **Total number of papers** (N_p). Advantage: measures productivity. Disadvantage: does not measure importance or impact of papers.
- (ii) **Total number of citations** ($N_{c,tot}$). Advantage: measures total impact. Disadvantage: hard to find and may be inflated by a small number of "big hits," which may not be representative of the individual if he or she is a coauthor with many others on those papers. In such cases, the relation in Eq. 1 will imply a very atypical value of a , ≈ 5 . Another disadvantage is that $N_{c,tot}$ gives undue weight to highly cited review articles versus original research contributions.
- (iii) **Citations per paper** (i.e., ratio of $N_{c,tot}$ to N_p). Advantage: allows comparison of scientists of different ages. Disadvantage: hard to find, rewards low productivity, and penalizes high productivity.
- (iv) **Number of "significant papers,"** defined as the number of papers with $\geq y$ citations (for example, $y = 50$). Advantage: eliminates the disadvantages of criteria *i*, *ii*, and *iii* and gives an idea of broad and sustained impact. Disadvantage: y is arbitrary and will randomly favor or disfavor individuals, and y needs to be adjusted for different levels of seniority.
- (v) **Number of citations to each of the q most-cited papers** (for example, $q = 5$). Advantage: overcomes many of the disadvantages of the criteria above. Disadvantage: It is not a single number, making it more difficult to obtain and compare. Also, q is arbitrary and will randomly favor and disfavor individuals.

To calculate their h index, the researchers may now use **Researcher ID**, a facility recently made available by ISI Thomson Reuters. **ResearcherID** is a global, multi-disciplinary scholarly research community. With a unique identifier assigned to each author in ResearcherID, you can **eliminate author misidentification** and view an author's citation metrics instantly. Search the registry to find collaborators, review publication lists and explore how research is used around the world.

Many database can be used to calculate the h index. Therefore it may change according to the database and also according to the time span covered by the database. It is therefore necessary to indicate, together with the h index, the database used and the time span (number of years) covered by the database.

The Library of the School of Medicine of the University of Verona estimates the h index on papers included in the ISI Web of Knowledge published from 1990 onwards.

In several Universities abroad and in some scientific institutions in Italy it is suggested to researchers to include their h index in their CV, so it may be considered, together with other indicators and characteristics, for promotion and selection, when new positions become available.

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Hirsch J.E. (2007) Does the h index have predictive power? *Proc.Nat.Acad.Sci. USA*, 104, 19193-19198.

Scientific staff of the Verona WHO Centre with a tenured position	h index
<i>Professor Michele Tansella</i>	32
<i>Professor Francesco Amaddeo</i>	13
<i>Dr. Corrado Barbui</i>	22
<i>Dr. Chiara Bonetto</i>	8
<i>Dr. Paolo Brambilla*</i>	27
<i>Professor Lorenzo Burti</i>	9
<i>Dr. Andrea Cipriani</i>	13
<i>Dr. Doriana Cristofalo</i>	5
<i>Dr. Lidia Del Piccolo</i>	8
<i>Dr. Claudia Goss</i>	6
<i>Dr. Antonio Lasalvia</i>	11
<i>Dr. Maria Angela Mazzi</i>	11
<i>Dr. Gianluca Rambaldelli</i>	4
<i>Dr. Michela Rimondini</i>	4
<i>Dr. Alberto Rossi</i>	5
<i>Professor Mirella Ruggeri</i>	22
<i>Dr. Roberta Siani</i>	3
<i>Dr. Sarah Tosato</i>	6
<i>Professor Christa Zimmermann</i>	13

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This list includes full papers, chapters of books and monographs and volumes published in 2009. The latest Impact Factor (I.F.) scores (2009) are indicated.

The list includes also Letters, but only those peer-reviewed and published in outstanding Journals. According to the rules of the Scientific Committee of the Medical School of the University of Verona these Letters are given an I.F. score that is 10% of the original score.

*Abstracts of papers presented at scientific Meetings and Congresses and posters are **NOT** included.*

For further information and for receiving copies of papers included in this list, please contact our Librarian:

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Questo lavoro, al quale il nostro Centro ha attivamente partecipato, non è conteggiato nel calcolo della produzione scientifica (valore di Impact Factor) del nostro gruppo, in quanto i componenti del Centro sono stati inclusi nell'INDIGO Study Group (vedi sopra), ma non sono tra gli autori principali.

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**List of peer-reviewed Journals that published in 2010 or
have in press papers by members of our Centre
and Impact Factor (2009)**

International Journals	Number of papers	Impact Factor	Total
<i>Acta Psychiatrica Scandinavica</i>	1	3.525	3.525
<i>Biochemical Society Transiction</i>	2	3.378	6.756
<i>British Journal of Psychiatry</i>	1	5.777	5.777
<i>British Medical Journal</i>	1	13.660	13.660
<i>CNS Drugs</i>	1	3.780	3.780
<i>Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews</i>	2	5.653	11.306
<i>Epidemiologia e Psichiatria Sociale</i>	10	1.860	18.600
<i>Evidence-Based Mental Health</i>	1		
<i>Experimental Brain Research</i>	1	2.195	2.195
<i>Human Molecular Genetics</i>	1	7.386	7.386
<i>Internationl Journal of Methods in Psychiatric research</i>	1	3.030	3.030
<i>Lancet</i>	1	30.758	30.758
<i>Molecular Psychiatry</i>	2	12.537	25.074
<i>Patient Education and Counseling</i>	1	2.219	2.219
<i>Plos Medicine</i>	1	13.050	13.050
<i>Psychological Medicine</i>	1	5.012	5.012
<i>Psychopathology</i>	1	1.637	1.637
<i>Schizophrenia Bulletin</i>	1	7.467	7.467
<i>Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology</i>	3	1.959	5.877
TOTAL	33		167.109

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- Zavradashvili N., Donisi V., Grigoletti L., Pertile R., Gelashvili K., Eliashvili M. & Amaddeo F. Is the implementation of assertive community treatment in a low-income country feasible? The experience of Tbilisi, Georgia. *Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology* 45, 779-783.
I.F. 2009: 1.959
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I.F. 2009: 1.959

B) PAPERS AND REVIEWS ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION IN INTERNATIONAL BOOKS AND MONOGRAPHS

- Lehman A.F. & Lasalvia A. Measures of quality of life for persons with severe mental disorders. In *Mental Health Outcome Measures*, 3rd edition. (ed. M. Tansella and G. Thornicroft). Royal College of Psychiatrists, Gaskell: London, in press
- Thornicroft G. & Tansella M. Psychosocial interventions for mental health. In *Randomized Clinical Trials of Nonpharmacologic Treatments*. (ed. I. Boutron, Ph. Ravaud & D. Moher), in press.
- Slade M., Glover G., Thornicroft G. & Tansella M. Measuring the needs of people with mental illness. In *Oxford Textbook of Community Mental Health*, 2nd Edition (ed. G. Thornicroft, G. Szmukler, K. Mueser and B. Drake). Oxford University Press: Oxford, in press
- Tansella M. & Thornicroft G. An evolving perspective of mental health outcome measures. In *Mental Health Outcome Measures*, 3rd. Edition (ed. G. Thornicroft and M. Tansella). Gaskell: London, in press.
- Ulass A., Duin R.P.W. Castellani U., Loog M., Bicego M., Murino V., Bellani M., Cerruti S., Tansella M. & Brambilla P. (2010). Dissimilarity-based detection of schizophrenia. Proceedings of ICPR Workshop on *Brain Decoding: Pattern Recognition Challenges in FMRI Neuroimaging*. IEEE Computer Science Society. Published in electronic format. Permanently available on the IEEEExplore and IEEE CS Digital Library online repositories, and indexed in IEE INSPEC, EI Compendex (Elsevier), Thomson ISI, and others.

C. LAVORI PUBBLICATI SU RIVISTE NAZIONALI

- Lasalvia A., Ricci A., Garzotto N., Cicolini A. , Cristofalo D. & Ariosto F. (2010). Resoconto ed efficacia di un intervento informativo/educativo sullo stigma legato alla malattia mentale rivolto agli operatori della Polizia di Stato di Verona. *Psichiatria di Comunità* 9, 39-49.
- Scala S. & Lasalvia A. I deficit cognitivi possono essere considerati validi indicatori di vulnerabilità per la schizofrenia? Revisione sistematica sul ruolo dei deficit neurocognitivi nei familiari di primo grado dei pazienti schizofrenici. *Rivista di Psichiatria*, in press.
- Tansella M. (2010). La cura della depressione nella comunità: nuove forme di integrazione tra medicina di base e Servizi di salute mentale. *Newsletter SIEP*, No. 3, 2-5.

D) PAPERS ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION IN ITALIAN BOOKS AND MONOGRAPHS

- Tansella M. La psichiatria tra ricerca "theory enhancing", ricerca "change promoting" e pratica clinica. Una sfida

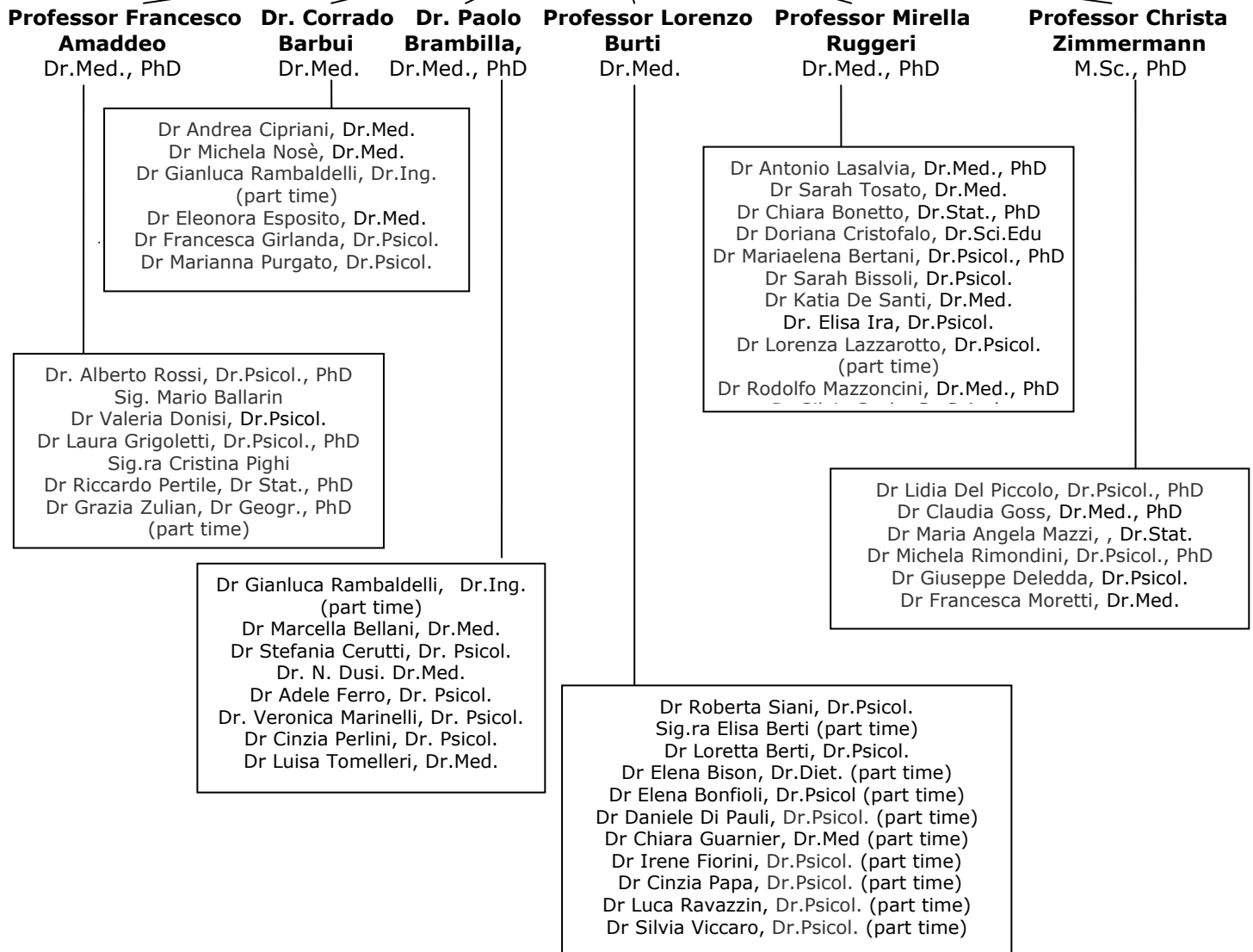
sostenibile. In *Essential Psychiatry* (ed. R. Murray, K. S. Kendler, P. McGuffin, S. Wessely and D. Castle) CG Edizioni Medico Scientifiche: Torino, in press.

E) INTERNATIONAL BOOKS ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION

Thornicroft G. & Tansella M. *Mental Health Outcome Measures*, 3rd. ed. Gaskell: London, in press.

Scientific Staff

Professor Michele Tansella, Dr.Med. (Head)



The main research activities carried out by the six Research Units are the following:

1) Psychiatric Register, Economics and Geography of Mental Health

Coordinator: Professor Francesco Amadeo

A psychiatric case register (PCR) was started on 31 December 1978 and is used for clinical, administrative and research purposes. For research, the PCR is used for: longitudinal analyses of patterns of care; studies on incidence and prevalence and related factors; services utilisation; comparisons with other case-register areas; and costs of care and outcome. The PCR has facilitated the detailed observation of changes in Italian mental health care since the Italian psychiatric reform.

The Unit has conducted a series of studies in prevalence and incidence samples to explore the relationships between the socio-demographic and clinical characteristics of patients and the costs of community-based mental health care, to study the mortality of psychiatric patients, to assess the association between Socio-Economic Status (SES), services utilisation and costs.

Recently, the Unit has participated to a national study (funded by the Ministry of Health) that has permitted to develop a new funding system. The Unit is coordinating Centre for a National study on "Socio-economic status, urbanisation and mental health" that use an health geography approach.

The Unit is actually collaborating with the WHO centres based in Geneva and Copenhagen on a research project consisting in an evaluation of the psychiatric assistance in Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova.

2) Clinical Psychopharmacology and Drug Epidemiology

Coordinator: Dr. Corrado Barbui

The main research interests of the Unit include: (a) pharmacoepidemiology, oriented to describe the beneficial and harmful effects of psychotropic drugs in ordinary practice; (b) randomised clinical trials, oriented to assess the efficacy and tolerability profile of psychotropic drugs in experimental conditions; (c) systematic reviews, oriented to summarize clinical trial findings using meta-analytical techniques. Recent achievements of the Unit include the development of a psychotropic register that collects information on psychotropic drugs prescribed within the South-Verona catchment area, the development of a network of psychiatric services that is currently collecting patients for a multi-centre clinical trial, the production of systematic reviews in the field of antidepressants and antipsychotics, and the development of tools oriented to assist the World Health Organization to improve the rational use of psychotropic drugs in low and middle income countries. The projects of the Unit are financially supported by organisations not linked with drug companies.

3) Brain Imaging and Neuropsychology

Coordinator: Dr. Paolo Brambilla

The Brain Imaging and Neuropsychology laboratory was established in the 2003. A variety of neuroimaging and cognitive techniques are being used to investigate the neurobiological and neuropsychological bases of affective and psychotic spectrum disorders. In particular structural, diffusion, perfusion, spectroscopy and functional MRI investigations coupled with tests exploring laterality, executive functions and language are conducted on patients affected by bipolar disorders, unipolar disorders, schizoaffective disorders and schizophrenia to understand the common neurobiological underpinnings of major psychoses, integrating with psychopathology and social psychiatry. Specifically, one of the major aim of this research group is to increase the knowledge of possible neural circuitry and cognitive underpinnings shared by these conditions. Recently, the Unit has started multidisciplinary projects aimed at investigating the role of immune system in patients with major psychoses and the phenomics of psychoses and obsessions in twin population. International collaborations with other laboratories working in the field of brain imaging and neuropsychology have been established.

4) Integrating physical health, mental health and human rights

Coordinator: Professor Lorenzo Burti

Currently, three projects are ongoing: Ithaca, Helps and Physico address the factors necessary to create and successfully implement policy to promote the human rights, dignity and general health status of these patients. In fact, there is substantial evidence of an excess mortality and higher prevalence of physical co-morbidity in mental patients as compared to the general population; there is also widespread concern that conditions for many people with mental ill health, mental disability or dependency in treating and caring institutions fall far short of standards compatible with agreed human rights treaties and conventions, and do not consistently prevent abuse.

Moreover, the Unit is working on the Bio.Ve.D.A. project aiming to develop a register of eating-disorders taking advantage of the fact that the Unit of Psychotherapy, which hosts this Research Unit, has been appointed Regional Centre for Eating Disorders. Finally, Self-Help II, now in the phase of processing data, investigates the contribution of a large consumer self-help group, based in Verona, to improve participation of mental patients in society at large.

5) Environmental, Clinical and Genetic Determinants of the Outcome of Mental Disorders

Coordinator: Professor Mirella Ruggeri

The Unit has worked since the '80s with the aim of characterizing the outcome of the mental disorders. Many longitudinal studies both in prevalence and incidence samples have been carried on to identify predictive patterns of favourable and unfavourable outcomes in naturalistic settings, using a multidimensional approach to include objective and subjective variables, and taking into account the relative role of clinical, social, service variables and genetic factors on the course of illness. Currently, the *Psychosis Incident Cohort Outcome Study (PICOS)*, a multicentric study involving 28 mental health services in the Veneto Region, is ongoing. The PICOS aims to test the relationship between clinical and genetic features of psychosis in an epidemiologically representative sample of first episode psychotic subjects. Recently, the Research Program GET UP (Genetics, Endophenotypes and Treatment: Understanding early Psychosis), with Professor Ruggeri as National Coordinator, has been funded by the Ministry of Health. It is constituted by four partner projects and it will shed light on several biological, psychological, and environmental issues that are presumably linked to psychosis onset. Moreover, the Unit is collaborating in the SGENE project, a large scale genome-wide association study of schizophrenia addressing variation in expressivity and contribution from environmental factors.

6) Clinical Psychology and Communication in Medicine

Coordinator: Professor Christa Zimmermann

During the last decade, the Unit has developed and standardised several instruments and methodologies to study doctor patient interactions both in Primary Care and in Psychiatry. The Unit has carried out the evaluation of the efficacy of training courses in improving communication skills of General Practitioners and Psychiatrists, and has studied the information-giving process in primary care consultations and in psychiatric outpatient intake interviews. Currently, the Unit coordinates two studies: one on patients' perception of the doctors' clinical communication skills (Verona, Liverpool, Utrecht), the other on the informative needs of breast cancer patients and their involvement in treatment decisions (Verona, Milan).

Appointments and administrative positions of members of our Centre

Professor Francesco Amaddeo	Scientific Societies and Associations. Executive Committees: <i>Società Italiana di Psichiatria (Sezione Veneta)</i> Scientific International Journals <i>Epidemiologia e Psichiatria Sociale</i> (Associate Editor)
Dr Corrado Barbui	Scientific Societies and Associations WHO Guidelines Development Group of the mhGAP Intervention Package (Member) Scientific National Journals <i>Dialogo Sui Farmaci</i> (Editorial Board) <i>Economia e Politica del Farmaco</i> (Editorial Board) <i>Informazioni Sui Farmaci</i> (Editorial Board) Scientific International Journals <i>Cochrane Depression, Anxiety, & Neurosis Group - The Cochrane Collaboration</i> (Editorial Board) <i>Epidemiologia e Psichiatria Sociale</i> (Associate Editor) <i>European Psychiatry</i> (Editorial Board) <i>Evidence Based Mental Health</i> (Associate Editor) <i>Internet Mental Health</i> (Editorial Board)
Dr. Paolo Brambilla	Scientific Societies and Associations Collegium Internationale Neuro-Psychopharmacologicum (CINP) (member) World Federation of Societies of Biological Psychiatry (WFSBP) (member) European College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ECNP) (member) Neuroimaging section of the Association of European Psychiatrists (AEP) (member) Association of European Psychiatrists (AEP) (member) Schizophrenia International Research Society (SIRS) (member) Scientific National Journals <i>Epidemiologia and Psichiatria Sociale</i> (Editorial Board) <i>Minerva Psichiatrica</i> (Editorial Board) Scientific International Journals <i>European Psychiatry</i> (Advisory Board) <i>The International Journal of Mental Health</i> (Editorial Board) <i>The Open Neuroimaging Journal</i> (Editorial Board) <i>Psychiatry Research: Neuroimaging</i> (Editorial Board)
Professor Lorenzo Burti	Scientific Societies and Associations. Executive Committees: Società Italiana di Riabilitazione Psicosociale (SIRP) – Honorary President Funding Member of the World Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation Scientific International Journals <i>Community Mental Health Journal</i> (International Correspondent) <i>Epidemiologia e Psichiatria Sociale</i> (Editorial Board)
Dr Andrea Cipriani	Scientific International Journals <i>Clinical Evidence: Depressive Disorders in Adults</i> - BMJ Publishing Group (Review Team Co-ordinator) <i>Cochrane Depression, Anxiety, & Neurosis Group</i> , The Cochrane Collaboration (Editorial Board) <i>Current Drug Therapy</i> (Advisory Board) <i>Epidemiologia e Psichiatria Sociale</i> (Editorial Board)

Dr Antonio Lasalvia	Scientific National Journals <i>Psichiatria di Comunità</i> (Executive Board) Scientific International Journals <i>Epidemiologia e Psichiatria Sociale</i> (Associate Editor)
Dr Michela Rimondini	Scientific Societies and Associations. Executive Committees: European Association of Communication in Healthcare (Teaching Board)
Professor Mirella Ruggeri	Scientific Societies and Associations. Executive Committees: Società Italiana di Epidemiologia Psichiatrica (SIEP) (Past President) European Network for Mental Health Services Evaluation - ENMESH (Chairperson) Association of European Psychiatrists (<i>Section of Epidemiology and Social Psychiatry</i>) Scientific National Journals <i>Psichiatria di Comunità</i> (Executive Board) Scientific International Journals <i>Epidemiologia e Psichiatria Sociale</i> (Associate Editor) <i>Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology</i>
Professor Michele Tansella	Scientific Societies and Associations. Executive Committees: Società Italiana di Epidemiologia Psichiatrica (Honorary President) Association of European Psychiatrists (Section of Epidemiology and Social Psychiatry) World Psychiatric Association (Section on Epidemiology and Public Health) Commissione Nazionale Ricerca Sanitaria, Ministero della Salute Comitato Tecnico Scientifico (CTS) dell'IRCS – Fatebenefratelli di Brescia Expert Advisory Panel on Mental Health, World Health Organization Scientific National Journals <i>Psichiatria di Comunità</i> (Advisory Board) <i>Rivista di Psichiatria</i> (Advisory Board) Scientific International Journals <i>Archivos de Psiquiatria</i> (Advisory Board) <i>Acta Psychiatrica Scandinavica</i> (Advisory Board) <i>British Journal of Psychiatry</i> (International Editorial Board) <i>Early Intervention in Psychiatry</i> (Advisory Board) <i>Epidemiologia e Psichiatria Sociale</i> (Chief Editor) <i>European Journal of Psychiatry</i> (Advisory Board) <i>International Journal of Mental Health Systems</i> (Advisory Board) <i>International Journal of Methods in Psychiatric Research</i> (Advisory Board) <i>International Review of Psychiatry</i> (Advisory Board) <i>Psychological Medicine</i> (Advisory Board) <i>Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology</i> (Editor) <i>Socijalna Psihijatrija</i> (Advisory Board) <i>World Psychiatry</i> (Advisory Board)
Professor Christa Zimmermann	Scientific Societies and Associations. Executive Committees: European Association for Communication in Healthcare (Permanent Research Committee) Scientific International Journals <i>Epidemiologia e Psichiatria Sociale</i> (Editorial Board) <i>Patient Education and Counseling</i> (Associate Editor)

The WHO Collaborating Centre of Verona and the Section of Psychiatry and Clinical Psychology of the Department of Medicine and Public Health (University of Verona) have established several international collaborations. During the 2009, the WHO Centre has been visited by several colleagues, who gave the following **LECTURES**:

- **“It’s all in the brain ... A neuroscience perspective on clinical communication”** by Professor Arnstein Finset (Department of Behavioural Sciences in Medicine, University of Oslo) (17 Febbraio 2009)
- **“Parkinsonismo indotto da farmaci antipsicotici: implicazioni cliniche e di Ricerca”** by Professor Michele Tinazzi (Dipartimento di Scienze Neurologiche e della Visione, University of Verona) (17 Febbraio 2009)
- **“Dream consciousness: a new theory based on neurobiological data”** by Professor J. Allan Hobson (Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry, Medical School, Harvard University, Boston) (23 Febbraio 2009)
- **“Physical co-morbidity, poor health behaviour and a preventive intervention in South Verona patients with functional psychoses: a Prevalence Study and a Randomised Controlled Study”** by Professor Lorenzo Burti, Dr. Giuseppe Imperadore, Dr. Loretta Berti, Dr. Maria Angela Mazzi (Sezione di Psichiatria, Università di Verona) (22 Aprile 2009)
- **“Breve storia dell’Outsider Art. Il rapporto Arte e Follia in Occidente”** by Professor Daniela Rosi (Centro Franca Martini di Trento and Accademia di Belle Arti G.B. Cignaroli, Verona) (8 Maggio 2009)
- **“Modelli multistato e rischi competitivi”** by Dr. Gabriele Accetta and Professor Annibale Biggeri (Università di Firenze) (19 Ottobre 2009)

The WHO Collaborating Centre and the Section of Psychiatry and Psychology have also organized the following **CONFERENCES and EVENTS**:

“European Association for Communication in HealthCare (EACH). Verona-CoDES. Multi centre coding experiences and proposal. Verona Network on Sequence Analysis. VII Invitational Workshop” (13-14 Febbraio 2009)

- Jozien Bensing (Utrecht, NL)
- Svein Bergvik (Tromsø, NO)
- Hanneke de Haes (Amsterdam, NL)
- Lidia Del Piccolo (Verona, IT)
- Myriam Deveugele (Gent, BE)
- Hilde Eide (Oslo, NO)
- Tom Eide (Oslo, NO)
- Arnstein Finset (Oslo, NO)
- Ian Fletcher (Liverpool, UK)
- Claudia Goss (Verona, IT)
- Cathy Heaven (Manchester, UK)
- Gerry Humphris (St. Andrews, UK)
- Young-Mi Kim (Baltimore, USA)
- Wolf Langewitz (Basel, CH)
- Maria Angela Mazzi (Verona, IT)
- Ludwien Meeuwesen (Utrecht, NL)
- Trond Mjaaland (Oslo, NO)
- Suzanne Monca (St. Andrews, UK)
- Francesca Moretti (Verona, IT)
- Matthias Nuebling (Freiburg, DE)
- Michela Rimondini (Verona, IT)
- Peter Salmon (Liverpool, UK)
- Tonje Sibbern (Oslo, NO)
- Ingunn Skre (Tromsø, NO)
- Sandra van Dulmen (Utrecht, NL)
- William Verheul (Utrecht, NL)
- Larry Wissow (Baltimore, USA)
- Bridget Young (Liverpool, UK)
- Christa Zimmermann (Verona, IT)

“Autismo, una prospettiva longitudinale dall’età infantile all’età adulta” (20 Marzo 2009)

- Dr.ssa Susanna Ambrosi (U.O. NPI Dss 2 ULSSn 4, Thiene, VI)
- Dr. Maurizio Arduino (Settore Autismo, ASL Cuneo)
- Prof. Francesco Barale (Dipartimento di Scienze Sanitarie Applicate e Psicocomportamentali, Università di Pavia)
- Prof. Giovanni Berlucchi (Dipartimento di scienze Neurologiche e della Visione, Sezione di Fisiologia, Università di Verona)
- Prof. Lorenzo Burti (Dipartimento di Medicina e Sanità Pubblica, Sezione di Psichiatria, Università di Verona)
- Dr.ssa Maria Grazia Chilò (U.O. NPI, Dss 1 ULSS n. 4, Thiene, VI)
- Prof. Bernardo Dalla Bernardina (Dipartimento Materno Infantile e di Biologia Genetica, Università di Verona)
- Dr.ssa Serenella Grittani (Centro Autismo ne Disturbi dello Sviluppo, AUSL Rimini)
- Dr.ssa Ermanna Lazzarin (Struttura Complessa DSM ULSS n. 6, Vicenza)
- Dr. Franco Nardocci (Presidente SINPIA)
- Prof. Franco Ferrara Pajno (Dipartimento Materno Infantile e di Biologia Genetica, Sezione di NPI, Università di Verona)
- Dr. Lorenzo Rampazzo (Servizio Tutela Salute Mentale, Regione Veneto)
- Prof. Michele Tansella (Dipartimento di Medicina e Sanità Pubblica, Sezione di Psichiatria, Università di Verona)
- Dr. Roberto Tombolato (U.O. NPI, ULSS n. 6, Vicenza)
- Prof. Stefania Ucelli di Nemi (Dipartimento Scienze Sanitarie Applicate e Psicocomportamentali, Università di Pavia)
- Dr.ssa Francesca Vinai (ASL Cuneo 1, Mondovì)
- Dr. Leonardo Zoccante (Servizio di NPI, Azienda Ospedaliera, Università di Verona)

“Corso di perfezionamento su: ”La psicoterapia cognitivo-comportamentale negli esordi psicotici” (17 Giugno 2009).

- Prof. Mirella Ruggeri (Professore di Psichiatria, Università di Verona)
- Dr. Anna Meneghelli (Coordinatore Programma 2000-Niguarda e Presidente AIAMC)
- Prof. Davide Dettore (Università di Firenze e Istituto Miller, Genova)

“Visita al Dipartimento per la Salute Mentale di Verona e al Centro OMS di Ricerca e Formazione sulla Salute Mentale di Verona di una Delegazione del Governo della Catalogna” (21 Settembre 2009)

- Mrs. Cristina Molina (Head of Mental Health. Department of Mental Health. Regional Ministry of Health. Government of Catalonia)
- Mrs. Esther Jorda (Officer on Mental Health at the Catalan Department of Health)
- Dr. Joseph Ramos (Co-chair of the Advisory Council of Mental Health of Catalonia)
- Professor Luis Salvador-Carulla (Advisor on Mental Health. Department of Health of Catalonia)
- Prof. M. Tansella (Preside della Facoltà di Medicina, Università di Verona)
- Professor F. Amaddeo (Centro OMS di Ricerca sulla Salute Mentale, Verona)
- Dr. Andrea Cipriani (Centro OMS di Ricerca sulla Salute Mentale, Verona).
- Dr. Cinzia Perlini (Centro OMS di Ricerca sulla Salute Mentale, Verona)
- Dr. A. Lasalvia (Centro OMS di Ricerca sulla Salute Mentale, Verona)
- Prof. Christa Zimmermann (Centro OMS di Ricerca sulla Salute Mentale, Verona)
- Prof. Lorenzo Burti (Centro OMS di Ricerca sulla Salute Mentale, Verona)

“Stabilizzanti dell’umore: reale classe di farmaci o strategica espansione del mercato?” Quarta giornata veronese di informazione indipendente sugli psicofarmaci” (28 Settembre 2009).

- Dr Corrado Barbui (Centro OMS di Ricerca sulla Salute Mentale, Verona).
- Professor Matteo Balestrieri (Università di Udine).
- Dr Paolo Brambilla (Università di Udine)
- Dr. Andrea Cipriani (Centro OMS di Ricerca sulla Salute Mentale, Verona).
- Dr Michele De Francesco (Servizio Psichiatrico, Comprensorio Sanitario di Bolzano)
- Professor John R. Geddes (Department of Psychiatry, University of Oxford)
- Dr Nicola Magrini (Direttore, Centro per la Valutazione dell’Assistenza Sanitaria, Modena)
- Professor Stefano Pini (Università di Pisa)
- Professor Michele Tansella (Direttore. Centro OMS di Ricerca sulla Salute Mentale, Verona)
- Professor Peter Tyrer (Editor, British Journal of Psychiatry, London)

Research Grants

The following projects have been funded during the year 2008-2009:

DESCRIPTION	Funding Institution	Scientific Coordinator	Total/Grant
“European networks for the promotion of the healthy living conditions in psychiatric care institutions” (HELPS)	Public Health Executive Agency (PHEA), London	Professor L. Burti	52.000,00 €
“GET UP (Genetics, Endophenotypes and Treatment: Understanding early Psychosis)”	Ministry of Health, Rome	Professor M. Ruggeri	760.000,00 €
“Systematic review of meta-analyses on the efficacy of SSRI and SNRI in the treatment of Major Depression”	German Medicine Health Authority	Dr. C. Barbui	20.000,00 €
“Anti Stigma Programme: European Network (ASPEN)”	European Commission, Directorate General for Health and Consumer Affaire, Public Health Executive Agency	Professor L. Burti	76.309,00 €
“Randomized evaluation of the effectiveness of lithium in addition to standard treatment in individuals with depression and suicide risk. An independent, pragmatic, multicentre, parallel-group, superiority trial (Studio CHAT)”	AIFA, Rome	Dr. C. Barbui	470.000,00 €
"I percorsi di cura dei pazienti inseriti nelle strutture residenziali psichiatriche. Analisi dei bisogni e dei costi."	MIUR ex 60%	Professor F. Amaddeo	5.596,00 €
	MIUR ex 60%	Dr. C. Barbui	7.471,00 €
“Efficacy and acceptability of escitalopram compared with other antidepressants: a systematic review and meta-analysis”	MIUR ex 60%	Dr. A. Cipriani	8.922,00 €
“The clinical correlates of Neurological Soft Signs in a representative sample of first episode psychosis patients”	MIUR ex 60%	Professor M. Ruggeri	7.016,00 €
	MIUR ex 60%	Professor C. Zimmermann	6.367,00 €
	MIUR ex 60%	Professor M. Tansella	7.316,00 €
	MIUR ex 60%	Professor L. Burti	3.809,00 €
Update of World Health Organization (WHO) the list of Essential Medicines for mental disorders	WHO, Geneva	Dr. C. Barbui	
Establishing a regional genetic and clinical register of eating disorders (5 centres)	Bio.Ve.D.A.	Professor L. Burti	40.000 € (sulla quota totale di 200.000 €)

The following Institutions and Funding Bodies have provided financial support and Grants to Research projects of our Centre during the previous years:

DESCRIPTION	Funding Institution	Scientific Coordinator	Total/Grant
Implementing Mental Health Promotion Action (TANSIMHPA)	European Union	Professor M. Ruggeri / Dr. M. Stegagno	10.382,00 €
Donation (TANSPFIZER)	Pfizer Italia SRL	Professor M. Tansella	75.000,00 €
Mental Health Economics-European Network (AMADDLSE)	European Community (LSE), London	Professor F. Amaddeo	11.181,50 €
“Promuovere la ricerca scientifica per migliorare la qualità delle cure. Il Centro OMS di Ricerca sulla Salute Mentale, Verona” (TANSFOND06)	Fondazione CariVerona	Professor M. Tansella	600.000,00 €
“Identification and treatment of depression in comorbidity with phisical illness” (RUGMSALU)	Ministry of Health, Rome	Professor M. Ruggeri	150.000,00 €
“Institutional Treatment, Human Rights and Care Assessment” (BURTITHACA)	Public Health Executive Agency (PHEA), London	Professor L. Burti	80.798,27 €
“Toward a new definition of schizophrenia: the biological basis of a core phenotype” (RUGJOINT07)	Glaxo SmithKline Spa and University of Verona	Professor M. Ruggeri	90.000,00 €
“Total body Imaging Anatomy”	University of Verona, Start Cup Veneto	Dr. P. Brambilla	44.770,00 €
“Economic evaluation of psychiatric care in Ukraina, Moldova and Georgia”	WHO-Regional Office for Europe, Copenhagen	Professor F. Amaddeo	11.680,44 €
“Genotype, endophenotype and phenotype: identifying etiopathogenetic factors of psychoses for the development of preventive models and individualised therapeutic strategies”	Veneto Region, Azienda Ospedaliera di Verona	Dr. A. Lasalvia	70.000,00 €
“Geographical distance, socio-economic status (SES) and utilization of community-based mental health services”	MIUR ex 60%	Professor M. Tansella	7.248,00 €
“Socio-economic Status, urbanicity and mental health”	Veneto Region, ULSS20	Professor F. Amaddeo	153.000,00 €
Donation for PICOS project	AITSAM	Professor M. Ruggeri	2.000,00 €
“The development of the Italian version of the Diagnostic Interview for Psychosis”	MIUR ex 60%	Professor F. Amaddeo	5.205,00 €
“Selective serotonin-reuptake inhibitors versus other types of pharmacotherapy for depression: systematic reviews and meta-analyses of randomised controlled trials”	MIUR ex 60%	Dr. C. Barbui	12.494,00 €

“Comparative efficacy and acceptability of 12 new generation antidepressants: a mixed-treatment comparison meta-analysis”	MIUR ex 60%	Dr. A. Cipriani	9.391,00 €
“Relationship between COMT and affective symptoms in schizophrenia: a 6-year follow-up study”	MIUR ex 60%	Professor M. Ruggeri	6.795,00 €
Citizens’ preferences concerning communication issues in medicine. A multicentre study	MIUR ex 60%	Professor C. Zimmermann	5.665,00 €
Update of World Health Organization (WHO) the list of Essential Medicines for mental disorders	WHO, Geneva	Dr. C. Barbui	

Main on-going research projects 2008-2009

Research Unit: Psychiatric Register, Economics and Geograpy of Mental Health

Head: Professor Francesco Amaddeo, MD, PhD

Mortality and avoidable mortality among psychiatric patients. A 20-year case register study
(G. Perini, A. Biggeri, L. Grigoletti, A. Rossi, C. Barbui, M. Tansella & F. Amaddeo)

Mortality for cancer in Verona in psychiatric patients and in the general population
(M. Tansella, F. Amaddeo, C. Barbui, G. Perini, L. Grigoletti, M. Nosè & A. Rossi)

Geographical distance, socio-economic status (SES) and utilization of community-based mental health services
(L. Grigoletti, J. Jones, G. Zulian, R. Pertile, V. Donisi, M. Ballarin, M. Tansella & F. Amaddeo)

Economic evaluation of psychiatric care in Ukraina, Moldova and Georgia
(F. Amaddeo)

Atlas of Mental Health Care in the Verona Health District
(G. Zulian, F. Amaddeo, L. Grigoletti)

Urbanicity and psychiatric care
(G. Zulian, V. Donisi, L. Grigoletti, R. Pertile, A. Rossi, E. Rigon, M. Tansella & F. Amaddeo)

Mobility of psychiatric patients in community-based mental health centres
(G. Zulian, V. Donisi, R. Pertile, L. Grigoletti, L. Rabbi & F. Amaddeo)

Continuity of care and outcome in a community-based system of mental health care
(A. Rossi, V. Vailati Venturi & F. Amaddeo)

The evaluation of a new funding system for mental health departments: results from a multi-centre Italian study (*I-psycost*)
(L. Grigoletti, A. Grassi, M. Boldrini, M. Chiappelli, M. Percudani, F. Catapano, A. Fiorillo, L. Bartoli, M. Bacigalupi, P. Albanese, S. Simonetti, F. Perali, P. De Agostini, M. Tansella & F. Amaddeo)

Reserch Unit: Clinical Psychopharmacology & Drug Epidemiology

Head: Dr. Corrado Barbui, MD

Monitoring the use of psychotropic drugs in clinical practice: analysis of a psychotropic drug register
(M. Nosè, E. Esposito, M. Bianchini, P. Petrosomolo & C. Barbui)

Selective serotonin-reuptake inhibitors versus other types of pharmacotherapy for depression: systematic reviews and meta-analyses of randomised controlled trials.
(A. Cipriani, M. Dieterich & C. Barbui)

Comparative efficacy and acceptability of 12 new generation antidepressants: a mixed-treatment comparison meta-analysis.
(A. Cipriani, T. A. Furukawa, G. Salanti, J.R. Geddes, R. Churchill, J. Higgins, H. McGuire, N. Watanabe, A. Nakagawa, I.M. Omori & C. Barbui)

Clozapine, Haloperidol, Aripiprazole Trial (CHAT): Randomized evaluation of the effectiveness of clozapine and aripiprazole versus clozapine and haloperidol in the treatment of schizophrenia. An independent, pragmatic, multicentre, parallel-group, superiority trial.
(C. Barbui, A. Cipriani, M. Nosè, A. Veronese, E. Esposito, P. Petrosomolo, S. Accordini & M. Tansella)

Randomized evaluation of the effectiveness of lithium in subjects with treatment-resistant depression and suicide risk. An independent, pragmatic, multicentre, parallel-group, superiority trial.
(C. Barbui, A. Cipriani, M. Nosè, M. Purgato, F. Girlanda, E. Esposito, G. Bisoffi & M. Tansella)

“Pharmacological treatment of mental disorders in primary health care”. Development of a booklet to assist WHO in increasing the rational use of psychotropic drugs in low and middle income countries
(C. Barbui, & A. Cipriani)

Subjective tolerability of antipsychotic drugs: an epidemiological perspective using the Liverpool University Neuroleptic Side-Effects Rating Scale
(M. Nosè, E. Esposito, M Bianchini, P. Petrosecolo & C. Barbui)

Development of an essential health package to assist WHO to scale up care for mental, neurological and substance use disorders (mhGAP Intervention Package)
(C. Barbui)

Research Unit: Brain Imaging & Neuropsychology

Head: Dr. Paolo Brambilla, MD, PhD

Following Imaging and Resilience features in Schizophrenia and affective disorders (FIRST)
(M. Bellani, C. Perlino, L. Tomelleri, R. Cerini, R. Pozzi-Mucelli, A. Ferro, S. Cerruti, V. Marinelli, G. Rambaldelli, M. Tansella & P. Brambilla)

Prevention on Psychotic and Affective Events (PREVENT)
(M. Bellani, L. Tomelleri, C. Perlino, A. Ferro, M. Atzori, A. Beltramello, M. Tansella & P. Brambilla)

The neurobiological underpinnings of social psychiatry
(N. Dusi, G. Rambaldelli, C. Perlino, R. Cerini, R. Pozzi-Mucelli, M. Tansella & P. Brambilla)

Perfusion imaging studies in human brain
(G. Rambaldelli, D. Peruzzo, M. Atzori, A. Bertoldo, F. Zanderigo, M. Tansella, C. Cobelli & P. Brambilla)

Similarity based classification (SIMBAD)
(U. Castellani, D. Cheng, S. Cerruti, M. Bellani, G. Rambaldelli, M. Tansella, P. Brambilla, & V. Murino)

Study of laterality effects in the schizophrenia and bipolar disorder
(M. Bellani, C.A. Marzi, S. Savazzi, C. Perlino, S. Cerruti, A. Ferro, V. Marinelli, M. Tansella & P. Brambilla)

Vulnerability index in psychoses (VIPS): investigation of executive functions
(L. Tomelleri, S. Cerruti, V. Marinelli, D. Giusto, S. Frangou, M. Tansella & P. Brambilla)

Speech and language disturbances in schizophrenia
(C. Perlino, F. Fabbro, A. Marini, M. Tansella & P. Brambilla)

Investigation Of Shared Phenomics For Psychosis, Depression and Obsessions: a twin study
(C. Fagnani, M. Bellani, M. Tansella, M. Balestrieri, M.A. Stazi, V. Toccaceli, V. Patriarca, & P. Brambilla)

Research Unit: Integrating physical health, mental health and human rights

Head: Professor Lorenzo Burti, MD

Ithaca. Institutional treatment, human rights and care assessment
(L. Burti, C. Papa, S. Bernardelli, E. Berti, A. Lasalvia, G. Thornicroft & M. Tansella)

Helps. European network for promoting health of residents in psychiatric and social care institutions
(L. Burti, L. Berti, G. Imperadore, R. Kilian & Th. Becker)

Physico: Physical co-morbidity, poor health behaviour and health promotion
(L. Berti, G. Imperadore, M. Mazzi & L. Burti)

Self-Help II: The Verona self-help group: Patterns of members' participation and ability of the program to meet their expectations
(L. Berti, C. Bonetto, D. Cristofalo, E. Guerriero, P. Vanzini & L. Burti)

Bio.Ve.D.A.: Establishing a regional genetic and clinical register of eating disorders
(R. Siani, E. Bison, D. Di Pauli, C. Guarnier, L. Ravazzin, S. Tosato, S. Viccaro, P. Santonastaso & L. Burti)

Research Unit: Environmental, Clinical and Genetic Determinants of Outcome of Mental Disorders

Head: Professor Mirella Ruggeri, MD, PhD

GET UP (Genetics, Endophenotypes and Treatment: Understanding early Psychosis)

(M. Ruggeri, A. Lasalvia, S. Tosato, P. Brambilla, M. Bertani, C. Bonetto, S. Bissoli, D. Cristofalo, S. Scala, K. De Santi, R. Mazzoncini & M. Tansella)

SGENE: A Large Scale Genome-Wide Association Study of Schizophrenia addressing variation in expressivity and contribution from environmental factors

(S. Tosato, C. Bonetto & M. Ruggeri)

Toward a new definition of schizophrenia: the biological basis of a core phenotype – Joint Project Glaxo/University of Verona

(S. Tosato, C. Bonetto, M. Bertani & M. Ruggeri)

Identification and treatment of depression in comorbidity with physical illness.

(M. Ruggeri, K. De Santi, D. Cappellari, A. Cipriani & C. Barbui)

PICOS- Psychosis Incident Cohort Outcome Study. A multisite collaborative project on the clinical, social and biological factors predicting outcome in the new cases of psychoses in the Veneto Region, Italy

(M. Ruggeri, A. Lasalvia, S. Tosato, P. Brambilla, M. Bertani, C. Bonetto, S. Bissoli, D. Cristofalo, G. Marrella, K. De Santi, R. Mazzoncini, L. Lazzarotto, M. Tansella & Gruppo PICOS)

Genotype, endophenotype and phenotype: identifying etiopathogenetic factors of psychoses for the development of preventive models and individualised therapeutic strategies

(M. Ruggeri, S. Tosato, R. Mazzoncini, A. Lasalvia, C. Bonetto, D. Collier, M. Di Forti, R. Murray & M. Tansella)

Schizotaxia: epidemiology and clinical and neuropsychological validation

(M. Ruggeri, A. Lasalvia, S. Scala, M. Tansella, C. Bonetto, D. Berardi, D. Cristofalo, G.F. Placidi & S. Scarone)

Implementing mental health promotion action (IMHPA Study)

(M. Ruggeri, M. Stegagno & M. Bertani)

Assessing self-perceived discrimination and stigma following the first episode of psychosis by using the DISC-11 Scale

(A. Lasalvia, N. Pellegrini, G. Thornicroft, M. Bertani, S. Bissoli, D. Cristofalo, L. Lazzarotto & M. Ruggeri)

Relationship between the presence of candidate gene (Dysbindin, Neuregulin 1, BDNF) for schizophrenia and illness onset and severity: a 6-year follow-up study

(M. Ruggeri, S. Tosato, C. Bonetto, A. Lasalvia, D. Collier, M. Di Forti, R. Murray & M. Tansella)

International Study of Discrimination and Stigma Outcomes (INDIGO Multisite Study)

(L. Burti, A. Lasalvia, A. Ricci & M. Tansella)

Implementing NICE Guidelines of schizophrenia in routine clinical practice: a multisite project in Italian mental health services

(L. Burti, A. Lasalvia, S. Bissoli, D. Semisa & M. Ruggeri)

Comparison of drug abuse among patients at their first episode of psychosis in Italy and the UK

(R. Mazzoncini, A. Lasalvia, S. Tosato, R. Murray & M. Ruggeri)

Comparison of gender differences among patients at their first episode of psychosis in Italy and the UK

(M. Bertani, A. Lasalvia, R. Murray & M. Ruggeri)

Outcome evaluation of sheltered hostels for mentally disabled people in 17 Italian Regions.

(M. Ruggeri, A. Lasalvia, S. Bissoli, R. Radici, S. Zizolfi & G. Fioretti)

Burn out. A multicentre study in the Veneto Region

(A. Lasalvia, M. Bertani, S. Bissoli, C. Bonetto, D. Cristofalo, M. Ruggeri & PICOS Group)

Physical health and lifestyle in patients at their psychosis onset. A multicentric European Study

(A. Lasalvia & M. Ruggeri)

Anti Stigma Programme: European Network (ASPEN)

(A. Lasalvia, N. Pellegrini, L. Burti, D. Cristofalo & S. Zoppei)

Research Unit: Clinical Psychology & Communication in Medicine

Head: Professor Christa Zimmermann, Dr. Psychol., PhD.

Information giving in psychiatric and general hospital patients

(C. Goss, L. Del Piccolo, M.A. Mazzi, S. Fontanesi, F. Moretti, M. Rimondini & Ch. Zimmermann)

The involvement of psychiatric patients in the decision making process

(Ch. Zimmermann, L. Del Piccolo, C. Goss, T. Pozzan, M.A. Mazzi & M. Rimondini)

The evaluation of communication skills training in psychiatry.

(M. Rimondini, L. Del Piccolo, C. Goss, M.A. Mazzi & Ch. Zimmermann)

Validation of the consensus definitions of patient cues/ concerns and related physician behaviour during medical consultations.

(L. Del Piccolo, C. Goss, M.A. Mazzi, F. Moretti, M. Rimondini & Ch. Zimmermann)

Citizens' view and preferences concerning communication issues in medicine . A multicentre study

(F. Moretti, Joëlle Bensinger, Ian Fletcher, M. Rimondini, M.A. Mazzi, L. Del Piccolo, C. Goss, G. Deledda & Ch. Zimmermann)

The informative needs of breast cancer patients and their involvement in treatment decisions

(C. Goss, C. Zimmermann, G. Deledda, M.A. Mazzi)