Special Issue

Dual Diagnosis: A Clinical Perspective Regarding Symptoms and Treatments

Message from the Guest Editor

Dual diagnosis, also known as co-occurring disorders, refers to the simultaneous presence of a mental health disorder and a substance use disorder (SUD) within an individual. The concept of dual diagnosis acknowledges the bidirectional relationship between mental illness and substance use, where one disorder may contribute to the onset or worsening of the other. Common mental health conditions associated with dual diagnosis include depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia, alongside SUDs involving alcohol, opioids, or stimulants. This Special Issue aims to investigate the clinical aspects of dual diagnosis, the treatments available, and the proposal of interventions for these specific conditions, particularly focusing on pharmacological and clinical–pharmacological issues, such as the possibility of drug interactions with ongoing treatments or substances (polysubstance use), age-related characteristics, types of psychiatric disorders and related treatments, settings, and emerging "New Psychoactive Substances" (NPSs), which might be concomitantly abused.

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