

Special Issue

The Association Between Cognitive Function and Adolescent Mental Health

Message from the Guest Editors

It is estimated that 20% of adolescents aged 10 to 15 years have a diagnosable mental health disorder, with half of adult disorders emerging by 14 years of age. A core feature of mental illness is cognitive dysfunction, with increased dysfunction associated with the severity and duration of the illness. A large body of research demonstrates that cognitive impairments (e.g., attention, learning, memory, processing speed, and executive functioning) are evident early in the course of mental illnesses. Cognitive impairments are also evident in young people seeking help for mental ill health who do not meet the full diagnostic criteria for a mental disorder, but who are at increased risk of progressing to full-threshold disorder. Importantly, cognitive impairments are associated with poor functional outcomes in youth with mental illness, who achieve poorly academically and have difficulties maintaining social connections. This Special Issue aims to increase our understanding about the association between cognitive impairments and mental health problems in youth.

Guest Editors

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (30 April 2021)



International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

CiteScore 8.5
Indexed in PubMed



mdpi.com/si/30041

*International Journal of
Environmental Research and
Public Health*
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Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Scientific discoveries and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a rational basis for informed decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards.

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