

A Get-together on Mutual Collaborations in Schizophrenia Research and Possibility of Asian Society/Congress of Schizophrenia

Schizophrenia Research in Korea

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Schizophrenia is a complex brain disorder affecting thoughts and perceptions. Just like in other countries, schizophrenia is a major psychiatric disorder in Korea. The Korean academy of schizophrenia (<http://www.schizophrenia.or.kr>) was established in 1998 on the initiative of Korean scientists working in the field of schizophrenia research. Korean researchers has covered many topic of research with schizophrenic patients including: molecular biology, neuroimaging, psychopharmacology and psychosocial interventions. Among many fields of research, clinical study of psychopharmacology, neuroimaging and the study about early detection of schizophrenia are main concerns in Korea. The researchers in neuroimaging field uses various neuroimaging techniques, such as EEG, PET, fMRI, and MEG, to probe relevant physiologic, neurochemical, and neuropharmacological aspects of schizophrenia. They also interested in variation in normal cognitive and emotional information processing in human brain. The psychopharmacological studies are mainly clinical trials comparing the effectiveness of older and newer antipsychotic medications used to treat schizophrenia. The early detection of schizophrenia is important topic in secondary prevention of the disease. Given the enormous societal burden of schizophrenia, there has been a growing interest in its prevention during the past several years in Korea. We expect early detection and prompt treatment may improve outcome in schizophrenia. I want to work with fellow researchers in asia-pacific region and expect better outcomes in research of schizophrenia.