CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The symposium fails to publicly disclose any conflict of interest between psychiatrists speaking and the pharmaceutical industry—an industry that often benefits from promotion of their drug product during such meetings.

Consider the other conflict of interest independently found on this RANZCP symposium:

- RANZCP: received at least $757,000 between 2006 and 2010 for sponsorship and exhibitor fees for their conferences from pharmaceutical companies.
- Prof. Chris Pantelos: Professor of neuropsychiatry at University of Melbourne, "has been on advisory boards for Bristol-Myers Squibb, Faulding, Sanofi and Novartis; has received funding for unrestricted research from Eli Lilly, Novartis, Janssen-Cilag, Bristol-Myers Squibb and AstraZeneca; and has received travel assistance to attend meetings from Eli Lilly, Novartis, Janssen-Cilag, AstraZeneca, Pfizer and Bristol-Myers Squibb."
- Dr Simon Davidson: child, adolescent and family psychiatrist from Canada produced a brochure with another for the Canadian Psychiatric Association which was funded by a health educational grant from Eli Lilly, Pfizer and SmithKline Beecham.
- Prof. Nick Allen: clinical psychologist, from Orygen (Prof. McGorry's Youth Health Research Centre who are supported by AstraZeneca, Bristol Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, and Janssen-Cilag) was the Chief Investigator of a depression study funded by Pfizer.
- Dr Cathy Mihalopulos: from Deakin University who is qualified in economics and psychology was funded with another person by Janssen-Cilag to develop unit costs of the Prof. McGorry's EPPIC program for their use in the economic evaluation of the antipsychotic risperidone.
- Dr James Scott: child and adolescent psychiatrist from University of Queensland, has received grants to attend educational functions by Eli Lilly and Janssen-Cilag.

CCHR was established in 1969 by the Church of Scientology and Professor of Psychiatry Dr Thomas Szasz with the sole purpose of investigating and exposing psychiatric violations of human rights.

CCRH International	Australian National Office	CCHR Victoria
cchrint.org	cchr.org.au national@cchr.org.au	cchrvictoria.org.au info@cchrvictoria.org.au

Log onto Citizens Committee on Human Rights Psychiatric Drug Side-effect Database: cchr.org.au.

GET THE FACTS

We want parents to be informed of medical and educational solutions that do not rely upon heavy, mind-altering drugs. We provide free award-winning documentaries: *Making a Killing: The Untold Story of Psychotropic Drugs* and *Marketing of Madness: Are we all Insane?* that provide information that is not easily proffered by psychiatrists prescribing psychotropic drugs or the companies that make them.

PARENTS HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOW

While children and youth can suffer from emotional trauma, parents are not told that unlike for medical conditions, there are no blood or urine test, brain scan (MRI, PET scan) or any physical or genetic test to scientifically/medically confirm the existence of the mental disorders children are labelled with. Mental problems, while very real, are not physical diseases.

Melbourne Symposium on Youth Mental Health

"Transition into Adulthood"

Conflicts of Interest putting millions of children's lives at risk?

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) Inaugural Symposium on Youth Mental Health covers the transition from youth into adulthood. It also initiates the new RANZCP Special Interest Group in Youth Mental Health for trainees and psychiatrists. This group was established to promote training of a new workforce for early intervention in mental health. Sounds good, but is it?

ESCALATING PSYCHIATRIC CHILD DRUGGING IN AUSTRALIA

- Nearly 10,000 Australian children under 18 (almost 300 aged 6 and under) are being prescribed antipsychotics. To date there are 15 DEATHS linked to antipsychotics for children under 19. The Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme pays out more than $3.4 million annually for antipsychotics prescribed to children.
- The numbers of children aged 2 to 6 on antidepressants increased from 877 in 2008/09 to 1,264 in 2009/10. This is despite the fact the Australian Government have not authorised the use of SSRIs (class of antidepressants) in any child under 18 for depression. There have been 5 deaths linked to antidepressants in the 10 to 19 age group.

"EARLY INTERVENTION": THE DANGERS

Chair of the Symposium and Chair of the new group, psychiatrist Prof. Patrick McGorry, is an advocate of "early intervention" treatment for mental disorders. He is the self-proclaimed "father" of "Psychosis Risk Syndrome" (PRS), which has drawn international criticism and is of grave concern. How dangerous is this? Essentially it is an arbitrary list of behavioural symptoms, which psychiatrists, claim can *predict* the onset of "psychosis." Often *predicted* at age 12-14, psychiatrists can drug the adolescent with mind-altering antipsychotics (that *can induce psychosis*) to "prevent" the disorder.

Psychiatrist Professor Ian Hickie, a speaker at the conference and member of the new group, is currently conducting a clinical trial which involves giving antidepressants to the elderly who are "at risk" of depression, but are NOT actually depressed right now.

At the symposium Prof. Hickie will cover new data from the youth mental health group *headspace*. He and Prof. McGorry are Board Members of *headspace*. On the *headspace* website is a "Quick Reference Evidence Map" which lists the antipsychotics risperidone, olanzapine and amisulpride as possilbe drug interventions for those in the "ultra high risk of psychosis category." There have already been 109 deaths linked to these specific antipsychotics in Australia.

A leading mental health research group said the practice of drugging someone when they don't have a disorder is akin to "performing mastectomies on women who are at risk of – but do not have – breast cancer."

Consider the potential conflicts of interest regarding Profs. McGorry and Hickie:

- **Prof. McGorry** has received unrestricted research grants from Janssen-Cilag, Eli Lilly, Bristol Myer Squibb, Astra–Zeneca, Pfizer and Novartis. He has acted as a paid consultant for, and has received speaker's fees and travel reimbursement from all or most of these companies.
- **Prof. Hickie**, has received funding from Bristol-Myers Squibb, Pfizer's funding of GPs training in Prof. Hickie's depression screening method called SPHERE, helped make their antidepressant, Zoloft, a best-seller in Australia. He has served on the professional advisory boards convened by the drug industry in relation to specific antidepressants made by Bristol-Myers Squibb and Eli Lilly. He has led projects funded in, part, by Bristol-Myers Squibb, Pfizer, Eli Lilly, Wyeth and Servier.

EXPERTS EXPRESS THEIR CONCERNS REGARDING EARLY INTERVENTION

Professor Frances, the Chair of the current Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders (DSM), used in Australia for insurance reimbursement, said of PRS: "Drug company marketing would influence parents and clinicians to be especially alert to any strangeness in teenagers." False positives could be as high as 70-90 precent: that means 70-90 out of every 100 youths could be wrongly labelled with PRS.

Head of Psychiatry at Melbourne's St Vincent Hospital David Castle said Professor McGorry, who founded *headspace* and the Early Psychosis Prevention and Intervention Centres [EPPIC] and Professor Ian Hickie had overstated the evidence in their push for early intervention in young people at risk of psychosis.

Dr. Jerald Block, psychiatrist writing in *Bioethics Forum*, reported that "preventive pharmacology" is "ethically questionable territory" because "you are potentially harming people." The symptoms used to identify them as at risk of schizophrenia are "also remarkably common… adolescence is a period of life that is normally marked by tumultuous changes in personality."

Melissa Raven, psychiatric epidemiologist and policy analyst, adjunct lecturer in Public Health at Flinders University, South Australia, and David Webb, board member of the World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry wrote: "McGorry's campaign is part of a wider push to promote the medicalisation of mental health (for which psychosocial wellbeing is a better term)." "Further doubts must be raised about McGorry's agenda when you see the substantial funding his organization (Orygen Youth Health) receives from the pharmaceutical industry…

In 2011, a group of 13 international health experts lodged a complaint about Prof McGorry's controversial trial of antipsychotic drugs on children who are "at risk of psychosis" saying it was unethical. This trial was to be funded by Astra Zeneca, the manufacturer of the antipsychotic to be used in the trial. Prof McGorry aborted the trial but has not ruled out further trials on patients.

Conferences such as this can potentially increase the risk of not just youths, but also toddlers and children being prescribed dangerous psychotropic drugs.

ARE PSYCHIATRIC DRUGS IMPROVING AUSTRALIA'S MENTAL HEALTH CARE?

Should Asia follow Australia's actions?

This week Sydney is hosting the 7th World Congress of Asian Psychiatry with the theme,
Mental Health Care Across Asia: Union In Diversity
Sounds good... but is it?

Escalating Psychiatric Child Drugging in Australia

Antipsychotics: In 2015 there were over 16,500 Australian children under 17 years prescribed antipsychotics, 1,384 of those aged 2-6-years-old. Side effects reported to Australia's drug regulatory agency, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), include: a 13-year-old boy on Zyprexa gained 45 kgs over 6 months, another 13-year-old on Zyprexa experienced both rapid and slow heartbeat and blacked out.

Antidepressants: Another 49,052 Australian children under 17 years were prescribed antidepressants in 2015 with 1,459 of those aged 2-6-years-old. However, no antidepressant is approved for children under 18 years for depression. The TGA has issued 3 psychiatric drug warnings to warn of the risk of suicidal behaviour with antidepressant use.

Number of Side Effects Reported: By December 2017 there were 41,317 adverse drug reactions linked to psychiatric drugs reported to the TGA, 1,439 of these were deaths. The use of these drugs is in the face of more than 60 warnings for psychiatric drugs issued by the TGA since 1995. Yet there are over 4 million people on a psychiatric drug in Australia with 1.2 million of those in NSW.

"Early Intervention": the Facts

Attendees at the World Congress of Asian Psychiatry will be able to visit a headspace youth mental health centre. Headspace's founding director is psychiatrist Prof. Patrick McGorry, an advocate of "early intervention" treatment for mental disorders, treating those "at risk" of psychosis i.e. they don't yet have it but could get it. How non-scientific is this? Essentially this is an arbitrary list of behavioural symptoms, which psychiatrists claim can predict the onset of "psychosis." Often predicted at age 12-14, psychiatrists can then treat the adolescent to "prevent" the disorder. Potentially dangerous antipsychotics may be prescribed as part of this "treatment." Headspace's "At risk evidence summary" for young people developing psychosis estimates 82% to 90% will not go on to develop psychosis within a year of diagnosis. Despite this, the premise is that youth should still be treated now.

There are now 15 headspace centres in Australia that treat youths for so called "at risk" of psychosis. Prof. McGorry's Orygen Centre currently operates 4 of these 15 headspace centres directly. These 15 headspace centers operate based on Orygen's early psychosis model. Orygen has been funded by drug companies Eli Lilly, AstraZeneca, Janssen-Cilag and Bristol-Myers Squibb.

An evaluation report released in 2015 of psychiatrist Prof. McGorry's headspace centres showed that of the 26,058 evaluated 12-25-year-olds seen by headspace, only 13% had a "clinically significant improvement," 28% had no change and an astounding 24% either declined or significantly worsened. Consultation costs alone ranged from $136 to $1,000 per visit.

Headspace is now one of the two delivery partners in Australia's biggest school based mental health program (Be you).

Prof. McGorry has received unrestricted grant funding from Janssen-Cilag, Eli Lilly, Bristol-Myers Squibb, AstraZeneca, Pfizer and Novartis. He has acted as a paid consultant for, and received speaker's fees and travel reimbursement from all or most of these companies. He has also received honoraria for consulting and teaching from Roche and Lundbeck.

Conflicts of Interest

The Congress fails to publicly disclose any conflicts of interest between psychiatrists speaking and the pharmaceutical industry—an industry that often benefits from promotion of their psychiatric drugs during such meetings. A cursory review of conflicts of interest found at this Congress include:

The Conference Itself: Is supported by drug companies, Lundbeck, Otsuka and Sumitomo Dainippon Pharma. Pfizer are exhibiting.

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP): Are co-hosting the conference. Their 2017 Annual Report lists Janssen, Lundbeck, Pfizer, Merck Sharp and Dohme, Servier & Otsuka as supporting their activities.

Norman Sartorius: Former president of the World Psychiatric Association, has served as a consultant to Eli Lilly, Janssen, Lundbeck, Servier and Wyeth. He has been a member of the advisory board of Eli Lilly.

Bernhard Baune: Head of the Department of Psychiatry, Adelaide University, has been a member of the advisory boards of Lundbeck and Janssen-Cilag and received honoraria from Lundbeck, Otsuka, Janssen-Cilag, Servier, AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Wyeth, Bristol-Myers Squibb.

Perminder Sachdev: Professor of Neuropsychiatry at the University of NSW (UNSW), has received payment for lectures from Eli Lilly and Pfizer.

Malcolm Hopwood: Former RANZCP president, the Ramsay Health Care Professor of Psychiatry, University of Melbourne based at Albert Road Clinic, has been on the advisory board for Lundbeck, received speaker's fees/ honoraria from Janssen-Cilag, Servier, Wyeth and travel support from Eli Lilly, Janssen-Cilag, Lundbeck and Servier.

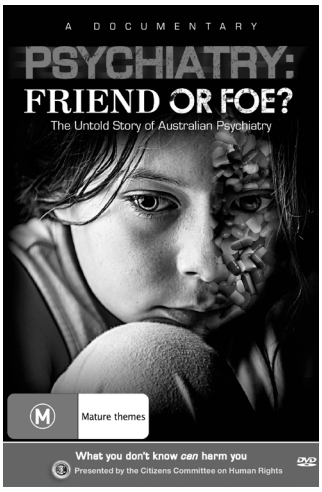
Chee Ng: Department of Psychiatry University of Melbourne based at St Vincent's Mental Health, has received speaker honoraria from Servier, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Organon, Eli Lilly, GlaxoSmithKline, Janssen-Cilag, AstraZenaca, Wyeth, and Pfizer.

Eric Chen: Director of Psychosis Studies and Intervention Program, Hong Kong University, has participated in a paid advisory board role for Otsuka, received educational grant support from Janssen-Cilag and received research funding from AstraZeneca, Janssen-Cilag, Pfizer, Eli Lilly, Sanofi-Aventis and Otsuka.

Naotaka Shinfuku: Kobe University, Japan, has served as a consultant and/or participant in scientific meetings organised by Eli Lilly, Pfizer, Servier and Lundbeck.

Parents Have the Right to Know

While children and adults can suffer from emotional trauma, parents are not told that unlike for medical conditions, *there are no* blood or urine tests, brain scan (MRI, PET scan) or any physical or genetic test to scientifically/medically confirm the existence of the mental disorders children are labelled with. Mental problems, while very real, are *not physical* diseases. Parents and others are also not always told at the time of prescribing that no one should stop taking any psychiatric drug without the advice and assistance of a competent medical doctor due to "withdrawal syndrome." This side effect is the worsening of existing symptoms or new, not before experienced, symptoms while withdrawing.



GET THE FACTS

CCHR is currently providing a free documentary: *Psychiatry: Friend or Foe? The Untold Story of Australian Psychiatry*. This provides information that is not usually shared by psychiatrists prescribing psychiatric drugs or the companies that make them. Order on-line or by emailing CCHR at:

CCHR National Office
Website: **cchr.org.au**
Email: **national@cchr.org.au**

FOR REFERENCES AND MORE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST LOG ONTO: cchr.org.au

CITIZENS COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
CCHR
Established 1969

CCHR was co-founded in 1969 by the Church of Scientology and professor of psychiatry the late Dr. Thomas Szasz to investigate and expose psychiatric violations of human rights.

Please dispose of litter appropriately

© 2019 CCHR . All Rights Reserved. CCHR and the CCHR logo are trademarks and service marks owned by the Citizens Commission on Human Rights.