

Welcome to NIH & AMECA 2019

It is our honor to welcome to this inaugural and important collaborative meeting organized by the National Institute of Health- Ministry of Health Tunisia (NIH) and Africa and Middle East Congress on Addiction (AMECA). The theme for this year conference is Vulnerability Across the Life Span: From Perception to Stigma.

The goal for this AMECA/NIH partnership is to provide a venue to gather researchers and clinicians from multiple fields including medicine, psychology, public health, and related fields in the continent of Africa and the Middle East. Considering the recognition of the impact of stigma in the context of mental health, addiction, HIV, and other health conditions we selected stigma as the theme for this conference.

The program includes a rich agenda with multiple plenary sessions and symposia in addition to a panel discussion and rich poster sessions. Attendants of the conference and presenters will be scientists and clinicians from Tunisia and the region. This provides junior attendees outstanding opportunities for networking and developing research and training collaborations.

This year we expand the time and breadth of the poster sessions. The sessions cover a wide range of scientific and clinical issues related to stigma, addiction, life adversity, addiction, and mental health problems in the region. A training workshop focusing on way to reduce stigma in people with mental illness in different settings will be conducted the first day of the conference. Content experts will present in the workshop.

We would like to express our thanks to our partners (the Research Lab "Epidemiology Applied to Maternal and Child Health "hospital Fattouma Bourguiba, Monastir, SURVEN Research Laboratory "Nutritional surveillance and Epidemiology in Tunisia", National Institute of Nutrition and Food Technology and the Faculty of Medicine of Tunis - University Tunis El Manar). We also would like to thank all colleagues who have helped in preparing this conference including the local organizing committee. We also thank the many other supporters of AMECA locally, regionally, and internationally.

Welcome to Tunis!

Pr Hajer Aounallah-Skhiri
Chair, Organizing Committee and NIH

Prof. Mustafa al'Absi
President, AMECA

NIH & AMECA International Conference Vulnerability Across the Life Span: From Perception to Stigma

16-18 December 2019
Tunis, Tunisia

Schedule at a Glance

Note: For additional information on the conference we will have a downloadable document with the entire program and abstract book from the AMECA website

12:30-16:30 Registration desk open

14:00-15:00 **Training Workshop 1**
How to reduce stigma towards people with mental illness in different settings? A practical approach.
Presenters: Dr Uta Ouali, Dr Soumaya Halayem, Prof Hajer Aounallah-Skhiri

15:00-15:30 Coffee Break

15:30-16:30 Training Workshop Continues

Tuesday, December 17, 2019

8:30-16:00 Registration desk open

9:00-9:30 **Opening Remarks**
Prof. Hajer Aounallah-Skhiri, Head, NIH
Dean of Medical School Tunis
Prof. Mustafa al'Absi, President, AMECA
The Honorable Minister of Health (Tunisia)

9:30-10:15 **Plenary Presentation**
Chair: Prof. Hajer Aounallah-Skhiri ,NIH - University of Tunis El Manar
Presenter: Prof Sarah Hawkes, University College London
Gender, stigma, and health: Impact of gendered attitudes, perceptions and behaviors on health outcomes, and evidence for gender-responsive interventions.

10:15-11:45 **Coffee/Tea Break and Poster Viewing Session I**
Poster session 1: "ADDICTION"
Poster presenters should be standing by their posters to answer questions

Evaluation of posters will be conducted by an evaluation committee.

Committee : Dr Nadia Ben Mansour, Dr Afef Skhiri, Dr Yosra Zgueb

11:45-12:45

Panel Discussion: Stigma Across the Life Span

Chair: Prof Mustafa al'Absi, University of Minnesota

Panelists: Dr Petra Gronholm; Dr Tatiana Salisbury; Prof Sarah Hawkes; Dr Uta Ouali; Dr Abir Aissaoui; Prof. Hajer Aounallah-Skhiri

12:45-13:45

Lunch break

13:45-14:45

Symposium 1. Addiction and stigma in clinical and community settings

Chair: Prof. Hajer Aounallah-Skhiri, NIH - University of Tunis El Manar

Addiction and stigma in clinical and community setting

Dr Amira Maamri- University of Tunis El Manar. **Self stigma in addiction**

Dr Emira Khelifa. University of Tunis El Manar. **Addiction stigma among health care providers**

Pr Haifa Zalila. University of Tunis El Manar. **Putting an end to the addiction stigma**

14:45-16:00

**Symposium 2:
Challenges in Treatment and Research in the context of addiction and mental health problems.**

Chair: Pr. Sana El Mhamdi, University of Monastir, Monastir, Tunisia

Abdul Kadir H. Mohammed, Department of Neurobiology, Care Sciences and Society, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden

Ethical Challenges of Mental Health Research and the Roles of Stigma.

Dr Abir Aissaoui, University of Monastir

Patient rights and protection against stigma

Dr. Ismail Ramouz (Medical school of Agadir. Ibn Zohr university. Agadir. Morocco, i.rammouz@uiz.ac.ma

Spirituality and addiction recovery: Is it a protective

factor ?

George Murimi, Project Manager for Africa, Colombo Plan Drug Advisory Program

Building a Drug Demand Reduction Workforce in Africa and the Middle East

Dr. Khalid Saeed, WHO/EMRO Office

The recent framework adopted by the Ministers of Health

This presentation will include a review of the recently adopted framework that Ministers of Health approved.

16:00-18:00

Coffee/Tea Break and Poster Viewing Session II

Poster session 2: "Mental Disorder"

Poster presenters should be standing by their posters to answer questions

Evaluation of posters will be conducted by an evaluation committee.

Committee: Dr Nadia Ben Mansour, Dr Afef Skhiri, Dr Yosra Zgueb

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

09:15-10:15

Plenary Presentation

Chair: Dr Uta Ouali, University of Tunis El Manar

Presenter: Dr Petra Gronholm, King's College London

Overview of stigma in relation to mental health

Presenter: Dr Tatiana Salisbury, King's College London

Impact of stigma on mental health service provision for children and adolescents living with HIV

10:15-11:15

Symposium 3: Vulnerability for Psychosis and Stigma: Detection and Prevention

Chair: Dr Lucia Valmaggia, Co-Chair: Dr Joseph Ventura

Dr Lucia Valmaggia, King's College London

Vulnerability factors for psychosis

Dr. Joseph Ventura, University of California Los Angeles; **CHiRP implementation and first research results**

Dr Amine Larnaout and Dr Amina Aissa, University of Tunis El Manar
Vulnerability to psychosis and substance abuse

Coffee/Tea Break and Poster Viewing Session III

11:15-12:45 **Poster session 3: “HIV & Free Theme”**
Poster presenters should be standing by their posters to answer questions

Evaluation of posters will be conducted by an evaluation committee.

Committee: Dr Nadia Ben Mansour, Dr Afef Skhiri, Dr Yosra Zgueb

12:45-13:45 Lunch break

13:45-15:00 **Symposium 4: Stigma in mental health conditions**
Chairs: Dr. Petra Gronholm, King’s College London, Dr Uta Ouali, University of Tunis El Manar

Dr. Petra Gronholm, King’s College London
Stigma reduction in low- and middle-income settings: the Indigo Partnership research program

Dr. Uta Ouali, Dr Yosra Zgueb. University of Tunis El Manar.
Mental Health Stigma Research in Tunisia: What do we know, what do we need to explore?

Dr Fatma Charfi. University of Tunis El Manar
Stigma in those who have attempted suicide : A review of the literature.

Dr Rym Rafrafi, Dr Nesrine Bram, Souha YaaKoubi, Mental health department CHU Mongi Slim, University of Tunis, El Manar
The stigmatization of mental illness and perception of the psychiatrist in a sample of Tunisian medical doctors

15:00-16:15 **Symposium 5:**
Stigma and HIV and sexual health-related problem
Chair: Prof. Sana Mhamdi, University of Monastir, Monastir, Tunisia

Dr Tatiana Salisbury, King’s College London
Reimagining stakeholder engagement to reduce stigma

Dr. Rabia Khan, Zimbabwe college of Zimbabwe & Finalizing registration with Royal College of Psychiatry, UK
Perspective on self-disclosure among HIV-infected adolescents in Zimbabwe

Dr. Nadia Ben Mansour, University of Tunis El Manar
Engaging civil society in HIV research: the first steps for the establishment of a participatory action research against STIGMA in health care setting

Houcem Elomma Mrabet, University Hospital Tahar Sfar Mahdia, Tunisia. **Discriminatory attitudes toward people**

**living with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome,
Hepatitis B Virus, and Hepatitis C Virus infection among
health professionals in Tunisia.**

16:15-16:45 Closing ceremonies
