

FROM EDITORS

Dear Readers,

We are pleased to present the September issue of *Archives of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy*, which showcases the diversity of research and reflections on contemporary psychiatry and clinical psychology. The articles collected here share a strong focus on the practical dimensions of diagnosis, therapy, and prevention—both in the field of mental disorders and in the challenges faced by mental health care systems.

The issue opens with an article by Marlena Banasik et al., dedicated to developing a model procedure for violence risk assessment in Polish conditions. The authors emphasize the need for systematization and wider implementation of structured professional judgment tools, which could enhance the reliability of forensic-psychiatric evaluations and improve public safety.

Next, Natalia Ćwikiel and colleagues describe a unique initiative—an online psychological helpline launched by psychology students during the COVID-19 pandemic. The paper highlights both the potential of peer-to-peer interventions and the ethical and organizational challenges of ensuring their quality and safety.

In a study conducted by Andrzej Marycz and his team, the outcomes of a psychiatric day rehabilitation ward in Kraków are presented. The results confirm the effectiveness of a recovery-oriented approach to schizophrenia, stressing the importance of comprehensive diagnostics and individualized treatment.

The topic of cognitive functioning in schizophrenia is further addressed in the paper by Piotr Plichta and co-authors, who analyze working memory and learning deficits in deficit and non-deficit schizophrenia. Their findings point to the mediating role of working memory in the relationship between negative symptoms and learning difficulties.

Nina Ogińska-Bulik and Grzegorz Bąk focus on the psychological strain experienced by frontline professionals. Their study explores the role of empathy and job satisfaction in shaping police officers' vulnerability to secondary traumatic stress, underlining the need for programs that promote mental well-being in this occupational group.

Within the field of neuropsychology of aging, Marta Wąsik and colleagues present the outcomes of a language stimulation program for patients with Alzheimer's disease. The study demonstrates that well-structured, non-pharmacological interventions can help maintain verbal fluency and slow the decline of cognitive functions.

The issue concludes with a narrative review by Nataliia Zaviyazkina and Oleksandra Balashevych, exploring the complex relationship between schizophrenia and creativity. The authors reveal how the disorder may both limit and inspire creative expression, highlighting its potential therapeutic value and its role in deepening our understanding of the lived experience of schizophrenia.

Together, these articles illustrate psychiatry and psychology as interdisciplinary fields that are sensitive to social contexts while striving for increasingly effective and personalized methods of diagnosis and treatment. We hope that the contributions gathered here will serve as inspiration for both practitioners and researchers, and will contribute to the ongoing development of knowledge and the improvement of care for individuals experiencing mental health crises.

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