Session 2: Reconceptualizing the Search for Treatments of the Schizophrenias in a Post-Bleulerian Era

Chairs:

Michael Davidson
Larry Alphs

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Reconceptualizing the Search for Treatments of the Schizophrenias in a Post-Bleulerian Era

- Reconceptualizing the language of psychiatric diagnosis
- Moving from descriptive symptom-based syndromes
- Multiple ‘languages’ being developed to describe these entities
• From syndromes to domains
  • schizophrenia as positive symptoms/ negative symptoms/cognitive symptoms/ disorganization
• From symptomatic description to pathophysiology as
  • Disorders of neurotransmission
  • Genetic CNS disease
  • Disorders of neurocircuitry
  • Immunological disease
Goals of Meeting

- Examine different approaches to conceptualizing the schizophrenias AND how these conceptual models differentially affect treatment development.
- Set context: Identify challenges facing the field in terms of identifying new treatments for schizophrenia.
- Understand schizophrenia as
  - 1) a disease of neurotransmitters;
  - 2) a genetic disease and
  - 3) as a disease of neurocircuit.
- Discuss how these different ways of conceptualizing schizophrenia will lead to different approaches to developing treatments in terms of study design, methodological hurdles, statistical challenges and regulatory impact.
## Agenda

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>SPEAKER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Clinical Researcher’s Viewpoint: Unmet Need for The Schizophrenias</td>
<td>M Davidson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Schizophrenias as Diseases of Neurotransmitters: Implications for Design of Clinical Trials</td>
<td>Don Goff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Break</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Schizophrenias as Genetic Diseases: Implications for Design of Clinical Trials</td>
<td>Anil Malhotra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Schizophrenias as Circuit Diseases: Implications for Design of Clinical Trials</td>
<td>Steven Potkin/ Aristotle Voikinos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Case Study: Novel Schizophrenia Development Program</td>
<td>George Garibaldi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regulatory implications for these novel drug development approaches -</td>
<td>Tom Laughren</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panel Discussion: Pulling it all together</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>