

and urgent need to increase the recruitment and retention of doctors in psychiatry, starting from their young years.

**Objectives:** We aimed to study medical students' attitudes and views of psychiatry, and their career choices in psychiatry.

**Methods:** A systematic random sample of medical from two medical schools anonymously completed a questionnaire, distributed via the internet, covering the mental illness: clinicians' attitudes (MICA) scale, their choice of psychiatry as a career, and the possible associated factors.

**Results:** A total of 118 medical students participated in the study, with 50% in the second and first years of medical school. The mean age was  $21.00 \pm 12.2$  years. The sex ratio (M/F) was 0.24. We found a personal history of mental health problems in 33.1% of the students.

The mean score of the attitude of health care professionals towards mental illness was  $43.61 \pm 8.22$  out of 96. The results were moderately positive (lowest possible score 25, highest possible score 67) and the female student's attitude was slightly –but not significantly more positive than male students (male 46.4, female 42.4).

Negative attitudes were reported about the interactions with people with mental health problems, fear of disclosure to colleagues or friends about mental health problems, and confidence in the capabilities of assessing mental health problems in general medicine. No correlation was observed between the immersion clerkship of psychiatry and the MICA scores.

Of the 118 respondents to this question, 35 (29.8%) were most interested in surgical specialties, 35 (29.8%) in medical specialties, and 10 participants (8.5%) were most keen on psychiatry.

**Conclusions:** Stigma against psychiatry is widespread among medical students. The negative attitudes about mental health and mental diseases may be addressed through educational programs.

**Disclosure of Interest:** None Declared

## EPV1098

### Personal beliefs versus evidence-based decisions: vaccination behavior and doubts about antidepressants of students of medicine are affected by conspiracy theories

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**Introduction:** When medical professionals are obliged to adhere to *lege artis* and evidence-based decision-making, they need to interpret available evidence. As a complex cognitive process, however, such interpretation may be affected by socio-cognitive biases and predispositions. For instance, the conspiracy mentality (the general readiness to believe in conspiracy theories) or biological determinism (the belief that human lives are determined biologically) affect attitudes to antidepressant medication and vaccination in the public. Little is known about the effects of these variables on the decision-making of clinicians or students of medicine.

**Objectives:** The study examines the effects of conspiracy mentality (CM), covid-related conspiracy beliefs (CCBs), and biological determinism (BD) on the doubts students of medicine have about

antidepressants and on their uptake of the booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

**Methods:** CM, CCBs and BD were measured in May 2022 in a sample of 179 students of medicine (115 females), using the Conspiracy Mentality Questionnaire by Bruder et al. (2013), set of items measuring CCBs developed by Imhoff and Laberty (2021), and the Biological Basis scale by Bastian and Haslam (2006), respectively. The doubts about antidepressants were measured by the Antidepressant Conspiracy Scale by Natoli et al. (2021) tapping participants' beliefs that drugs and antidepressants specifically are ineffective and promoted and prescribed for financial gains. Logistic and linear regression models were used to predict respondents' vaccine uptake and doubts about antidepressants.

**Results:** Booster vaccine uptake was predicted by BD (OR = 1.45;  $p < .05$ ) and CCBs (OR = .73;  $p < .05$ ), together explaining 7% of the variance. Booster vaccine uptake was not predicted by CM.

Doubts about antidepressant medication were predicted by CM ( $b = .17$ ,  $p < .001$ ) but not BD ( $p = .89$ ), together explaining 10% of the variance.

**Conclusions:** The doubts students of medicine have about antidepressants and their vaccination behavior was predicted by their biological determinism, belief in conspiracy theories and general conspiracy mentality. Although the relationships were weak, they support claims that health-related beliefs and behaviors of students of medicine are related to their implicit beliefs and socio-cognitive predispositions. These personal factors may therefore affect their professional decision-making and should be addressed in medical education.

**Disclosure of Interest:** None Declared

## Women, Gender and Mental Health

## EPV1099

### Unit for women with schizophrenia in a community mental health service: Description of current and projected programs and quality evaluation measures.

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