deployment of existing infrastructure for mental health research. Fourth, definitive and impactful research will require national and international coordination, to ensure that protocols and computer code are shared, measures are harmonised, and work is done at scale, with the principles of open science at heart. Although we must act urgently, we must also be strategic and joined-up in how we address this challenge from the outset. Our success in understanding and mitigating the biological, psychological and social impacts of COVID-19 on mental health will require new investment from research funders and coordinated action from the entire community of mental health scientists.

Celsius: De medicina

Greg Wilkinson

Celsius (c. 25 a.c.-c. 50 a.d.) wrote De medicina, one of the greatest Latin works and a milestone in the development of Western psychiatry. Emerging from lost obscurity, the first complete textbook of medicine to be printed (1478), De medicina comprises an Introduction and Eight Books, dealing with medical theory, anatomy, pathology, diseases, remedies and surgery. Book 3, Section 18 comprises the classification, description and treatment of Insania (a term first employed by Celsius: Phrenesy – acute, short duration, some merry, some sad; Judgement immediately returns: Sadness – without fever, longer duration; a third form of two types, False Images and Disordered Judgement – sometimes arises from fear (here alone wine may properly be given). Incidentally, Celsius’s tetrad signals inflammation: redness, swelling, heat and pain.

© The Authors, 2020. Published by Cambridge University Press on behalf of the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

References


Author contributions

The four authors contributed to a mental health prioritisation exercise. M.H. drafted the editorial and all authors edited it and approved the final version.

Declaration of interest

M.H. declares grant funding from the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR), Medical Research Council, and Economic and Social Research Council; he is Principal Investigator on RADAR-CNS, a precompetitive public–private consortium funded by the Innovative Medicines Initiative, which includes contributions from European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Association members, Janssen, UCB, MSD, Biogen and Lundbeck. M.H. and E.B. are NIHR Senior Investigators. R.C.O. reports grants from the NIHR, Medical Research Foundation, Scottish Government, NHS Health Scotland/Public Health Scotland, and Samartani; he is co-chair of the Academic Advisory Group to the Scottish Government’s National Suicide Prevention Leadership Group, and a member of the centre for the National Institute of Health and Care Excellence’s guideline development group for the new NICE self-harm guidelines. E.A.H. reports grants from The Lupins Foundation, The Oak Foundation, the Swedish Research Council, outside the submitted work; she reports serving on the board of trustees of the charity MQ: Transforming Mental Health UK and as chair of the research committee, receiving no remuneration for these roles; she receives occasional consultancy fees from Statens behandling för medicinsk och social utvärdering (SBU), the Swedish agency for health technology assessment and assessment of social services, Sweden. ICMJE forms are in the supplementary material, available online at https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.2020.125.

Correspondence: Professor Matthew Hotopf. Email: matthew.hotopf@kcl.ac.uk
First received 28 Apr 2020, final revision 27 May 2020, accepted 31 May 2020

3
542
https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.2020.108
Published online by Cambridge University Press