Hot topics in neurology and psychiatry

Code: 
M_BHTNP19

Type: 
Optional

Period: 
Semester 1

Credits: 
24.0

Language of instruction: 
English

Faculty: 
VUmc School of Medical Sciences

Coördinator: 
Mr. dr. M.M. Schoonheim, mrs. dr. L. Diergaarde

Examinator: 
Mr. dr. M.M Schoonheim, mrs. dr. L. Diergaarde

Mode of delivery: 
Face-to-face

Learning activities and teaching methods: 
Interactive lectures, practicals, working groups

Level: 
300

Target audience
Third year Bachelor’s students in Medicine, with an active interest in psychiatry. Also eligible are third year Bachelor’s students from related life sciences disciplines, possessing the required level of background knowledge (i.e. pathological mechanisms and symptoms of common psychiatric disorders).

Course content
Globally, millions of people suffer from neurological and psychiatric disorders that drastically affect quality of life. Unfortunately, for most of these disorders, we still have no effective interventions, which necessitates the development of advanced prevention strategies, diagnostic tools and new treatments. In this minor, you will meet researchers and clinicians in the field of neurology and psychiatry and thus gain insight in current research topics to become a “translational clinical scientist”. You will learn to critically read, analyze and debate papers in the field of neurology and psychiatry, write an opinion paper and present your own research proposal. Topics in psychiatry include crisis and forensic child and adolescent psychiatry, as well as epidemiology, neuropsychiatry and the use of big data in adult psychiatry. Neurological topics include the histopathology, clinical findings and treatment options for disorders such as epilepsy, childhood white-matter disorders, multiple sclerosis, neuro-oncology, Parkinson and Alzheimer’s disease. You will meet patients and their treating physicians, visit a juvenile justice institution, a center where they treat depression with ECT, the epilepsy center “SEIN”, learn all about how brain networks relate to cognition and disability, learn how to look under the microscope at brain tissue and how to interpret functional and structural brain scans. In this exciting and diverse minor, you will gain knowledge as well as new skills and ways to apply them in this important field.
Learning outcomes
1. To describe and explain complex neurological and psychiatric conditions, including risk factors, disease mechanisms, symptoms and treatments [domain-specific knowledge]
2. To gain insight in the latest neuro-scientific methods and studies on neurological and psychiatric disorders [domain-specific knowledge]
3. To summarize, analyze and reflect on research papers in the fields of psychiatry, neurology, and related disciplines [academic skills]
4. To identify new directions for translational research in order to create and peer-review a research proposal [academic skills]
5. To appreciate the state of the art in terms of challenges in the fields of neurology and psychiatry research [attitude]

Assessment methods and criteria (min. 5 independent exams)
Writing assignment, research proposal writing, oral presentation, debate, two central exams.

Recommended or required reading and other learning resources/tools
This minor is supported by a corresponding CANVAS course, which contains all of the required information of this minor including an overview of the required articles and assignments. The CANVAS course will also be used to post announcements relevant to the minor. You will automatically have access to the CANVAS course.

Prerequisites
Knowledge of neuroanatomy and neurophysiology is recommended.