

will focus on cross-national findings on the clinical presentation and grouping of symptoms of alcohol dependence, and on the reliability of the existing diagnostic criteria. A second area for discussion will be the role played by cultural characteristics on symptom recognition and other factors of importance in the diagnostic process. The international nature of scientific communication and its potential influence on the standardization of the identification of alcohol dependence will also be reviewed.

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### **Eilish Gilvarry**

#### *Dependence in the young*

This paper will discuss the criteria for use, abuse and dependence in young people, the importance of DSM criteria of abuse and dependence and its adequacy in adolescents. It will report the prevalence of substance abuse and dependence diagnoses, the utility of individual criterion and the applicability of the DSM IV substance use disorder categorical framework. The importance of factors, both risk and protective factors, that determine and increase the likelihood of transition from use to regular use and substance use disorders will be discussed. Among these might include age of onset, comorbidity, parental alcoholism and other parental psychopathology, genetic effects and environmental factors. Such information is essential for early prevention of substance use disorders. The relevance of dependence diagnoses and its implications for treatment in this age group will be discussed.

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### **Robert West**

#### *The medical model of nicotine dependence*

Nicotine dependence is currently regarded as a psychiatric disorder in which the sufferer has lost control over his or her nicotine intake (usually from cigarettes). While some may question this 'medical model', its acceptance has conferred important benefits. Regarding it as a medical problem has made sufferers eligible to receive effective help from the health service. It has led to the development of pharmaceutical products that significantly improve their chances of stopping. It has also strengthened the hand of smokers seeking redress from tobacco companies. However, the medical model may also have undesirable effects. It may unreasonably restrict the range of professionals considered to be eligible to help smokers; it may lead to application of diagnostic principles that are not well suited to identifying smokers who may benefit from help; and, simplistically applied, it may discourage large scale interventions which assume a measure of voluntary control over the behaviour. This paper analyses how it is possible to derive the greatest benefit out of the medical model as it applies to nicotine dependence.

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### **Michael Gossop**

#### *Measuring substance dependence*

The concept of dependence is now established as central to our understanding of drug misuse. Dependence (typically upon opiates) is also the most common problem presented by drug misusers seeking treatment in the UK. A number of measures have been developed to assess the severity of dependence upon different substances, and severity of dependence has been found to relate to consumption patterns, route of administration, and to a range of substance-related problems. However, few drug takers confine themselves to using a single substance. The use of multiple substances creates complication for the assessment and understanding of dependence problems, particularly with regard to potential interactions between dependencies upon different substances. This presentation presents evidence about the importance of dependence and considers some of the implications and complications raised by multiple substance use behaviours.

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### **Gillian Tober**

#### *Measuring change in dependence*

The Leeds Dependence Questionnaire (LDQ) measures substance dependence, is validated for the measurement of alcohol and heroin dependence and is in the process of validation for nicotine dependence. Its ability to measure dependence in general population samples of drinkers and in samples of ex-heroin users is described; its ability to measure change over time in a clinical population is presented as demonstration of its utility in routine clinical outcome monitoring.