



<b>EPA COURSE TITLE</b>	<b>Neurocognitive and social cognition training in schizophrenia</b>
<b>COURSE DIRECTOR</b>	Mucci Armida, Italy
<b>COURSE CO-DIRECTORS</b>	/
<b>COURSE LEVEL</b>	Basic
<b>EDUCATIONAL INTENTIONS/ COURSE OUTCOMES</b>	Definition and assessments of cognitive impairment associated with schizophrenia (CIAS), Neurocognition, social cognition, brain structure and neural network deficits, review of recent CIAS Trials, Integrative treatment strategies: neurocognitive and social cognition training
<b>COURSE DESCRIPTION</b>	<p>Cognitive functioning is moderately to severely impaired in patients with schizophrenia and have substantial influence on the course of the illness and on noncompliance. This impairment is a core feature in schizophrenia and is associated with functional outcome. The first part of the course will focus on the profile of deficits in schizophrenia including many of the most important aspects of human cognition: attention, memory, reasoning, processing speed and social cognition. Standard neuropsychological measures are highly sensitive to functionally relevant cognitive impairment. To improve the diagnostics of cognitive deficits the American National Institutes of Health (NIMH) has initiated the MATRICS program (Measurement and Treatment Research to Improve Cognition in Schizophrenia). Assessment tools were developed to identify essential target criteria to measure cognitive functions. The MATRICS Committee was employed to select a final battery of tests, the consensus cognitive battery (MCCB), to establish an accepted way to evaluate cognitive-enhancing agents. In the second part the underlying neurobiological correlates of cognitive dysfunctions will be discussed. Brain imaging revealed neuronal dysfunctional activation patterns in the brain. In the third and fourth part different therapeutic strategies to improve cognitive functioning will be discussed. In addition to treatment with psychopharmacological agents, neuropsychological rehabilitation programmes can further improve cognitive function and functional outcome. The neurobiological impact of specific cognitive remediation programmes on neural networks of the brain with a focus on the 'social brain' will be presented. Cognitive training programmes in combination with atypical antipsychotic agents are important treatment techniques for improving social functioning in schizophrenia.</p>
<b>PREREQUISITE KNOWLEDGE</b>	Education in psychiatry, psychology and/or psychotherapy
<b>COURSE METHODS AND MATERIAL</b>	Vignette   Debate   Video   Slides   Handouts
<b>TARGET AUDIENCE</b>	Particularly Early Career Psychiatrists