

CME COURSE TITLE	Cognitive remediation for schizophrenia: principles, methodology and techniques
COURSE DIRECTORS	Course Director: Prof. Antonio Vita, ITALY Course Co-Director: Dr. Mucci Armida, ITALY
COURSE LEVEL	Basic
EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES	<p>Educational objectives of the Course are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> to provide to participants the background and principles of cognitive remediation (cogrem) interventions for schizophrenia to describe and train participants with examples of available cogrem techniques, to be implemented in clinical and/or research settings to discuss methodology and tools for the assessment of cognitive effects of cogrem interventions and their impact on the functional outcome of the disease <p>Expected outcomes are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> updated knowledge of cognitive dysfunctions in schizophrenia and their clinical and functional correlates, and of the principles and methodology of cognitive remediation interventions acquisition of expertise in some of the available remediation methods, even at a practical level for selected techniques updated knowledge of methodology and tools for the assessment of cognitive and functional effects of cogrem interventions
COURSE DESCRIPTION	<p>In recent years, the study of the nature, correlates and prognostic significance of cognitive impairment in schizophrenia has received increasing attention. Deficits of attention processing speed, working memory, verbal memory and executive functions have been demonstrated in both chronic and first-episode schizophrenia. Most important, they are significantly correlated with patients' psychosocial functioning and with the functional outcome of the disease.</p> <p>Psychopharmacological treatment is only partially effective on this dimension even in the era of second generation antipsychotics. For these reasons in recent years much effort has been devoted to the study and development of new non-pharmacological interventions designed to improve cognitive functions in schizophrenic patients. Both individual and group interventions, computer-assisted or not, have been proposed and described and the efficacy of such cognitive remediation (cogrem) interventions has been now well established and reviewed also in recent quantitative meta-analyses (McGurk et al, Am J Psychiatry, 2007; Pfammatter et al, Schizophrenia Bull, 2006).</p> <p>The present CME Course is proposed on behalf of the EPA Section on Schizophrenia (Chair: Prof. S. Galderisi). It will present the theoretical bases and principles of cognitive remediation for schizophrenic patients and will analyze systematically the characteristics and practical application of two techniques, an individualized computer-assisted neurocognitive training method, and an integrated group intervention (cognitive component of the Integrated Psychological Therapy). Principles and tools for the assessment of effectiveness of cogrem interventions on cognitive and functional aspects of schizophrenia as well as methodological and open issues will be also discussed.</p>
COURSE METHODS AND MATERIAL	<p>The Course will be divided in 3 sections:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Theoretical background and principles of cognitive remediation in schizophrenia Presentation and practical demonstration of two cogrem interventions, an individualized computer-assisted Neurocognitive Training (see Galderisi et al, Eur. Arch. Psychiatry Clin. Neurosci., 2009, and the cognitive component of the group intervention Integrated Psychological Therapy (Brenner et al, 1997; Vita et al, Eur. Psychiatry, in press) Principles and tools for the assessment of cognitive and functional effects of cogrem interventions <p>It will utilize both frontal presentations and interactive sessions. A core session will be devoted to the practical demonstration of selected cogrem techniques in order to facilitate the participants' learning and training process.</p>
TARGET AUDIENCE	The Course is targeted to psychiatrists, psychologists and operators interested or involved in the study and application of cognitive remediation interventions in schizophrenia and, more generally, in the rehabilitation of patients with chronic psychotic disorders.
LANGUAGES	English