



Communications of the European Society for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

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Child and adolescent psychiatry in Germany

The German Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Psychosomatics and Psychotherapy (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Kinder- und Jugendpsychiatrie, Psychosomatik und Psychotherapie, DGKJP) is the scientific society of the medical specialists for child and adolescent psychiatry and psychotherapy, as well as of other scientists practising in this field. It was founded in Vienna in 1940 with support from the German Nazi government and was called the “German Association for Child Psychiatry and Therapeutic Pedagogics”. In 1950, the Association was restructured in Western Germany (FRG) and converted to a “medical only” association without pedagogical members.

The first (associate) professorships for child and adolescent psychiatry were established simultaneously in 1954 in both states. In the western part of Germany, the first professorship was established in Marburg, while at the same time, the first professorship for “Child and Adolescent Neuropsychiatry” was established in Rostock in East Germany. Since then, the number of university chairs has continued to grow. Today, there are 26 full professorships of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Psychotherapy (CAP) in Germany.

According to its bylaws, the DGKJP aims to promote and spread the results of research. The main tasks are preventive health care, recognition, and medical diagnosis of mental disorders in children and adolescents. It also covers the treatment, social integration and rehabilitation of patients with mental disorders.

Key aspects of the German Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Psychosomatics and Psychotherapy are postgraduate training, political lobbying and public

relations. Furthermore, the DGKJP works on medical guidelines in the field of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. In addition, the national society has good collaboration with many other societies supporting the interests of children and adolescents in Germany.

The German National Association focuses on arranging a congress every 2 years, and the next meetings will take place in 2015 in Munich and in 2017 in Ulm.

The Board of the Association consists of seven members, one of whom is supposed to be a psychologist. The German National Society is led by one president and two vice-presidents. The presidency rotates every 2 years. Currently, Prof. Dr. med. Jörg M. Fegert is president.

Since the DGKJP was restructured in 1950, it has grown steadily, and, currently, there are around 1,100 members.

In Germany, child and adolescent psychiatry first became an independent medical specialty in 1969. There is still close cooperation with DGPPN (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Psychiatrie und Psychotherapie, Psychosomatik und Nervenheilkunde—the National Association for (adult) Psychiatry, Psychotherapy, and Psychosomatics).

Besides the Scientific Association, there are two other Associations of child and adolescent psychiatrists in Germany, the BKJPP (Professional Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists, Psychosomatics, and Psychotherapists), which is open to all child and adolescent psychiatrists but mostly represents child and adolescent psychiatrists in private practice, and the BAG KJPP (Board of Department Heads in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Psychosomatics, and Psychotherapy), mostly dealing with the topics of hospital-based services.

The official journal of the German Society is the *Zeitschrift für Kinder- und Jugendpsychiatrie und Psychotherapie/ZKJPP*. It is published six times a year and

each member of the national society automatically holds a subscription.

Child and adolescent psychiatrists are working in universities, regional psychiatric services, in mental hospitals, in private practices, or in public health institutions. In 2012, there were 1,885 active child and adolescent psychiatrists in Germany, 1,161 of them female. In 2012, 835 of them were working in a clinic and 853 were working in private practice (according to the Bundesärztekammer: Ärztstatistik, 31 December 2012).

In 2009, there was one child and adolescent psychiatrist available per 20,000 children and adolescents under the age of 18; this ratio is improving, but does not yet meet the needs.

Hyperkinetic disorder (ADHD) has been the most common mental disorder in child and adolescent psychiatry in the last decade.

The post-graduate training schedule requires a total of 5 years of training in order to become a specialist for “Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Psychotherapy”. The requirements for specialist training are currently under review by the authorities. Continuity of training is provided for and controlled by the “Continuous Medical Education System” (CME), according to which all child and

adolescent psychiatrists must fulfill defined criteria for continuous field-related training within a 5-year period.

The DGKJP is very interested in European and international cooperation such as ESCAP and IACAPAP. To increase the cooperation with ESCAP, a meeting with the ESCAP Board is planned in September 2014 in Berlin.

You can find further information about the German National Society, such as various statements and medical guidelines, on the DGKJP homepage at <http://www.dgkjp.de>.

DGKJP Board, December 2013

For the Board:

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