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An overview of the neurological base of bipolar disorder



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Bipolar disorder has been affecting us for centuries and it has carried different names such as: melancholia, madness, psychopathic temperament, and maniac-depression, among others. This paper attempts to give an overview of the neurological basis of this condition, how the medical approaches have evolved through centuries, provide some insight on the variety of treatments that sometimes are just part of a guessing game to find a solution and how we as educators can impact the learning experience of a student with bipolar disease by looking at accommodations that must take place in the classroom. Treatment is an area that needs to be explored thoroughly since there is no medication, treatment or a combination of both approaches at this moment that helps to cure, prevent or make BPD disappear in its totality or prevent it for longer periods of time. However, the trend for future research I found in many articles is scientists trying to track a gene that is related to mood disorders. Everybody is trying to find some predictable pattern or path to treat it before the first episode happens. In a study which results were reported on January 17, 2010 in the journal Nature Genetics a group of international scientists studied data from five different genome-wide association studies (GWAS) which made 13,600 people, and to validate the results of the original group conducted three additional more samples with 4,677 people. The results of the study showed that variations of chromosome 3 are associated with BD. "Ultimately, findings such as these may lead to identification of common biological pathways that may play a role in both unipolar and bipolar illness and suggest strategies for better treatment." (Asher 2010). The hope is to finding a gene that can be traced to family history to detect BD at an early age and prevent the manifestation of this mood disorder during late adolescence years or early twenties.

Biography

Maria Santiago-Valentin is an Educational Diagnostician and Case Manager in a Child Study Team, an ABA Technician, and a Mindfulness Certified Practitioner. She is a Member of the New Jersey Association of Learning Consultants where she was the Region 2 Chairperson for 2016-17. She has delivered workshops about Mindfulness in 2016, 2017 and 2018 at the LDANJ Fall Conference and at different high schools. She is in the ABA Services International Directory published by the Université de Lille III in Nantes-France as a Behavior Technician. She has completed her Post-Master's Certification at Kean University in 2014. She has conducted educational evaluations at the former Institute of Child Study at Kean University, Cross County Clinical and Educational Services, and at Somerset Co. Vo-Tech Schools. In 2018, she was chosen as research examiner and consultant for the Batelle Developmental Inventory 3rd Edition (Standardization) by the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Clinical Research Team.

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