

Jules Angst is awarded WPA Jean Delay Prize 2017



Jules Angst, Department of Psychiatry, Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics, University of Zurich, Switzerland is awarded the WPA Jean Delay Prize 2017. At its meeting, the International Jury unanimously decided to award the Prize to him. This consists of a certificate and a cheque for Euros 40,000 paid for by Servier. The Prize will be presented by WPA President Dinesh Bhugra at the opening ceremony of the World Congress of Psychiatry, Berlin on Oct 8, 2017. Hearty Congratulations to Jules Angst on this achievement.

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Bio sketch: Jules Angst, MD, is Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Zurich, Switzerland and Honorary Doctor of the Universities of Heidelberg, Germany, and Craiova, Romania. In his early twenties Jules Angst qualified as a Jungian analyst. He trained in psychiatry under Manfred Bleuler at the Zurich University Psychiatric Hospital (the Burghölzli), where he went on to head the Research Department from 1969 until his retirement in 1994. His publications span the past 60 years of clinical psychiatry. He remains active in epidemiological and clinical research.

Jules Angst's monograph (1966) established and validated the distinction between bipolar disorder, depression, and schizoaffective disorders on the basis of genetics, course, and personality. Later patient studies led to the development of a new mood spectrum concept of three dimensions: syndrome (mania to depression), severity (normal to psychotic) and temperament. He proposed improved diagnostic concepts of bipolar-I and bipolar-II disorders.

His early work in clinical psychopharmacology established the efficacy of and the familial response to imipramine (1964). On the basis of multicentre studies he provided statistical evidence for the long-term efficacy of lithium (1970). His more recent work focused on the long-term prophylactic role of antidepressants and atypical neuroleptics in suicide prevention, the early onset of action of antidepressants, "drug-induced" hypomania, and the effect of lithium against dementia in patients with mood disorders.

Jules Angst's main recent research has been in epidemiology. The Zurich study investigated 14 somatic and 15 psychiatric syndromes in a representative age cohort of young adults in the general population, who were followed prospectively over a period of 30 years (1979–2008), using an original bottom-up approach. The study has yielded new diagnostic concepts of brief psychiatric syndromes, and new definitions of hypomania, bipolar-II disorder and

minor bipolar disorder, and provided information on the prevalence, longitudinal course and comorbidity of all the main psychiatric syndromes in the population, including subsyndromal/subthreshold disorders. The evidence of the widespread presence of psychiatric syndromes in the general population is an important argument in combating the stigma of mental illness.

With colleagues he developed the hypomania checklist (HCL) (2005), a screening tool for hypomanic symptoms aimed at more accurate diagnosis of bipolar disorder; it has been translated into numerous languages.

Jules Angst has received numerous awards, including the Anna Monika Awards (1967/1969), Paul Martini Prize for Methodology in Medicine (1969), Otto Naegeli Prize (1983), Eric Strömngren Medal (1987), and the Emil Kraepelin Gold Medal of the Max Planck Institute, Munich (1992). He has also received the Selo Prize NARSAD/Depression Research, USA (1994), Mogens Schou Award for Research in Bipolar Disorder, USA (2001), the Burghölzli Award for Clinical and Social Psychiatry (2001), the Lifetime Achievement Award of the International Society of Psychiatric Genetics (2002), the Wagner-Jauregg Medal (2007), the Juan J. López-Ibor Award (2010), Lifetime Achievement Awards in biological psychiatry (WFSBP 2011), in neuropsychopharmacology (ECNP 2012), and suicide prevention (AFSP 2013), and the Joseph Zubin Award (2015).

Jules Angst is an honorary fellow/fellow/member of many national and international psychiatric associations. He was President of the European Psychiatric Association from 1996–98.