



(Neuro)science and alcohol dependence syndrome related stigma

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Zahvala:



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA
**MINISTRSTVO ZA IZOBRAŽEVANJE,
ZNANOST IN ŠPORT**



Conflict of interests

- None to declare

- In the past received educational support from:
AstraZeneca, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Krka, Lundbeck



Agenda

- Problem definition
- Literature review – not comprehensive
- Clinical relevance
- Q&A



Carlo C. DiClemente

“Anyone who has treated addictions understands the challenges facing the addicted individual and the treatment provider, due to the sheer number of factors affecting why and how individuals become addicted and manage recovery.”

DiClemente, 2006



Stigma

= a label:

- that sets a person apart from others,
- links her or him with undesirable characteristics

and

- leads to avoidance by others and society.

Aromaa, 2011



Background

- Alcohol \Rightarrow SoAD in 9-15% of the population
 - the most prevalent drug used
 - 4% total burden of disease for society

Mathers&Loncar, 2006

- Projections to 2030 place SoAD in the 4th place;
after MDD, cardiovascular diseases and dementia

Mathers&Loncar, 2006

- Slovenia - Cost of all consequences 4% GDP

IVZ, 2008



Background – cont'd

- Neuroscientific discoveries have a potential to provoke emotionally charged public opinions reflected in:
 - Issues of access
 - Decision making
 - Human rights

Paylor et al., 2014

- Beliefs vs. politics vs. science vs. ethics ...



Informative neuroscience?

Alan I. Leshner (Science, 1997):

“Addiction Is a Brain Disease, and It Matters”

- Brain reward system “hijacked” by drugs.

Robinson&Berridge, 2013

- “The neurobiology of behavior gone awry.”

Volkow&Li, 2004



Informative neuroscience? – cont'd

- Addiction neuroscience did not destigmatize drug users. Courtwright, 2010
- “Messages about “diseased brain” do not always lead to increased Tx-seeking and decreased drug use.” Bell et al., 2014
- Limited research on effect of neurobiological understanding of psychiatric disorders on stigma. Hall et al. 2015 & Trujols, 2015



Beliefs about addiction in general population

- More neuroscientific knowledge, higher proportion of the general population believes addiction is a disease.
- More support for Tx-program funding.
- **No influence** on the level of stigma – if any: stigma increased over time.

Pescosolido et al., 2010

Schomerus et al., 2011



Medical doctors and alcohol use

- USA – surgeons: M 14%; F 25%

Oreskovich et al, 2012

- USA – all doctors: 10-12% SUD, of those alcohol use disorder: 1/2

McLellan et al, 2008

- High risk specialties: anesthesiology, emergency medicine, psychiatry

Rose et al., 2014



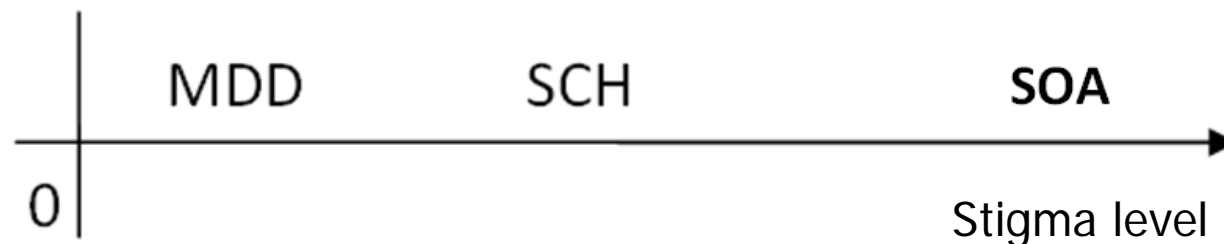
Beliefs about addiction

	GP	Psych.
Addiction = disease	56%	63%
Due to psychological woundedness	31%	27%
NOT a moral failing	39%	55%

Lawrence et al., 2013

Beliefs about addiction – cont'd

- Students of health professions
- Clinical vignettes describing Px with
 - Major depression episode (MDD), schizophrenia (SCH), alcohol dependence (SoA)



Ahmedani et al., 2011
Pescosolido et al, 2010



Informative science

- Neuroscientific view oversimplifies the complex phenomenon named addiction.

Hall et al., 2015

- Relationship between public perception of biological aspects of addiction and stigma are unclear.

Racine et al., 2015

- In public opinion: more social distance (=stigma)
- Among mentally ill: more fear, self-guilt

Rüsch et al., 2010



Informative science – cont'd

- Range of philosophical, sociological, anthropological, psychological and neurobiological vocabularies synthesized in newer understandings.

Meurk et al., 2014



Take home messages

- Recognize one's own attitudes and beliefs regarding alcohol (use).
- Recognize, understand and work through one's own stigmatizing attitudes and beliefs.



Take home messages – cont'd

- Be a role model for your patients, students, friends...
- Avoid labeling.
- Help creating a safe environment to talk about difficult topics, taboos, stigma...



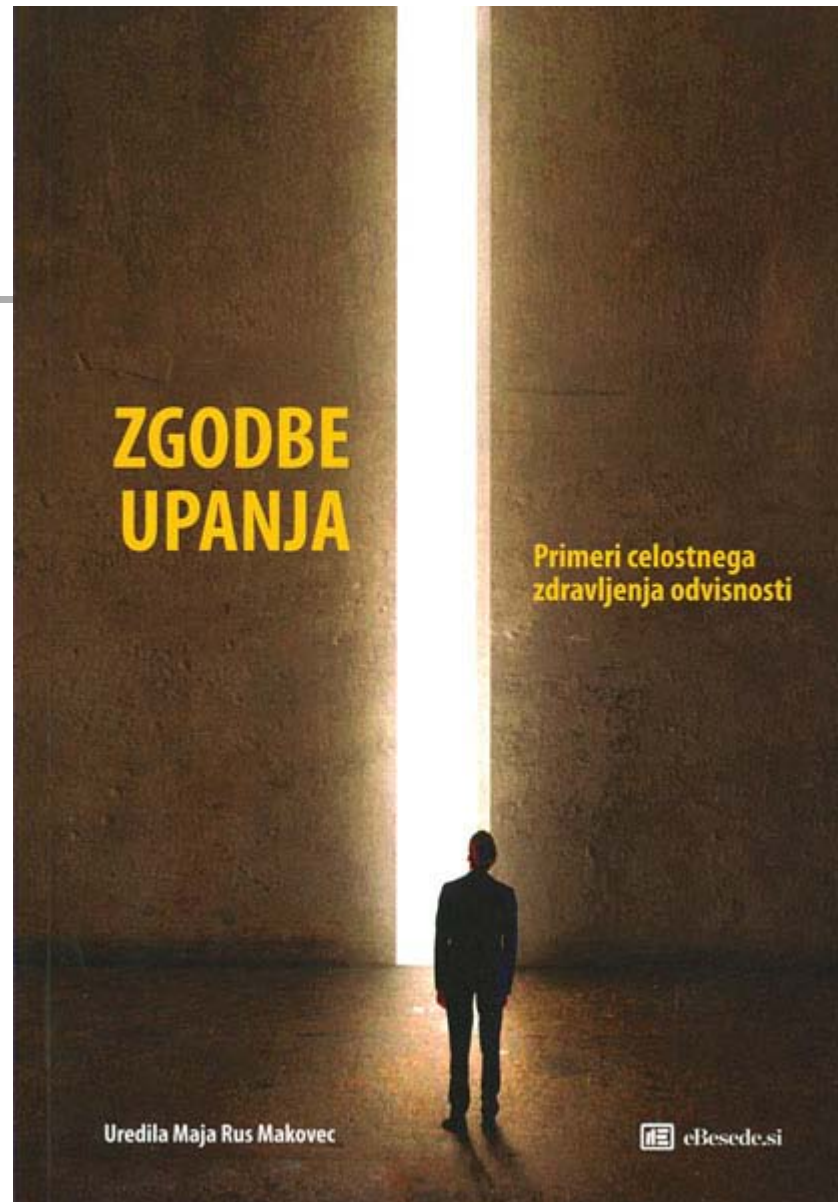
“Tales of Hope”

Editor:

Maja Rus-Makovec

ZGODBE UPANJA

eBesede, Ljubljana 2014





**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
KIND ATTENTION!**

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