Presentation Form
Video Conference
December 2, 2020 – 1:00 to 3:00 PM

Presenter Bio

Morgan Faeder, MD, PhD
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Dr. Faeder is an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Neurology at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and attending psychiatrist at the UPMC Huntington's Disease Society of America Center of Excellence. He is the Medical Director of Neuropsychiatry and Director of the UPMC Consultation Liaison Psychiatry Fellowship. He received his MD from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and completed residency in psychiatry and fellowship in consultation-liaison psychiatry at UPMC Western Psychiatric Hospital. He speaks nationally on behavioral manifestations of Huntington's Disease and other topics in neuropsychiatry. His academic interests include neuropsychiatry, collaborative care, LGBTQ+ healthcare, and medical education.

Narrative Description of your Presentation – Understanding the Cognitive and Behavioral Features of Huntington's Disease

Huntington's Disease (HD) is a trinucleotide repeat disorder with autosomal dominant inheritance that affects motor function, cognition, and behavior. Subcortical degeneration due to accumulation of abnormal huntingtin protein causes a syndrome similar to other frontal dementias, which often includes behavioral symptoms. Age of onset may be at any stage of life, however clinical (motor) manifestation is most often in middle age and therefore affects family systems as well as individuals. Patient's with HD are more likely than the general population to attempt suicide, a phenomenon complicated by both depressive disorders and impulsivity due to frontal cognitive impairment. This presentation will address challenges in managing behavioral and psychosocial aspects of HD, including depression, apathy, psychosis, and impulsivity, with an emphasis on medication selection, multidisciplinary care, and strategies for families and caregivers.

Please contact Doreen Barkowitz at barkowitzdh@upmc.edu for additional information regarding this speaker and/or presentation.

Three (3) learning objectives

By the completion of this session, participants should be able to:

1. Explain the genetic basis for Huntington's Disease and the relationship between genotype and clinical presentation
2. Identify cognitive, behavioral, and psychosocial complications of Huntington's Disease
3. Formulate a comprehensive plan to help patients, families, and caregivers cope with these complications

Three (3) current (within the past 10 years) *peer-reviewed* publications that support the evidence base for the content of your presentation

1. Ghielen, I., Rutten, S., Boeschoten, R. E., Houniet-de Gier, M., van Wegen, E., van den Heuvel, O. A., & Cuijpers, P. (2019). The effects of cognitive behavioral and mindfulness-based therapies on psychological distress in patients with multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease and Huntington's disease: Two meta-analyses. *Journal of psychosomatic research*, *122*, 43–51. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpsychores.2019.05.001
2. Quigley J. (2017). Juvenile Huntington's Disease: Diagnostic and Treatment Considerations for the Psychiatrist. *Current psychiatry reports*, *19*(2), 9. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11920-017-0759-9
3. van Duijn, E., Craufurd, D., Hubers, A. A., Giltay, E. J., Bonelli, R., Rickards, H., Anderson, K. E., van Walsem, M. R., van der Mast, R. C., Orth, M., Landwehrmeyer, G. B., & European Huntington's Disease Network Behavioural Phenotype Working Group (2014). Neuropsychiatric symptoms in a European Huntington's disease cohort (REGISTRY). Journal of neurology, neurosurgery, and psychiatry, 85(12), 1411–1418. https://doi.org/10.1136/jnnp-2013-307343