# JEAN-MARTIN CHARCOT'S INFLUENCE ON CAREER OF SIGMUND FREUD, AND THE INFLUENCE OF THIS MEETING FOR THE BRAZILIAN MEDICINE

INFLUÊNCIA DE JEAN-MARTIN CHARCOT NA CARREIRA DE SIGMUND FREUD, E A INFLUÊNCIA DESSE ENCONTRO PARA A MEDICINA BRASILEIRA

Carlos Henrique Ferreira Camargo<sup>II</sup>; Paula T. Marques<sup>II</sup>; Livia P. de Oliveira<sup>II</sup>; Francisco M. B. Germinian<sup>II</sup>; Luciano de Paola<sup>II</sup>, Hélio Afonso Ghizoni Teive<sup>II</sup>.

#### **ABSTRACT**

Background - Jean-Martin Charcot had a profound influence on Sigmund Freud's life and career. The founders of Brazilian neurology and psychiatry were influenced by the ideas of Charcot and Freud. Objective - To describe Charcot's influence on Freud, and both on the beginning of Brazilian Neurology and Psychiatry. Results - After Freud's stay in Charcot's neurology service during the winter of 1885-1886, there was a shift in his interest from general neurology to hysteria, hypnosis and other psychological issues, which greatly influenced the development of psychoanalytic theory. Like Charcot, Freud would become an admirer of the arts, literature, and culture. When Freud began his collection, in the late 1890s, Charcot served as an important model. In Salpêtrière Hospital, Charcot was staging a show different from modernity, capable of inspiring Freud. Antonio Austregesilo founded the first Brazilian school of Neurology, in Rio de Janeiro, inspired in Charcot. Austresegilo also practiced psychiatry, and, together Juliano Moreira and others, is considered propagator of Freud's ideas in Brazil. Conclusion - The ideas of Charcot and Freud were fundamental in the formation of physicians who helped to found and to consolidate the Brazilian neurology and psychiatry.

**Keywords:** Jean-Martin Charcot, Sigmund Freud, Hysteria, Hypnosis, Psychoanalysis.

#### **RESUMO**

Introdução - Jean-Martin Charcot exerceu uma profunda influência na vida e na carreira de Sigmund Freud. Os fundadores da neurologia e da psiquiatria brasileiras foram influenciados pelas ideias de Charcot e de Freud. Objetivo - Descrever a influência de Charcot so bre Freud e de ambos sobre o início da Neurologia e da Psiquiatria brasileiras. Resultados - Após a permanência de Freud no serviço de neurologia de Charcot durante o inverno de 1885-1886, houve uma mudança em seu interesse da neurologia geral para histeria, hipnose e outras questões psicológicas, o que influenciou muito o desenvolvimento da teoria psicanalítica. Como Charcot, Freud se tornaria admirador das artes, literatura e cultura. Ouando Freud comecou sua coleção, no final da década de 1890, Charcot serviu de modelo importante. No Hospital Salpêtrière, Charcot era a representação da modernidade, capaz de inspirar Freud. Antonio Austregesilo fundou a primeira escola brasileira de Neurologia, no Rio de Janeiro, inspirada em Charcot. Austresegilo também praticou psiquiatria, e, juntamente com Juliano Moreira e outros, é considerado propagador das ideias de Freud no Brasil.Conclusão - As ideias de Charcot e Freud foram fundamentais na formação de médicos que ajudaram a fundar e consolidar a neurologia e a psiquiatria brasileiras.

**Palavras-chave:** Jean-Martin Charcot, Sigmund Freud, Histeria, Hipnose, Psicanálise.

Endereço para correspondência: Hélio Afonso GhizoniTeive, Rua General Carneiro 1103/102, Centro, Curitiba, PR, 80060-150, Brazil. E-mail: hagteive@mps.com.br

Neurology Service, Hospital Universitário, State University of Ponta Grossa, Paraná, Brazil;

Neurology Service, Hospital de Clínicas, Federal University of Parana, Curitiba - Paraná, Brazil

Jean-Martin Charcot can be considered the "father" of modern neurology as well as the first formal teacher of nervous system diseases<sup>1</sup>. In the second half of the century, the Salpêtrière Hospital, in Paris, France, was considered the most important neurological center in the world. Professor Charcot and his disciples, the most famous of whom were Pierre Marie, Gilles de la Tourette, Babinski, Brissaud, Bourneville and Guinon, were known worldwide. Many physicians around the world visited the respected center of excellence to receive training and gain expertise in neurology. These included Bechterew, Darkschewitch, Kojewnikow (from Russia), Marinesco (from Romania), Sachs (from the USA) and Freud (from Austria) Freud, the founder of psychoanalytic theory, was Charcot's *interne* at the Salpêtrière Hospital from late 1885 to early 1886<sup>3,4</sup>

The aim of this historical note is to review the relationship between Freud and Charcot and the influence Charcot had on Freud's career. The deep marks left by this relationship in the origin of Brazilian Neurology and Psychiatry are also reviewed.

#### SIGMUND FREUD – A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

Sigmund Schlomo Freud (1856-1939) (Figure 1) was born into a Jewish family in Freiberg, Moravia—at that time part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and now in the Czech Republic—and died in London, United Kingdom, of complications from cancer. He started medical school at the University of Vienna in 1873 and gradua ted in 1882. During his time there he developed a great interest in anatomy, physiology and histology under the supervision of Professor Claus and Professor Brücke. In 1883, he joined Meynert's service, where he studied neuroanatomy and worked with patients with neurological diseases. After that he worked with children for some years, particularly children with Little's disease, a form of cerebral palsy. In 1885, he was appointed *Privatdozent* in neuropathology. A few months later he decided to visit Professor Charcot's famous neurological service and became very influenced by Charcot's approach to hysteria and the therapeutic use of hypnosis [89]. In 1891, he coauthored with Breuer the book "Hysteria and Hypnosis". Between 1890 and 1939 he published several books, most of which were about psychology (in particular the interpretation of dreams, sexuality and psychoanalysis), and developed the now well-known "psychoanalytic theory"

### FREUD AT CHARCOT'S NEUROLOGICAL SERVICE

During the winter of 1885-1886, Freud spent four months (from October 20<sup>th</sup> to February 28<sup>th</sup>) at the Salpêtrière Hospital in Charcot's neurology service

Paris enchanted Freud. Its restless crowd and the infinite variety of seductively exposed things dazzled him. He confessed that he has cried. The provincial and ambitious boy was subjected to a rite of passage very urban, transforming his character. Freud allowed Paris to seduce him, but only when Charcot, his powerful mentor, welcomed him. Warmed by the Charcot's hospitality, Freud gained confidence. Then, he discovered the "magic city that was Paris!" To

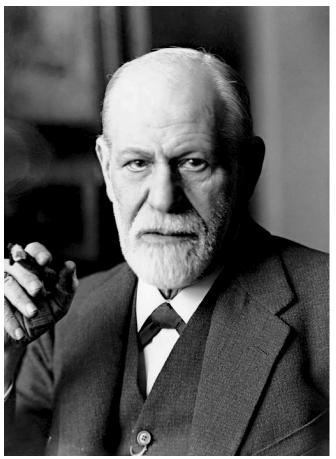


Figure 1. Sigmund Freud (1856 – 1939). (Extracted from Google Images: October 28th, 2017)

Freud's first impression of Charcot was (Figure 2):

"A tall, 58-year-old man wears a top hat, with dark and strangely kind eyes (or rather one, the other is expressionless, squinty), long tufts of hair behind the ears, well-scoured, very expressive features with lips full and protruding -- in short, he seems like an experienced priest from whom one expects a fine insight and a consideration about living well"

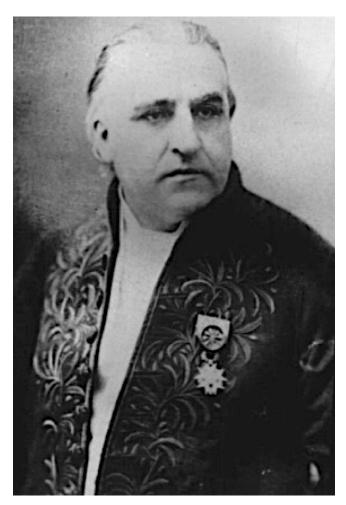


Figure 2. Jean-Martin Charcot (1825-1893). (Extracted from Google Images: October 28th, 2017)

When he entered Charcot's house, the poor man (his study funding was barely enough to keep himself alive), simple and provincial Freud came across an impressive and luxurious environment: the neurologist was a collector. There, Freud had a vision of what would be his ideal home and workplace, a place that emanated individuality, learning, elegance, and power (Figure 3)<sup>100</sup>1

"It is as big as our whole future apartment, a room worthy of the magical castle in which he lives. The piece is divided into two sections, the largest of which is dedicated to science and the other to comfort. Two protrusions departing from the walls separate their sections. As you enter, you see a triple window that opens onto the garden; the common panes are separated by strips of stained glass. Along the side walls of the larger section are its huge library on two levels, both with stairs. To the left of the door,

there is an immensely long table covered with journals and strange books, in front of the window, there are smaller tables with folders over them. To the right of the door is a small stained-glass window, and in front of it is Charcot's work table, very flat, covered with manuscripts and books; there is also his armchair and several other chairs. The other section has a fireplace, a table and boxes containing Indian and Chinese antiques. The walls are covered with Gobelins and pictures; the walls themselves are painted terracotta. From the little I saw of the other rooms on Sunday, they seemed to have the same abundance of rugs, Gobelins and curiosities - in short, a museum



Figure 3: A room from Jean-Martin Charcot's house Picture exhibited at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (Pourfar, 2005)

Like Charcot, Freud would become an admirer of the arts, literature, and culture. When Freud began his collection, a decade later, Charcot served as an important model. In antiquities, Freud found art in the sacred security of the past, not in the fluid and inapprehensible present. He shared his hostility to modern art with Charcot, also an admirer of antiquities and medieval art. Charcot saw no use in Impressionist and Symbolist paintings. He did not like the vague and imprecise.

Despite the extensive collection he formed, one painting was particularly important for Freud. In his office, he hung a lithograph of *Une Leçon Clinique à la Salpêtrière*, by Brouillet (Figure 4). Freud positioned it so that he and his patient could see it ...



Figure 4: Une Leçon Clinique à la Salpêtrière, by Brouillet (Extracted from Google Images: October 28th, 2017)

Anti-modern in relation to art, Charcot and Freud were innovators in medicine. In Salpêtrière Hospital, Charcot was staging a show different from modernity, capable of inspiring Freud. He did not deal with the bright exterior of Paris, but with the admirable inner world, which Charcot revealed in his lectures on Thursday mornings, some of which Freud attended and translated into German [810].

At that time, he was predominantly a neuropathologist, with little clinical neurological experience. He carried out pioneering neurobiological research, which was cited by Santiago Ramóny Cajal, the father of modern neuroscience, and helped to establish neuroscience as a discipline.He carried out pioneering neuroanatomical studies, on the connections of the superior olivary nuclei, on the origin and course of the eighth cranial nerve, and on the relations of the restiform body. In the late 1870s and early 1880s, he observed the relationship between the grey matter and the nerve fibers that emerge from it, and described it accurately and consistently. With his histological studies on the spinal ganglia and spinal cord of the lamprey and the structure of nerve cells and fibers in the river crayfish, Freud became one of the early protagonists of the neuron theory.

The training with Charcot was critical to his career. He was deeply impressed by Charcot's teachings, and this period proved instrumental in the shift in his interest from general neurology to the study of hysteria, hypnosis and other psychological issues. He wrote to his future wife shortly after arriving in Paris (November 24<sup>III</sup>, 1885),

"I think I'm changing a lot. I will tell you in detail what is affecting me. Charcot, one of the greatest physicians and a man whose common sense borders on genius, is simply wrecking all my aims and opinions. I sometimes come out of his lectures as I would come out of Nôtre Dame, with an entirely new idea of perfection. But he exhausts me; when I come away from him, I no longer have any desire to work at my own silly things; it is three whole days since I have done any work and I have no feelings of guilt. My brain is sated as after an evening in the theater. Whether the seed will ever bear any fruit, I don't know; but what I do know is that no other human being has ever affected me in the same way...

Charcot's interest in sexuality as the origin of hysteria and neuroses and his influence on Freud can be seen in his well-known comment on hysteria:

"It is always the genital thing, always.... always.... always..."

During his time at the Salpêtrière, Freud had a very close scientific relationship with many of Charcot's disciples, such as Paul Richer, Désiré Bourneville, Gilles de la Tourette, Joseph Babinski and Pierre Marie Only later, however, did he have contact with another of Charcot's disciples, Pierre Janet, who worked with hysteria. After Charcot's death, Freud had great quarrels with Janet, who accused him of plagiarism. Thus, Tourette, Richer and Babinski considered his work of little importance

## FREUD AFTER HIS INTERNSHIP WITH CHARCOT

In order to complete the research program established by his scholarship, Freud moved from Paris to Berlin in February 1886. However, he felt discouraged because there no was "adventure, excitement, shine as in Paris. Just quiet work". Perhaps his activities translating Charcot's lessons, recalling the good times in Paris, contributed to his sadness. He was more urban, with greater capacity of relationship with colleagues. Therefore, he needed to go back to Vienna and start over. Returning to Vienna, he concluded:

"Paris meant the beginning of a new existence for me (...) A new era is beginning, a good era, I hope"

In Vienna, the first offices and his own house were indications of his ambitions, and of the influence of *vacui horror* style of Charcot's house<sup>10,13</sup>. Charcot's inspiration is also noted in Freud's decision to leave the general hospital and began acting as a neurologist. In April 1886, he moved to Ringstrasse, Vienna's most prestigious address. Soon married Martha, and they had children<sup>10</sup>. He called his first son Jean-Martin, a great homage to his former mentor<sup>3,4,6</sup>. With the increase of family and spending, he moved to 19 Bergasse Street (Figure 5)<sup>10</sup>.

In the first years after returning from Paris, Freud was mainly concerned with taking care of the family. Despite his dedication to the translation of Charcot's lessons, his academic performance was slower <sup>10</sup>. After this period, Freud published several papers and books, mainly on hysteria (including male hysteria) and hypnosis <sup>180</sup>.



Figure 5: Freud's office

19 Bergasse Street, at Freud Museum in London. To the right, above the couch, lithograph of *UneLeçon Clinique* à la Salpêtrière, by Brouillet .

(Extracted from Google Images: October 28th, 2017)

Freud became increasingly interested in the study of hysteria, focusing on the "sexualization" of hysteria and the use of hypnosis as a therapeutic resource. From In 1889 Freud visited Professor Hippolyte Bernheim and his disciples at the Nancy "Suggestion" School. Bernheim worked with hypnosis and was then the best-known opponent of Charcot's ideas in this field. Freud translated Bernheim's book on suggestion<sup>3,4,6</sup> and in the following years gradually developed his own ideas about hysteria, becoming opposed to certain of Charcot's classical definitions in this area, such as the presence of dynamic lesions, the role of heredity and the so-called "triggering factors". Initially using hypnosis as a therapy for patients with hysteria and focusing on suggestibility, Freud became increasingly interested in the role of sexuality, an interest which was to lead to the development of psychoanalysis. Therefore, despite the evolution of Freudian thought in various fields of psychology, most notably hysteria and hypnosis, Jean-Martin Charcot clearly had a fundamental influence on the development of Freud's psychoanalytic theory.

Despite the deep immersion in psychoanalysis, Freud continued contributing in other areas of neurology. He worked with children for some years, particularly the one with Little's disease. In 1897 he introduced an early clinical classification in his classic text, Infantile Cerebral Palsy, which provided a basis for later classification and emphasized the existence of associated problems such as mental retardation, epilepsy, and visual disturbance. In regard to etiology, Freud emphasized prenatal influences suggesting that cerebral palsy might be linked to "symptoms of deeper lying influence, which have dominated the development of the fetus".

Two days after Charcot's death, Freud published an obituary, again declaring his admiration for the master:

"On August 16th of this year, J-M. Charcot died suddenly, without pain or illness, after a life of happiness and fame. In it, prematurely, the young neurological science lost its greatest leader, neurologists of all countries lost their great master and France lost one of its most prominent citizens. (...) Charcot was not a man given to excessive reflections, a thinker: he had, rather, the nature of an artist - he was, as he himself put it, a "visuel", a man who sees. (...) In his mental vision, the apparent chaos presented by the continuous repetition of the same symptoms gave way to order: the new nosological pictures emerged, characterized by the constant combination of certain groups of symptoms. (...) If Charcot was much more fortunate in this regard, we ought to attribute this to the personal qualities of man-to the magic emanating from his appearance and his voice, to the cordial frankness that characterized his social intercourse, as soon as his relations with someone transcended the stage of initial embarrassment, the goodwill with which he put everything at the disposal of his disciples and his perennial loyalty to them ""

#### CHARCOT, FREUD AND BRAZIL

#### - Emperor Pedro II

Charcot's relationship with Brazil was quite intense. His constant presence alongside the Emperor Pedro II was an integral part of the formation of an intense scientific, ecological and cultural consciousness of the ruler. Pedro II was a distinguished guest at Charcot's Tuesday dinners at the Boulevard Saint-Germain Charcot and Pedro II were related in both social (as friends) and medical terms (patient-physician relationship). Pedro II was a member of the French Society for the Protection of Animals. His affection to animals was deeply shared by Charcot, who never allowed vivisection of animals at the Salpetrière. Historical data suggests that the small female monkey, called Rosalie that lived at Charcot's house and

was at table during his meals, came from South America, a gift of Pedro II to Charcot<sup>IIS</sup>.

In 1889, a military junta deposed Pedro II and Brazil was declared a Republic. He and his family were sent into exile in 24 hours, for the Republicans feared a popular upraise due to the great popularity Pedro II still enjoyed in spite of having changed "his crown for a top hat". His wife, Teresa Cristina, died one month later, in Portugal, and he lived with his family in Paris till his death in 1891 His last years in Paris were marked by an intense cultural and social activity, though he became quite ill due to his diabetes and looked older than he actually was. His presence in Charcot's house was quite frequent \*During his final illness, Dom Pedro was living at the Bedford Hotel, when Charcot diagnosed pneumonia. He finally died on December 5, 1891. Charcot with doctors Mota Maia (Pedro II's personal physician) and Bouchard signed the death certificate

### - Foundation of Brazilian Neurology

For a long time, during 19<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup>, there was any distinction between neurology and psychiatry. The two disciplines developed together and many physicians practiced simultaneously both specialties. Brazilian neurology was created within hegemonic psychiatric school. Antonio Austregésilo Rodrigues de Lima is its most important primordial leader<sup>10</sup>,

In 1912, Austregésilo founded the first Brazilian school of neurology, in Rio de Janeiro. Austregésilo be gan his career acting in psychiatry and due the interest in neurology moved to Europe, and particularly in France, where he visited Pierre Marie, Dejèrine and Babinski's Departments. Thus, the French school of neurology, Charcot's school at the Salpêtrière, played the major role in the first stages of Brazilian neurology<sup>20,21</sup>.

# Foundation of Brazilian Psychoanalytic Psychiatry

Austregésilo continued to practice psychiatry and propagated Freud's ideas in Brazil, as well as Juliano Moreira, Franco da Rocha, Durval Marcondes and Júlio Porto-Carrero, other important names related to beginning of psychoanalytic psychiatry in Brazil Durval Marcondesis considered the founder of the Brazilian psychoanalytic movement. In 1927, he wrote to Freud communicating the foundation, together with Franco da Rocha, of the Brazi-

lian Society of Psychoanalysis, the first in Latin America. The launch of "Revista Brasileira de Psychanalyse", in 1928, marked the beginning of society's activities. Freud even received a copy of the publication and responded by letter, encouraging its continuity [88].

Juliano Moreira, between 1895 and 1902, in a series of travels for treatment of tuberculosis had an immersion in Freud's ideas. From his work with the government of the Federal District and the Rio de Janeiro Medical School, and later in the Brazilian Society of Psychiatry, Neurology and Legal Medicine that propagated psychoanalysis.

At the August 13, 1914 session of this Society Austregésilo said:

"(...) Considering that psychoanalysis is a subject of great importance that needs to be studied among us. [Professor Austresegilo] proposes that in a next section, the Society should take care of each one of them who dedicate themselves to the cases of their observation, the method to be followed and the results obtained."

Juliano Moreira, "the founder of the Brazilian scientific Psychiatry", despite the proximity to Freud and psychoanalysis, can be mentioned among psychiatrists with organic formation. Moreira was under the influence of the Psychiatry German School, on opposition to João Carlos Teixeira Brandão (1854–1921), diffuser of the French psychiatric thoughts in Brazil.

# CONCLUSION

Jean-Martin Charcot, the celebrated 20<sup>th</sup> century neurologist, had a profound influence on Sigmund Freud's life and career, from his early studies of hysteria and hypnosis to the development of psychoanalytic theory. The ideas of Charcot and Freud were fundamental in the formation of physicians who helped to found and to consolidate the Brazilian neurology and psychiatry.

#### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

The authors declares that there is no conflict of interest.

#### REFERENCES

- Goetz CG, Bonduelle M, Gelfand T Constructing Neurology. New York: Oxford University Press, 1995.
- 2 Gay P. Freud: a life for our time. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.,
- Bougosslavsky J. Hysteria after Charcot: back to the future. Front Neurol-Neurosci2011;29:137-61. doi: 10.1159/000321783.
- Bougousslavsky J. Jean-Martin Charcot and his legacy. Front Neurol Neuros-

- ci. 2014;35: 44-55.
- Bogousslavsky J. Sigmund Freud's evolution from neurology to psychiatry. Evidence from his La SalpêtrièreLlibrary.Neurology. 2011;77: 1391-1394.
- 6 Bougousslavsky J. Sigmund Freud and hysteria: the etiology of psychoanalysis? Front NeurolNeurosci. 2014;35: 109-125.
- Lepoutre T, Villa F. Freud with Charcot: Freud's discovery and the question of diagnosis. Int J Psychoanal. 2015 Apr;96(2):345-68. doi: 10.1111/1745-8315.12247.
- Miller JA, Sabshin M, Gedo JE, Ollock GH, Sadow L, Schlessinger N. Some aspects of Charcot's influence on Freud. J Am Psychoanal Assoc. 1969 Apr;17(2):608-23.
- Pérez-Rincón H. Pierre Janet, Sigmund Freud and Charcot's psychological and psychiatric legacy. Front NeurolNeurosci. 2011;29:115-24. doi: 10.1159/000321781.
- Burke |. The Gods of Freud. New York: Knopf, 2006.
- ★ Triarhou LC. A review of Edward Flatau's 1894 Atlas of the Human Brain by the neurologist Sigmund FeuclEur Neurol. 2011;65(1):10-5. doi: 10.1159/000322500.
- Freud EL. Letters of Sigmund Freud. New York: Dover Publicatiosn, Inc, 1992
- Pourfar M. A room from Jean-Martin Charcot's house at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.Neurology.2005;65(10):1590
- 14 Freud S. Infantile Cerebral Paralysis. Coral Gables, FL- United States: Uni-

- versity of Miami, 1968.
- Freud S. Charcot. Wiener MedizinischeWochenschrift.1893;43(37):1513-20.
- Guillain G. J.-M. Charcot: his life-his work. New York: Paul B. Hoeber, 1959.
- Teive HA, Almeida SM, Arruda WO, Sá DS, Werneck LC.Charcot and Brazil. ArqNeuropsiquiatr. 2001 Jun;59(2-A):295-9.
- Teive HA, Arruda WO, Werneck LC.Rosalie: the Brazilian female monkey of Charcot. ArqNeuropsiquiatr. 2005 Sep;63(3A):707-8.
- Gomes MM, Cavalcanti JL. The Brazilian Neurology centenary (1912-2012) and the common origin of the fields of Neurology and Psychiatry. Arq Neuropsiquiatr. 2013 Jan;71(1):63-5.
- 20 Gomes MM. Marcos históricos da neurologia. Rio de Janeiro: Editora Científica Nacional, 1998.
- Teive HG, Sá D, Silveira Neto O, da Silveira OA, Werneck LC.Professor Antonio Austregésilo. The pioneer of neurology and of the study of movement disorders in Brazil. ArqNeuropsiquiatr. 1999 Sep;57(3B):898-902.
- Castro RD, Facchinetti C. A psican lise como saber auxiliar da psiquiatria no inicio do século XX: o papel de Juliano Moreira. Revista Culturas Psi/ PsyCultures Buenos Aires. 2015;4:24-52.
- Conselho Federal de Psicologia. Durval Marcondes. Psychology: Science and Profession. 2004;24(4):121
- Gomes MM, Engelhardt E. Meynert and the biological German psychiatry. Arq Neuropsiquiatr. 2012 Nov;70(11):894-6.