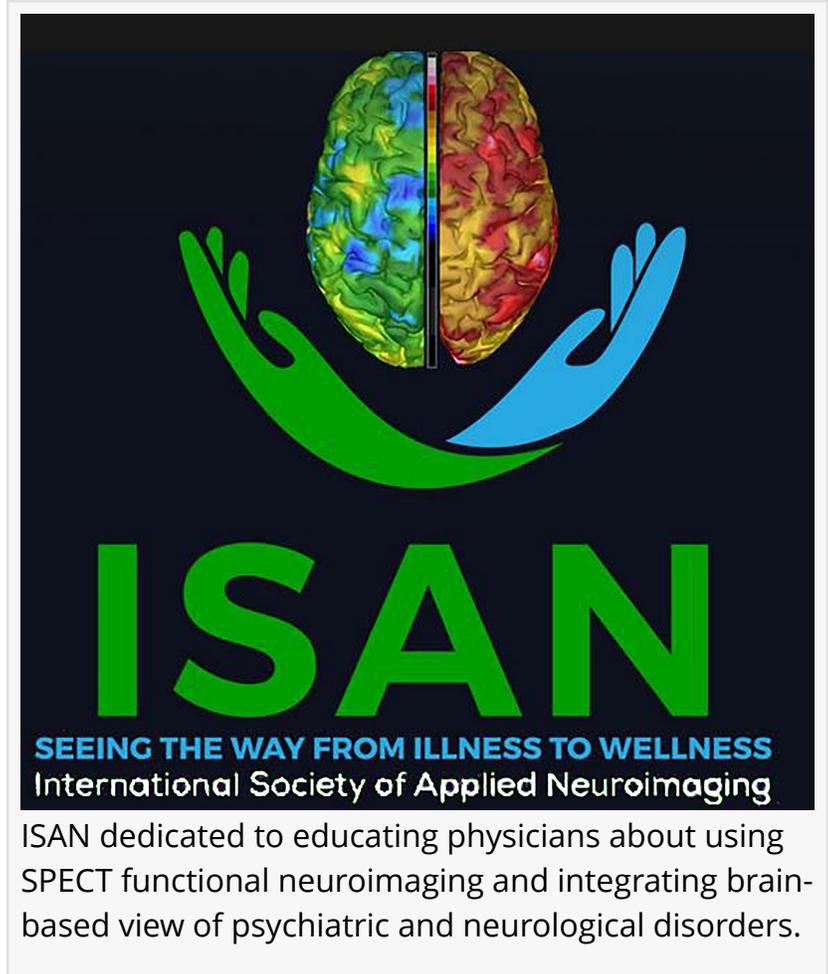


Psychiatry Moves into the Test Era

A landmark real-world study shows that the SPECT functional brain imaging can predict which patients with chronic psychiatric disorders are improving.

DENVER, CO, UNITED STATES, March 25, 2022 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Doctors who use SPECT functional brain scans in their daily practices published a seminal paper on the ability of a community clinician to use a SPECT functional brain image to predict which patients are improving and which are not. In chronic, complex psychiatric disorders, it can be important to assess more objectively whether or not a patient is improving, as this may guide treatment. The physicians found that SPECT brain scans aided clinicians in their medication choices which led to better and more rapid clinical improvement. The team consisted of Toronto-based psychiatrists Drs John Thornton and Mary McLean and physicians Drs Howard Schneider and Muriel van Lierop and nuclear medicine physician Dr Yin-Hui Siow, Denver-based psychiatrist Dr Theodore Henderson, Maryland-based computer imaging engineer Simon DeBruin, Vancouver-based nuclear medicine physician, Dr Philip Cohen., Los Angeles-based psychiatrist Dr Michael Uszler, and Illinois-based nuclear medicine physician Dr Dan Pavel.



ISAN dedicated to educating physicians about using SPECT functional neuroimaging and integrating brain-based view of psychiatric and neurological disorders.

Seventy-three patients had SPECT functional brain scans before treatment and then had another SPECT functional brain scan on average 450 days later. The scans were found to have a sensitivity of 94% in predicting which patients were worsening and which were improving. Dr. Thornton said about this work, "SPECT shows what part of the brain is under-functioning or over-functioning and thus allows the psychiatrist to choose a medication to calm down the over-functioning or increase the under-functioning areas. This permits earlier targeting of treatment and thus can lead to earlier improvement." The group published the paper to show that SPECT scans, often maligned by psychiatrists, do actually improve clinical outcome. Members of this group previously published a study showing improved outcome in another group of psychiatric



You cannot change what you do not measure. These physicians demonstrate 3-D brain SPECT scans can guide treatment to better outcomes."

Dr. Daniel Amen

patients when SPECT scans were utilized to guide care. Dr. Daniel Amen who has worked with SPECT scans for decades said, "Psychiatric practice has changed little in the last 40 years and outcomes have not improved at all. This paper gives a completely new paradigm for helping patients who struggle with psychiatric issues".

Drs. Thornton, McLean, Schneider, van Lierop, Siow, Henderson, Cohen, Uszler and Pavel (sadly, now deceased) and engineer DeBruin are members of an international

consortium of neuroimaging experts and clinicians, the [International Society of Applied Neuroimaging \(ISAN\)](#). ISAN was founded to foster education about functional neuroimaging, research psychiatric and medical applications of functional neuroimaging, and assist clinicians in incorporating functional neuroimaging into their clinical practices. The group has also published papers in [Frontiers in Psychiatry](#) and [Interventional Medicine and Clinical Imaging](#), to educate the practicing psychiatrist about functional neuroimaging. The group has collective experience of hundreds of years of using functional neuroimaging, particularly SPECT imaging, to improve the diagnosis and treatment of patients and they have collectively read over 280,000 SPECT scans.

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