The Behavioural Status Index (Best-Index):
Now and in the Future

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Presented by Alyson McGregor Kettles on behalf of the Research Team:

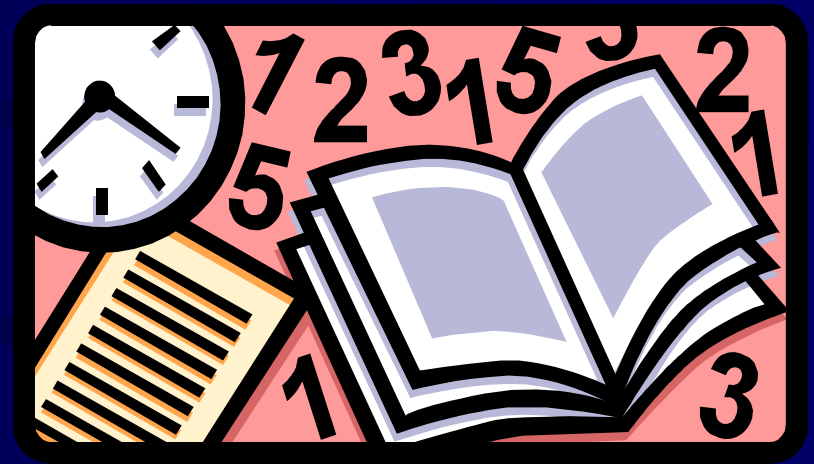|		
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SUMMARY:

- The Best Index is now being recognised as an internationally useful assessment tool in forensic settings. This paper was presented at the Tenth Annual Conference of the International Network for Psychiatric Nursing Research ("Something Old...Something New..."), 29th September to 1st October, 2004, at the St. Cross Building in the University of Oxford, and discussed the history, design, previous and current studies and future of the instrument.

Best Index (BSI)

- History
- Design
- Previous studies
- Current study
- Future plans

Best Index - History

- Origins - as a Ph.D two centre study Mahgoub (1988) developing the early bipolar assessment prototype "The Behavioural Adjustment Inventory."

- Went on to include intermediate levels of functioning and became "the Behavioural Recovery Index"

Best Index - a"normative" model

- Range of normal behaviours examined
- Approach differs from usual clinical one where *abnormal* behaviours are examined
- Laddered "stepwise" analysis of behaviours

BSI -Previous Studies

- A range of literature available on previous studies (see last slide)

- Validity (face and content, predictive) and Reliability (test-retest) studies

- Examined inter-rater reliability and percentage exact and percentage error scores (see literature for the results of these)

Best Index - Current Study

- A parallel cohort study (N=231)
- EU funded £605,000
- England, Scotland, the Netherlands, Norway, Germany, (translated texts)
- The largest forensic nursing study ever funded

Best Index - Current Study

- Third data collection happening now

- UK cohort (N=58) Netherlands (N=53) Germany (N=89) Norway (N=31)

- Comparisons with HCR-20; PCL-R; BDHI-D & SCL-R-90

Best Index - Future

- Contacts made in other countries with a view to developing studies - such as Japan, Belgium, France, Spain.

- Discussions taking place now about further EU funding

- Proposals already in to other places such as German Government

Best Index - Future

- High secure and medium secure units now have it in place and using it clinically - taking it forward

- Publications, conferences and further research and development

Best Index - Future

- Some criticisms - these need to be addressed: e.g. suitability for sex offenders?

- Development of CD-ROM and other IT/ educational materials

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