



PLENARY SESSION FIVE	
Event Code: LEE22-00523 World Mental Health Congress London Mental Health a Global Priority, London, UK 28/06/2022-01/07/2022	
<b>Your details</b> (as you want them listed in the programme)	Igor Švab
<b>Date and time of your plenary session</b>	Wednesday 29 June 2022 14:30-16:10hrs Overall Session Theme: Sharing global experience and expertise
<b>Duration</b>	20 mins
<b>Proposed title</b> (please complete)	Building mental health skills and competencies in the primary care workforce
<b>Learning Objectives</b> (please complete)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To describe the specific objectives relevant to mental health in primary care</li><li>• To discuss the potential of innovative teaching approaches to mental health in primary care</li></ul>
<b>Abstract</b> (max 500 words)	<p>Primary care plays a key role in managing the challenges of mental health. Its role has been demonstrated and it is stressed by international organisations of primary care and mental health, as well as the WHO.</p> <p>Because of the important role of primary care, the future health professionals need to be educated about the specificities of managing patients with mental health problems in primary care. Traditional curricula at medical schools often neglect this and are still focused on traditional aims, methods and assessment techniques. In order to educate health professionals in order to be equipped how to use the potential primary care offers in this respect, innovative approaches need to be used. In order to be able to do that, a lot of challenges exist at different areas of curriculum design: changing the traditional aims of education, using appropriate methods of teaching and methods of assessment. Teaching needs to move away from factual knowledge towards teaching appropriate skills and educating health professionals to have appropriate attitudes towards these patients. The need for this reorientation in teaching is in line with the need for changes in medical education towards more active methods of learning and practice-based techniques.</p> <p>In order to achieve this, the leaders of universities face a lot of challenges that need to be overcome. They include curriculum design, but also the education of teachers.</p> <p>It also needs to be clear that regardless the fact how good education is, the main obstacles for adequate role of primary care lies with policymakers who often stick to traditional methods of healthcare delivery.</p>
<b>Key references or resources</b> (maximum five)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. ŠVAB, Vesna, ŠVAB, Igor. Barriers and errors in the implementation of community psychiatry in Slovenia. <i>Mental health in family medicine</i>. 2013, vol. 10, no. 1, str. 23-28.</li></ol>