

CSAS Seminar Series

TOPIC: COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY TO STAVE OFF ALIENATION IN DEMENTIA

DATE: 28 FEB 2013

SPEAKER: DR.ANDRZEJ KUBACKI, MD, (MED)DSC, FRCPC, CSPQ

LOCATION: HAZEN HALL 305A

TIME: 9:00 TO 10:00 AM

Abstract

At this point of convergence of spectacular progress in brain research and information technology, a quest for building bridges between the two domains is made. Computers may well serve as an extension or prosthesis of failing cognitive functions, thus prolonging reasonable social functioning and postponing the ultimate alienation, following science fiction bionic beings, biomedical prostheses, coronary by-pass surgery, or whole organ transplants tradition. Rather than aiming at comprehensive resolution of the problem of alienation of people suffering from dementia, the suggestion is favoring dissembling the complex individual aspects of cognitive failure into modules of potential intervention-much like the brain is nowadays understood to deal with ubiquitous stimulation from sundry sources since birth.

The paradigm of this approach hinges on the triad of aspects of orientation in the world, allowing the navigating through it safely, effectively and autonomously: orientation to time, place (space), and persons, including self-identification.

Element of potential props to that effect have been available for decades, and these days-with the number of applications nearing a million, there should be room fort for adapting them for the prosthetic use in cases of human cognitive failure, hopefully saving on health care manpower. Individually-tailored, or applicable for groups sharing similar deficits or vulnerabilities applications would seem the most useful.

Speaker Bio

Dr. Andrzej KUBACKI,MD,(Med)DSc,FRCPC,CSPQ was born in Poland(Sosnowiec, October 11,1940),Canadian citizen since 1977. He is a graduate of the Silesian Medical Academy (Rokitnica Poland April30,1963), a specialist in psychiatry certified in Poland (1968) and in Canada (1976), holder of (Med)DSc degree (Poland, Warsaw 1971) and author of 70 professional publications and more.

He is a former Chief of Psychiatry and Medical Director of the Centracare Saint John hospital(1985-1987); Lecturer in Psychiatry McGill University (1983-1985); Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at the Dalhousie School of Medicine(1988-1990); and Retired from private practice in psychiatry in Saint John last June 30.

The talks are open to the public and no registration is required