

CASO 1
Donna, 26 anni. Da qualche mese, sintomi IBS. Ansia, problemi sentimentali, stress lavorativo.

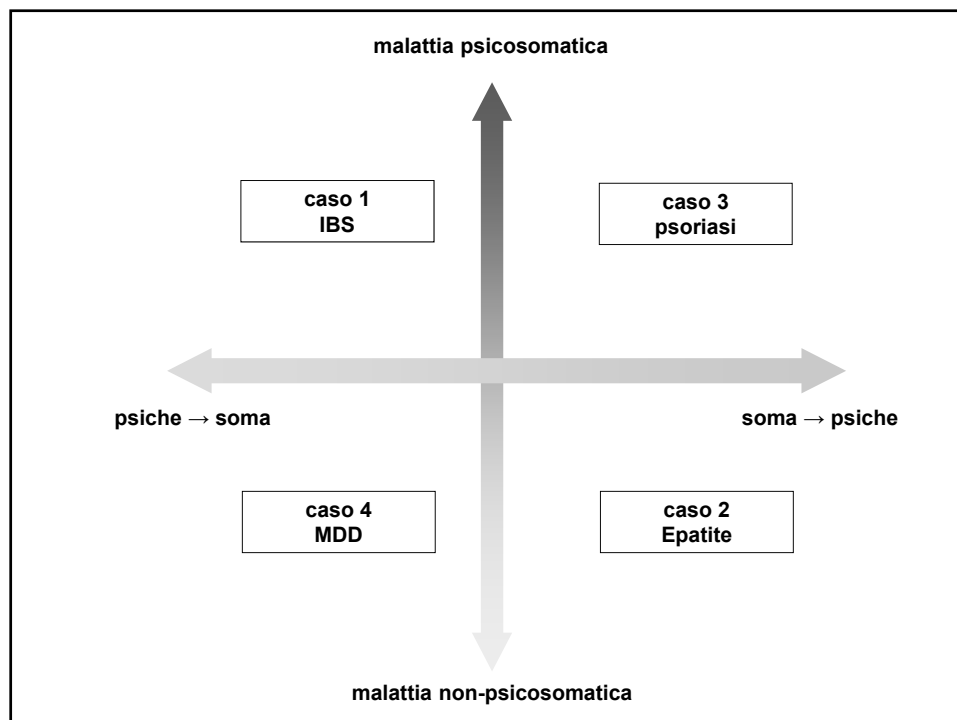
CASO 2
Maschio, 42 anni. Epatite C contratta oltre 15 anni fa. In trattamento con IFN e RBV. Depressione durante il trattamento. Ideazione suicidaria.

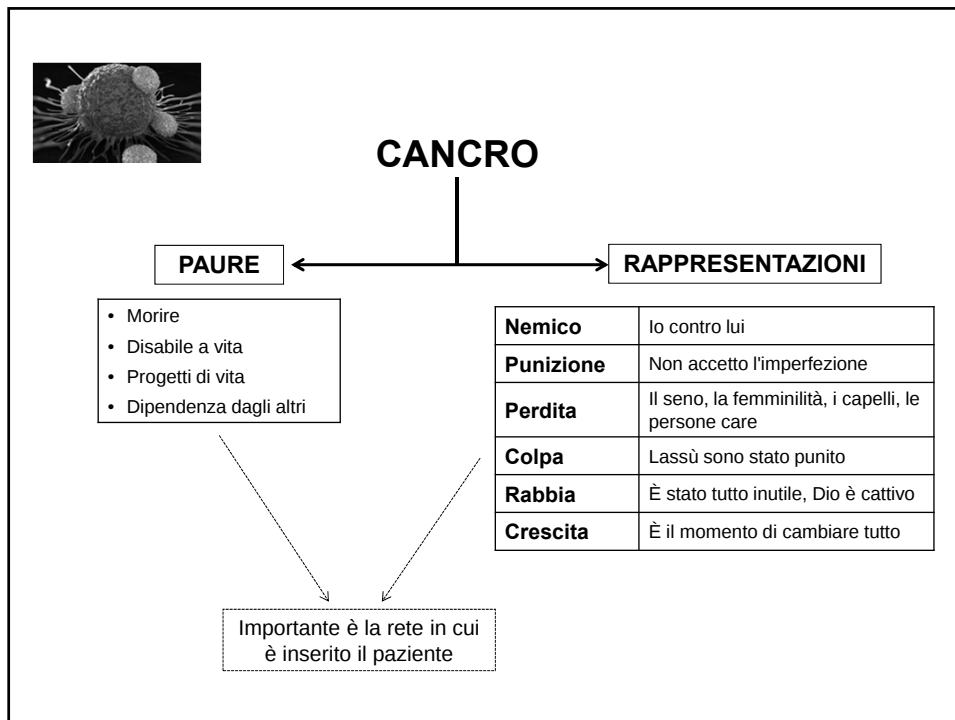
CASO 3
Donna, 22 anni. Dalla prima adolescenza, psoriasi che le procura imbarazzo. Vita universitaria, familiare sociale e sentimentale tranquilla. Nessun sintomo psicopatologico.

CASO 4
Maschio, 38 anni. Da oltre 10 anni, depressione maggiore. Impiegato comunale, problemi lavorativi per assenteismo. Durante le riacutizzazioni depressive, disturbi dispeptici.

E' psicosomatico?

A. Sicuramente si
B. Forse si
C. Forse no
D. Sicuramente no





La comunicazione della diagnosi di tumore al paziente e ai familiari: linee guida

Lidia Del Piccolo

RECENTI
PROGRESSI
IN INTERCENA
Vol. 98, N. 5, Maggio 2007
Pagg. 271-278

1. Prima di incontrare i familiari è opportuno risolvere eventuali controversie tra coloro che si occupano del paziente, al fine di non fornire informazioni contraddittorie e contrastanti e avere invece idee chiare su ciò che si desidera comunicare;
2. Individuare i ruoli dei diversi familiari, identificando, nel caso ci fosse, qualcuno designato dal paziente ad assumere decisioni che lo riguardano. Non lasciare che sia la famiglia a decidere per il paziente se quest'ultimo è in grado di intendere e di volere;
3. Seguire le stesse linee guida che si usano con il paziente quando si comunica una diagnosi di cancro, ovvero esplorare le conoscenze già in possesso, le aspettative e le informazioni che desiderano ricevere; riassumere le informazioni a disposizione in modo che siano condivise e chiarire eventuali dubbi, riformulando, se necessario, domande e osservazioni; rispondere alle loro reazioni, spiegare il programma terapeutico e accordarsi sugli obiettivi. Quando i membri della famiglia sono in disaccordo, discutere dei differenti punti di vista e chiedere loro, se e come, a loro parere si potrebbero risolvere le divergenze e i conflitti emersi.

MENTALIZATION

The ability to make inferences about mental states in oneself and in others

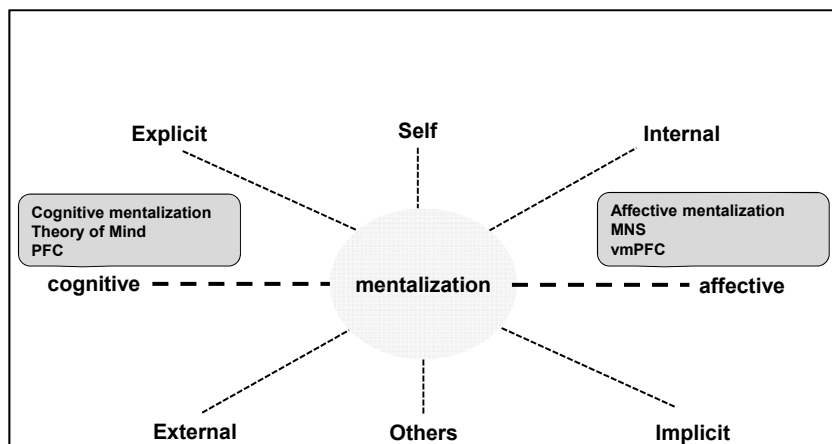
The ability to think in terms of "mental states"
(needs, desires, feelings, beliefs, goals)

How much we are able to identify, communicate, and regulate them.

How much one is able to make sense and consistency to him/herself, to understand his/her role within the framework of interpersonal relations and related difficulties.

How much one is able to differentiate oneself from others, to establish positive and adapted relationships with the world, and to ask and receive help from others

4 POLES OF THE MENTALIZATION CONSTRUCT



Esempio: rispettare il turn-taking nella conversazione

Bateman & Fonagy (eds), *Handbook of mentalizing in mental health practice*, 2012

Pre-mentalization **PRETEND MODE**

- Ideas form no bridge between inner and outer reality; mental world decoupled from external reality: thoughts and feelings can be envisioned and talked about but they correspond to nothing real (as in playing).
- The acquisition of a sense of pretend in relation to mental states is therefore essential. While playing, the child knows that internal experience may not reflect external reality, but then the internal state is thought to have no implications for the outside world.
- It often leads to what is called **hyper-mentalization** or “mentalization on the loose”: extensive narratives that on first impression strike the clinician as sensible accounts of the patients' history and the factors contributing to his or her problems. Yet, on closer consideration, these narratives are often overly analytical and cognitive, lacking any grounding in real affective experiences. They are also often very repetitive and the patient typically has an inability to switch perspectives, and attempts to do this are often met with fierce resistance.
- Also, it may lead to an almost total denial of the importance of inner mental states. Rather than general impairments in emotional awareness, many of these patients suffer from an inability to link emotional and bodily states.

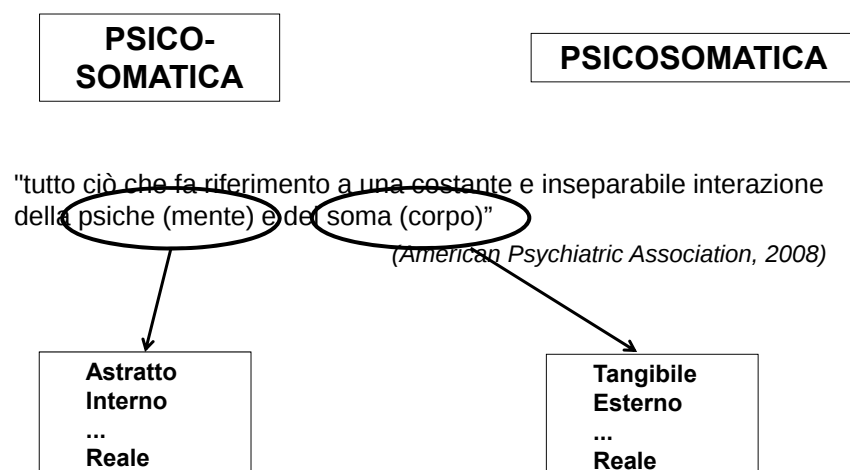
Pre-mentalization **PSYCHIC EQUIVALENCE MODE**

- Mental reality = outer reality: Treating what is inside my head as equivalent in status to what is there in the physical world typifies the way toddlers and preschoolers often think until they acquire full mentalizing capacity
- In MUS patients, this is often associated with a lack of desire and/or inability to explore inner mental states, which hampers treatment. This is particularly the case in patients that primarily use attachment deactivating strategies (denial of attachment needs, assertion of autonomy and independence), which also may explain these patients' problems in accepting help and their difficulties believing that professionals can be genuinely concerned about them. Psychic equivalence leads to equating psychological and physical pain, and emotional and physical exhaustion.
- They tend to experience psychological pain in terms of bodily pain, worries literally “depress” the patient, and feel like a painful heavy weight. Helplessness ensues, often in combination with catastrophizing (“there is something terribly wrong with me but no one can help me”).
- One's body starts feeling like an “alien self-part,” “a thing that is out of control.” As a result, patients are under constant pressure to externalize these alien self-parts in a defensive attempt to evacuate pain and feelings of anxiety, helplessness, and depression in an attempt to restore the coherence of the self. The result is that others are made to feel what the patient feels, which often has a destructive influence on relationships, including those with health professionals.

Pre-mentalization **TELEOLOGIC MODE**

- Expectations of others are formulated in concrete, purely observable terms: only action that has physical impact is felt to be able to alter mental state in both self and other, even physical acts (self-harm or bingeing) or demanding for excessive acts of demonstration (of affection) by others (attachment hyperactivating strategies: eg, added session in therapy).
- It often leads to desperate attempts to find relief in surgery, experimental biological treatments, or alternative medicine. At the same time, many patients attempt to cope with feelings of worthlessness by desperate attempts to prove the contrary, leading to overactivity, often resulting in total agony, exhaustion, and helplessness.
- There is a recognition of mental states as driving behavior, but this is limited to mental states that have clearly observable causes (i.e., observable behavior reflecting rational, goal-directed behavior, and material causes). For many MUS patients, only rational, goal-directed behaviors and actions can be effective. Hence, their tendency is to be excessively concerned to find "objective proof" of their illness.
- Clinicians may be drawn into endless discussions about the purported role of biological versus psychosocial factors involved in the causation of somatic symptoms.

Il problema del trattino



CONFUSIONE DEL TERMINE "PSICOSOMATICA"

La medicina psicosomatica è la disciplina scientifica che ha come scopo l'indagine delle cause e degli effetti delle relazioni fra mente e corpo in ambito clinico.
(p.17)

- **Malattie psicosomatiche**
- **Functional Somatic Symptoms (FSS)**
- **Disturbi funzionali**
- **Medically Unexplained Symptoms (MUS)**
- **Disturbi di somatizzazione**
- **Disturbi somatoformi (DSM-IV)**
- **Somatic Symptom Disorder (SSD) – Illness Anxiety Disorder (IAD)**
- **Ipocondria (DSM-IV – ICD-11)**
- **Consultation Psychiatry** (Comorbid psychopathology)



630 a.C. – 570 a.C.
circa

A me pare uguale agli dei
chi a te vicino così dolce
suono ascolta mentre parli
e ridi amorosamente. Subito
il mio cuore nel torace si agita con violenza,
come appena ti vedo
così la voce non esce,
la lingua si spezza.

Un calore corre rapido sotto la pelle
nulla più vedono gli occhi
rombano possenti le orecchie
il sudore scorre per le membra
un tremito m'assale
e pallida più d'uno stelo d'erba
simile sono a colui che è vicino alla morte.

S. Quasimodo (Saffo, Lirici greci, Mondadori 1944)

Il mio cuore nel torace si agita con violenza	Turbe del ritmo cardiaco: tachicardia
Come appena ti vedo, così la voce non esce	Turba della parola: afonia
La lingua si spezza	Disturbo del linguaggio: disartria funzionale
Un calore corre rapido sotto la pelle	Fenomeno SNA: vaso-dilatazione
Nulla più vedono gli occhi	Fenomeno SNA: disturbo vasomotorio
Ronzano possenti le orecchie	Fenomeno SNA: acufene vasomotorio
Il sudore scorre per le membra	Fenomeno SNA: iperidrosi
Un tremito m'assale	Fenomeno SNA: tremore
Pallida più d'uno stelo d'erba	Fenomeno SNA: ipotensione vasocostrittiva
Simile sono a colui che è vicino alla morte	Cenestopatia da attacco di panico

DENOMINAZIONI DELLA PSICHE		
NOME	SIGNIFICATO LETTERALE	SIGNIFICATO CONCETTUALE
ψυχη	Soffio vitale, respiro	- Fuoriesce dalla bocca o da una ferita quando l'uomo muore o sviene - Organo fisico che vive finché l'individuo è vivo <i>Iliade</i>: sangue e respiro = <i>psyche</i> - Espressione corrente: spirare, esalare l'ultimo respiro
θυμος	Organo del movimento	- Spinta vitale del movimento muscolo-scheletrico e insieme di motivazione all'azione (emozione) - Finisce di funzionare quando l'uomo è fermo (morte, sonno, svenimento, paralisi)
νοος	Organo della visione intellettuale	Comprendere nel senso di formazione di un'idea nelle sue parti costitutive (equivalente al progetto di un architetto)
φρην	Ragione, saggezza	Capacità superiore dell'essere umano di far uso della ragione, localizzata nel cuore (Aristotele). Uso corrente es. schizofrenia

DENOMINAZIONI DEL CORPO

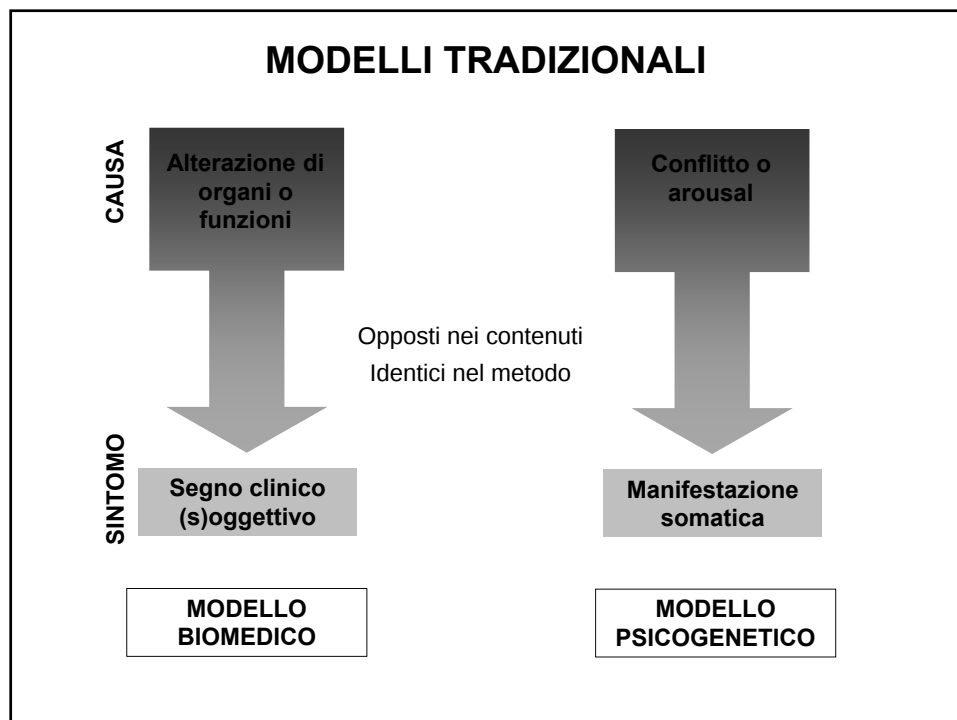
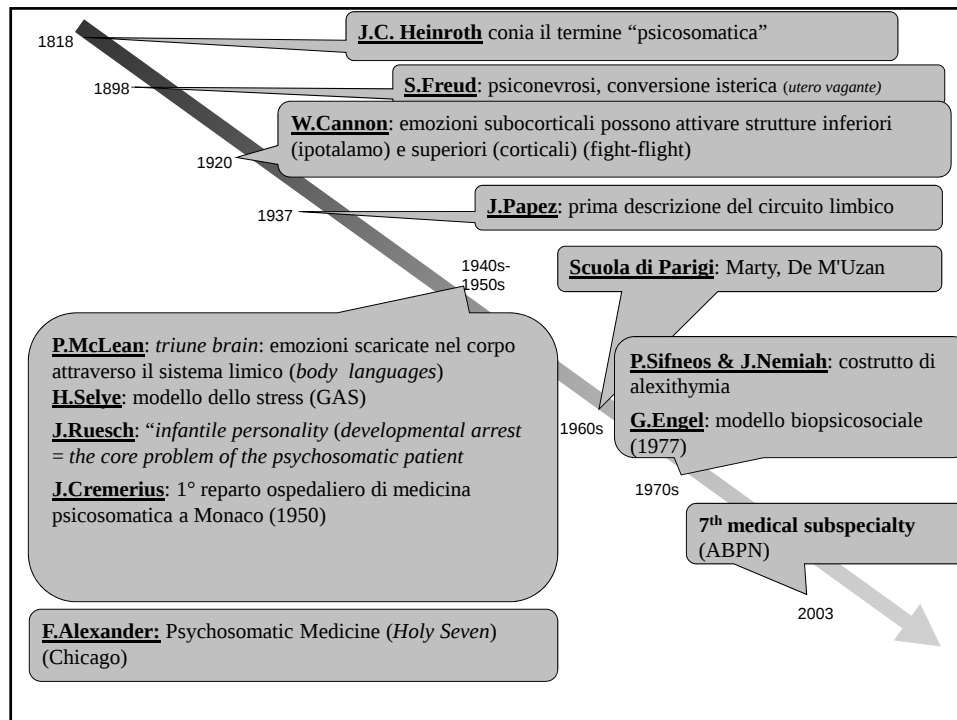
NOME	SIGNIFICATO LETTERALE	SIGNIFICATO CONCETTUALE
σμα	Cadavere	Parte visibile dell'individuo ma priva di vita
δεμασ	Statura o figura fisica	Apparire piccolo o grande, assomigliare a qualcuno
(corpo vivente)		Non esiste un termine unitario, ma ci sono diversi nomi per le diverse parti interne o esterne del corpo. Nell' <i>Iliade</i> non si parla mai di <i>soma</i> (se non per indicare i cadaveri) ma di parti del corpo (braccia, gambe, spalla)

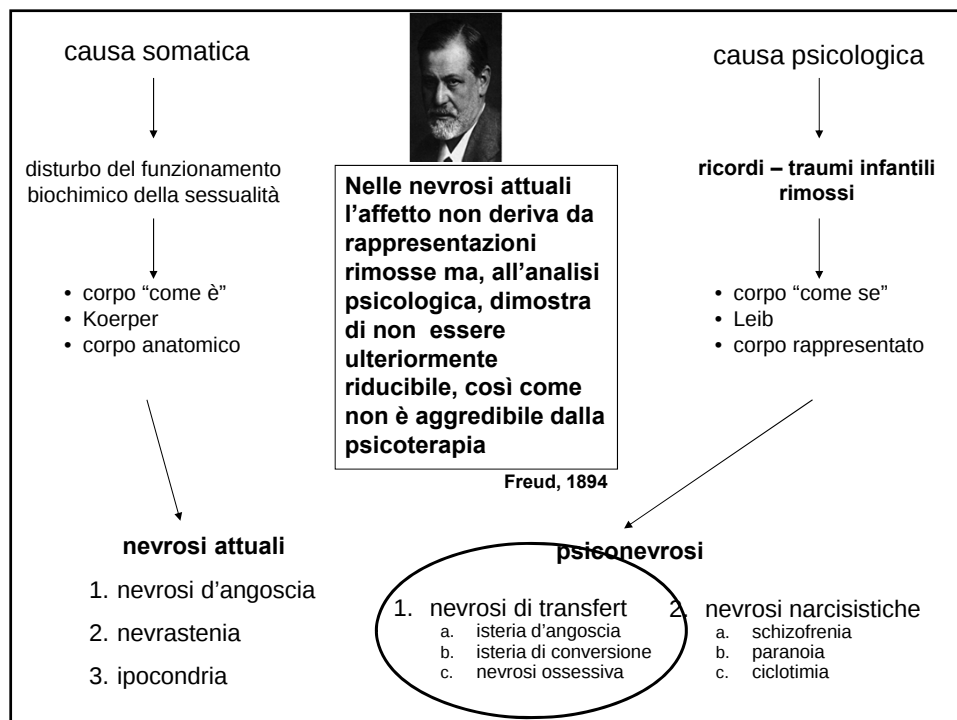
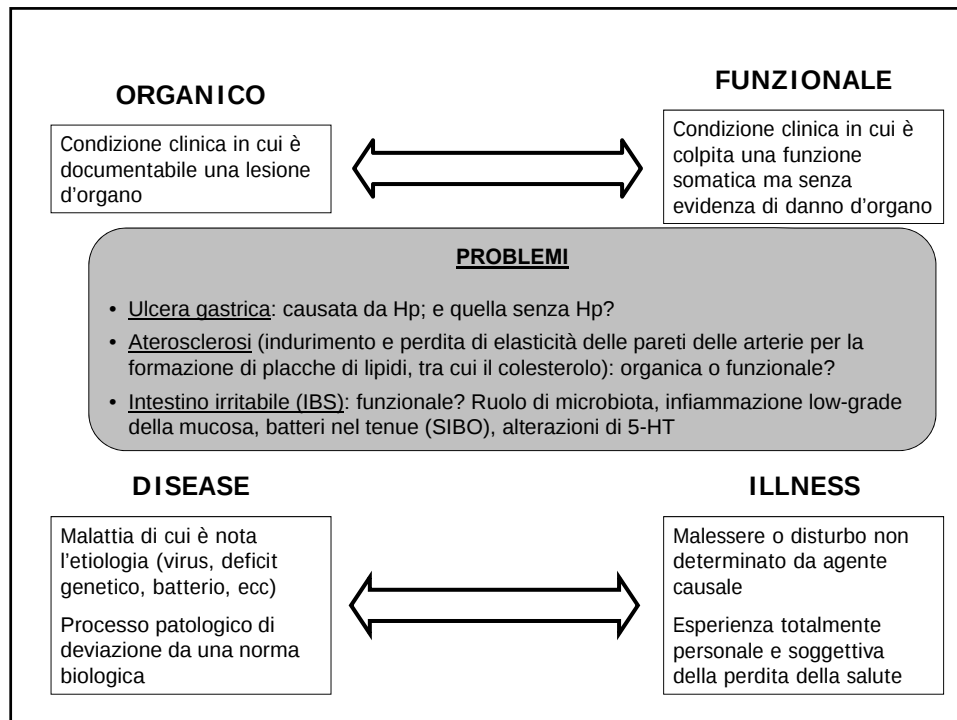
Give sorrow words: the grief that doesn't speak, whispers the o'er-fraught heart and bids it break
(Date parole al dolore: il dolore che non parla, bisbiglia al cuore sovraccarico e gli ordina di spezzarsi)

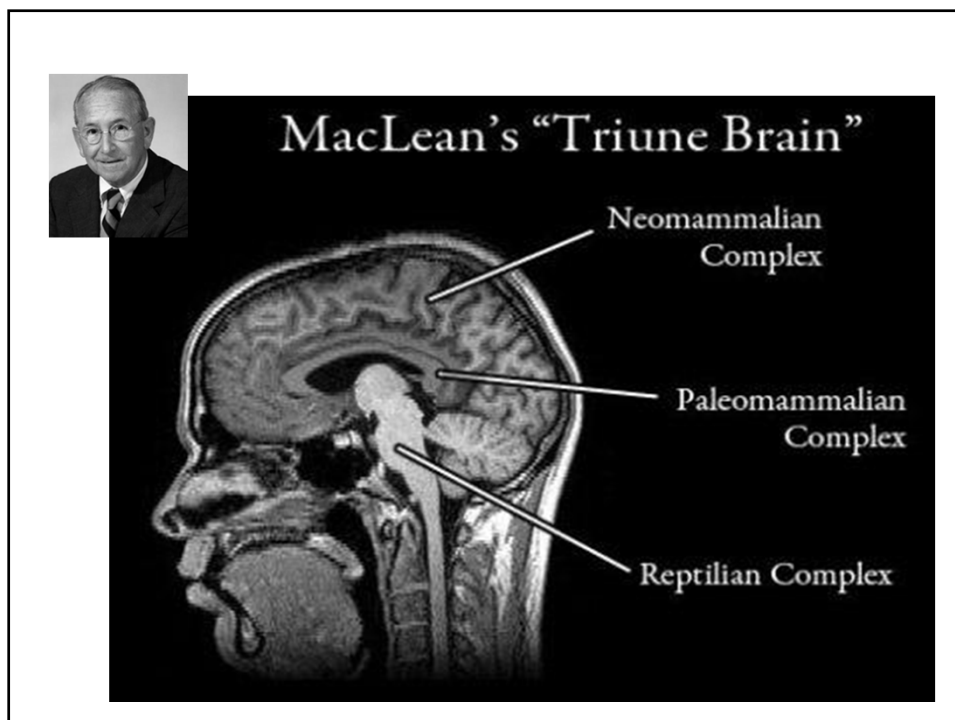
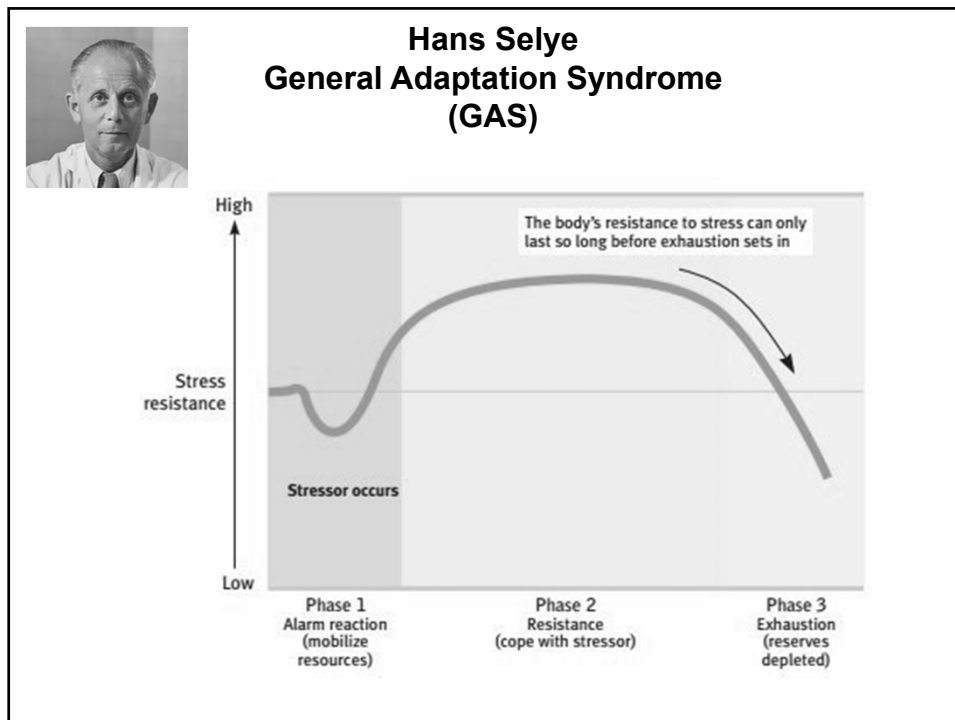
Shakespeare, Macbeth, Act 4, Scene 3

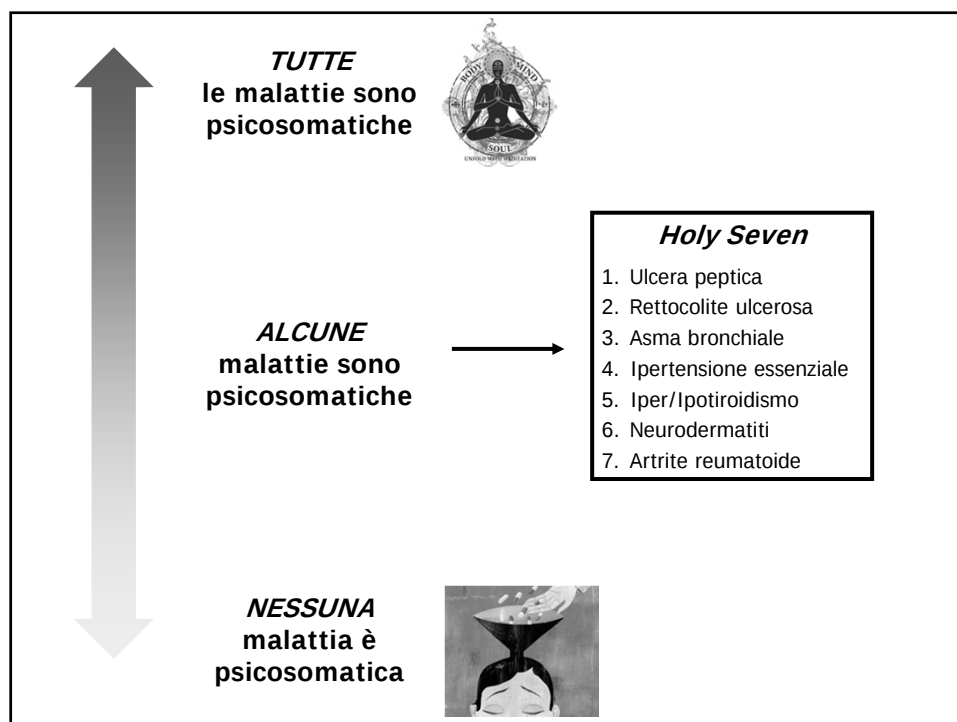
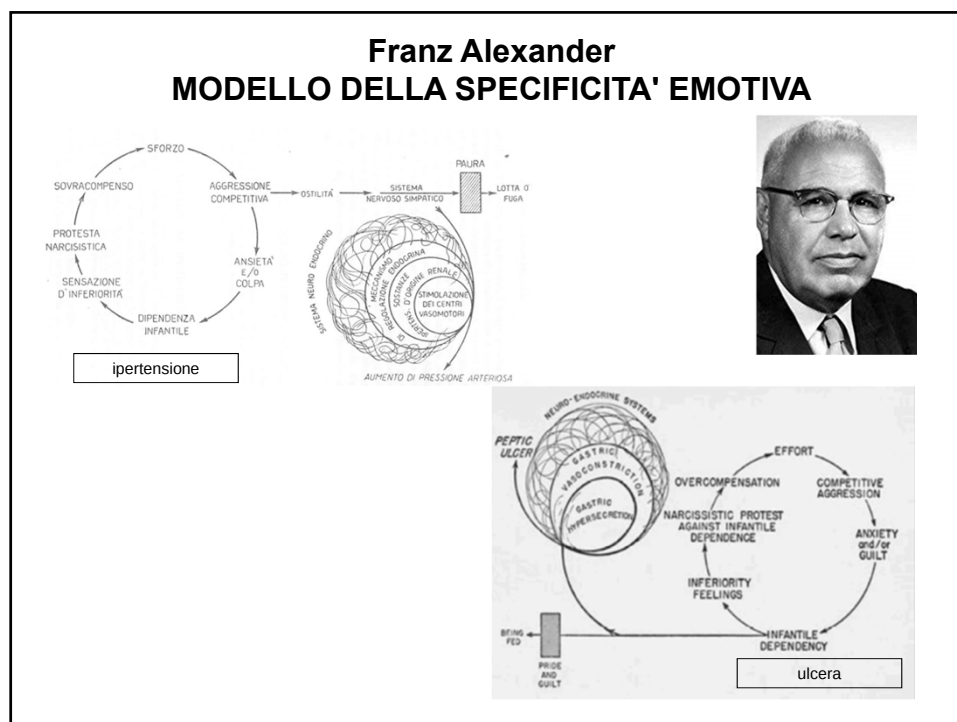
Come il linguaggio attraverso la metafora crea il mentale a partire dal corporeo, anche la psiche individuale si costituisce come invenzione metaforica (per es. metafora di uno spazio interno fisico, che diventa spazio mentale) per evitare le angosce separative connesse al corpo, il quale è senza riparo esposto alla morte della separazione, mentre la mente può ripararsene in tanti modi, fantasie invenzioni, oggetti interni (...) La dimensione psichica o mentale è una metafora, appresa nel tempo, nella cultura e nell'evoluzione individuale, del corporeo e del fisico.

R.Rossi. Eros corporeo e mentale. *Quaderni Italiani di Psichiatria* 1986; 5: 321-330









THE FIELD OF PSYCHOSOMATIC MEDICINE

EMPHASIS ON HOMOGENEITY

1. The investigation of the relationships between biological, psychological, and social determinants of health and wellness
2. The holistic approach in medical practice
3. It includes CL psychiatry as one of its essential component

Z.Lipowski, Can J Psychiatry 1986

1. The role of psychosocial factors in affecting individual vulnerability to all kinds of diseases
2. The psychosocial correlates of disorders (psychiatric comorbidity, psychological factors, abnormal illness behavior, HRQL)
3. The application of psychological therapies to the prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation of physical illnesses (treatment of psychiatric comorbidity, treatment of maladaptive AIB, use of psychotropic drugs in the medically ill)

Fava & Sonino, J Clin Psychiatry 2005



Disease, illness and the sick role
Talcott Parsons, 1951

Illness behaviour
Mechanic and Volkart, 1961

Abnormal illness behaviour
Pilowsky, 1969

Psychosomatic disorders are disorders in which the presence of somatic symptoms

- a) cause suffering and impairment to the patient and
- b) there is evidence of psychological factors influencing such symptoms.

Porcelli & Rafanelli, 2010

Somatization is the tendency to experience and communicate psychological distress in the form of physical symptoms and to seek medical help for them.

Lipowski, 1987

Somatoform syndromes – regardless of their somatic and/or psychological etiology – are due to amplification of normally fluctuating levels of bodily preoccupation and concern that reach a level of sustained intensity that causes psychological derailment or social maladaptation.

The threshold to pathology is a function both of psychological feedback loops (vicious circles of anxiety and attention) and of family and social dynamics. Whether any individual crosses this threshold would then be a product of temperamental variability, childhood experiences, sociocultural factors, and the structure and function of the health care system.

Kirmayer et al, 1994

BIOMEDICAL MODEL

1. Symptoms are clustered together with relatively but substantial homogeneity
2. Symptoms are attributable to (one) known underlying pathophysiological mechanism(s)
3. The appropriate treatment is to be followed by the patient with maximum adherence

BIOPSYCHOSOCIAL MODEL

The biomedical model is less valid when:

- there is a wide inter-individual variability of symptoms and the course of syndromes
- no single biological pathways can be identified as causative agents
- psychosocial factors largely interact with treatment follow-up

ILLNESS BEHAVIOR MODEL

It is related to the varying ways individuals

- monitor their internal states
- interpret their symptoms
- take remedial actions for them
- use various sources of informal and formal care