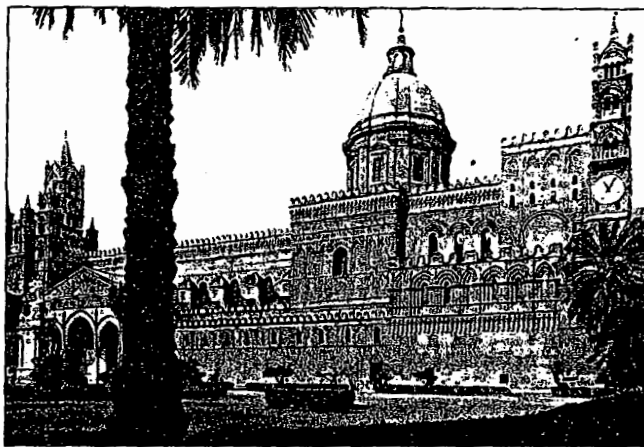




**WORLD PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION  
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# **NEW MODELS IN PSYCHIATRY**



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# **ABSTRACT BOOK**

**EPILEPSY AND FAMILY DYNAMICS:  
A STUDY ON EXPRESSED EMOTION.**

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Epilepsy and its recurrent "crises", both in the adult and child, become the care of relational dynamics and communications within the whole family. The experience of the disease and the emotional response to it, both of the affected subject and of his family group, influence each other "circularly" and heavily affect the adaptment of the group to the disease (J. Miribel, 1979). The aim of our study is to evaluate the correlation existing between the family emotional climate and the adjustment to the disease of subjects affected by epilepsy. Patients must satisfy the following inclusion criteria: 1) Living with their relatives (parents, any other significant person), 2) They must be included in the age group 16 to 45 years. In order to determine the emotional response and the adjustment to the disease, the patient is subjected to the following tests: Brief Psychiatric Rating Scale (for the psychopathological evaluation); Beck (for the evaluation of Depression); Paykel (scale of life events); MMPI (for the evaluation of Personality Profile); STAI (for the evaluation of State and Trait Anxiety). As regards the family group, we evaluate the Expressed Emotion of each member by using the Camberwell Family Interview modified for epilepsy. The 5 evaluation scales are considered: Emotional Overinvolvement (EOI), criticism (C), Hostility (H), Warmth (W), Positive Remarks (PR). The first studies performed on schizophrenia had experimentally proved the first three scales to be predictive for symptoms relapse in patients. We have specifically verified, in families with a high EE (i.e. high scores of EOI (5.6%), n. of critical remarks (=6 or more), presence of hostility), the effect of EE on the adaptment to the disease. In the present work we have illustrated and discussed results, giving specific prescriptions for a family intervention.

