Neuropsychological and social cognitive tests as well as personality measures were also applied before and after treatment. This study is unique in being both the largest study to date of normal subjects treated for an extended period with SSRI and in concerning normal subjects at risk of developing depressive disorders.

The social cognitive measures include emotional face recognition, moral reasoning, understanding of social situations, and a test of emotional intelligence (MSCEIT, which is also the topic of a separate symposium). We study serotonergic contributions to such processes both in correlations and in fMRI-measurements of the effects of drug challenges on emotional face recognition and decision making.

Iowa Gambling Task is a measure of decision making under ambiguity. This test first became known because it proved to be sensitive to ventromedial prefrontal lesions and formed part of the basis of the “somatic marker” hypothesis of decision making. It has since been shown that it is sensitive to impulsivity in many other clinical conditions with symptoms indicative of poor decision making in personal and social situations. Such decisions may be made, it has been argued, in a balance between an impulsive reward-based dopaminergic system and a reflective serotonergic system. We will address this question in the final presentation of the symposium.
Laura Petrini (organizer)

The human pain experience is a multidimensional experience manifesting sensory-discriminative, cognitive-evaluative, and affective-motivational components, resulting in the pain system being one of the most complex of the human perception systems. This symposium addresses the topic of how these components are integrated by the pain system. The speakers will discuss experimental studies conducted at the Center for Sensory-Motor Interaction, Aalborg University. These studies are mainly based on three phenomena: (a) graphesthesia; (b) mirror and (c) thermal grill illusions. The findings can be of a help in developing new effective treatments plans for pain patients.

Authors:
Mørch, Carsten Dahl; PhD, Aalborg: The phenomenon of graphesthesia in the nociceptive system.
Christoffersen, Giselle; cand.psych. Aalborg: Psychological factors involved in the mirror box illusion.
Petrini; Laura; PhD, Aalborg: The role of sensory and perceptual Integration in the thermal grill illusion.