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Overcoming Challenges: Psychiatry and Psychopharmacology
in the Post-pandemic Era

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Ozge Somuncu is a Senior Research Associate at Stony Brook Cancer Center and a Faculty member at Stony Brook Medicine Department of Pathology in New York. She graduated from İSTEK Foundation Belde High School. She continued her undergraduate education at Istanbul Kultur University, Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics. In the last year of her undergraduate degree, she started at Greenwich University as an exchange student in the department of biological sciences. After finishing university, she worked with cancer biologist Prof Lauren Pecorino on various projects. She completed her PhD at Yeditepe University Biotechnology Department/Turkey in March 2017. In the first year of her doctorate, she completed characterization experiments by isolating a previously undiscovered stem cell line. In the second year of her doctorate, she worked on the formulation of a cosmetic product that is beneficial for hair loss, while also continuing patient studies. Her research grows in two specific areas: skin biology and cancer stroma. She worked with almost every known stem cell line (both primary and continuous) for investigating disease progression and differentiation purposes. Her PhD studies specifically involved metastatic melanoma where she investigated phenotypic and molecular shifts of human fibroblasts and human melanocytes via the communication with exosomes carrying Rab27a and c-Met oncogene isolated from human malignant melanoma cells. She actively worked on skin aging, hair follicle morphogenesis, and BCC, where all projects were either submitted for NIH grants or already funded. Her recent project was on melanocyte stem cell differentiation problems in Arf4 mutant skin which mimics pigmentation abnormalities. She worked as an Assistant Professor in Bahcesehir University Medical School between the years 2018-2020, where she led her own laboratory studying decellularization and recellularization methods for tissue engineering purposes. She is a CUSTOM certified clinical organoid researcher and developed/currently working on cerebral, intestinal, breast cancer and skin organoids actively in her lab. She has been serving as a reviewer in the Journal of Psychiatry and Psychopharmacology for the last 4 years.