SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

Table 1. Quotes from participants

Unusual topics
"It should not be something that you can learn from other sources but it should be exotic and it should be creative. So, questions that are much more practical and that are usually not covered in psychiatric textbooks but that touch our daily practice and nobody ever teaches that." (P1) *"When I go to congresses face to face I usually go to more general topics because I am there and I hear all kinds of lectures but when I go online I go for very specific things that I am really interested in." (P2)* *"Online courses focus on very few topics, not to try to offer everything because this will lower the quality but pick one and then make it extremely high quality" (P3)*
Up-to-date information
"So it has to be sharp and something new, something up to date. Sometimes you just need those online courses to keep you up to date with the information" (P4) *"Up-to-date information from experts, from the latest papers or from the generally*

accepted ideas of that topic will be interesting for people to get these courses" (P5)

Expert information

"Online courses can be a way to access experts in a field who just give you their knowledge to the larger community, rather than just a small group of conferences, where not everybody could take part." (P6) *"It's difficult for us in the smaller cities to get information face-to-face with experts or something, even here in our country." (P7)* *"What I liked the most was the fact that I have been taught by the very experts in that field – that was number one for me" (P8)* *"Even one sentence from an expert of that field will count a lot for the participant." (P9)* *"For me, in my second year as a specialist trainee, I would like to have some courses about the management of a certain disease – let's say, the management of depression in various situations – which I would appreciate some advice from older, senior psychiatrists". (P10)*

Knowledge and skills

"basic general knowledge on psychiatry for trainees, for instance, with clinical cases, psychopathology". *"Maybe not a full experience, clinical experience will be transferred to the participant, but some important tips, clinical tips or points raised in the courses I think will be very valuable for the participants on that course."* *"I think one of the most educative experiences during my psychotherapy training was*

having my own psychotherapy sessions being videotaped and later on, demonstrated and discussed with other people, with supervisors, etc., and I think if that could be opened to a much wider audience, let's say, we also do that."

"how to do research, how to deal with research topics, choosing your topics, making it easier for you to have right publications and things like that which there are not that many online courses for this type."

How should e-learning be provided

Facilitating interactions with experts and peers

"I think the most important thing for me is to get the feedback, so whatever you do, you just know if you do it right or wrong; and if it's right or wrong, why is it like that."

"Possibility of discussing a certain situation with a patient with other participants and the other professors can be quite useful to see some skills that may not yet be achieved by the participants. So, also the discussion and reflection can increase insights about the lack of a certain skill."

"possibility to ask questions to the authors of the course and preferably maybe after the course, there should be some list of frequently asked questions with the answers from the authors of the course."

Ensuring technical quality

"So make it very simple for the user, so you can find it very easy to orient yourself, like what's going on, where can you put questions, where are the answers coming back and what can you do. So, I mean, these technicalities might be also of importance".

"So if you give a lot of text, it's as good as reading a textbook, reading a book really.

So I'd prefer being more interactive, have videos, have quizzes, tables and things like that."

"For example psychopharmacology – it's much more easily delivered online, because you can use technology to make all the 3D models and all artwork, etc., rather than just say it in words".

"recorded videos would be also really useful because then you get the intonation and all the most important information would be more stressed and you would get more visual information."

Barriers and facilitating factors

"I think that the price is the main obstacle, and I think it would be nice that, for example, if you plan one course, one part of it will be free or maybe for a low price, and people who, for example, who are interested in these courses then will pay"

"if your (English) language skills are not as good, I mean you're probably not gaining much, and of course, if there is an interaction, it's even harder."

"You can actually use the face to face courses for trainees, meetings, or the National Association of Psychiatrists, as a way of making public this type of courses".

"I can do it from anywhere where I've got an Internet connection, and this is – I think that it's great".

"One of the things about online courses is that you get access whenever you want them. You can take as much time as you want".

"our system of education doesn't recognise even e-learning courses as CME... So it's not so important for our graduation and continuing professional education."