



Barbara Sommer

Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Stanford University Medical Center, Emerita

CLINICAL OFFICE (PRIMARY)

- **Psychiatry**

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Bio

BIO

Dr. Barbara Sommer specializes in geriatric psychiatry, treating older patients suffering from depression, anxiety, psychosis, and cognitive disorders, often in the context of concomitant medical illnesses. She has practiced in both inpatient and outpatient settings for over thirty years and she has a special interest in the unique primary and side effects of psychiatric medications in older patients also being treated for non-psychiatric disorders. She also is a member of the electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) service.

CLINICAL FOCUS

- Geriatric Psychiatry
- Psychiatry

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Professor Emeritus, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- Member, Stanford Hospital Care Review Committee, (1997-2006)
- Member, Stanford Hospital Well Being of Physicians Committee, (2001- present)

BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Member, Stanford Medical Staff Well-Being of Physicians and Physicians-in-Training Committee (2001 - present)

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- Medical Education: New York Medical College (1979) NY
- Board Certification: Geriatric Psychiatry, American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (2002)
- Board Certification: Psychiatry, American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (1985)
- Fellowship: Massachusetts General Hospital and McLean Hospital - OCD Department (1985) MA

- Residency: Tufts-New England Medical Center (1984) MA
- Internship: Baystate Medical Center (1980) MA
- MD, New York Medical College , Medicine (1979)

Research & Scholarship

CURRENT RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS

My academic interest is in intellectual function and its adaptability over the course of a person's lifetime despite the stressors placed upon it.

My papers have focused on the evaluation of ways in which co-morbid factors such as folic acid deficiency or its administration, or anticholinergic drugs prior to ECT affect cognitive function. Anticholinergic medications deplete brain stores of the acetylcholine, known to be a key neurotransmitter in language acquisition and memory storage and retrieval. These drugs not only worsen symptoms of Alzheimer's disease, but are known to cause delirium when given in high doses. I have been interested in the long-term effects of these drugs and whether cognitive impairment is prolonged.

Teaching

GRADUATE AND FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM AFFILIATIONS

- Psychiatry and Behavioral Science (Fellowship Program)

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Brain network correlates of affective symptoms in aMCI** *AGING BRAIN*
Saxena, P. P., Turnbull, A., Kim, D., Sommer, B., Lin, F.
2024; 6
- **WHAT MATTERS MOST: A NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF OLDER ADULTS**
Pate, R., Cassidy-Eagle, E., Gould, C., Makowski, M., Herbst, S., Saxena, P., Kim, D., Wroolie, T., Therrien, S., Lin, F., Sommer, B., Thompson, D.
ELSEVIER SCIENCE INC.2023: S93
- **SHARED AND UNIQUE FUNCTIONAL CONNECTIVITY CORRELATES OF GERIATRIC DEPRESSION SUBSCALES**
Saxena, P., Turnbull, A., Sommer, B., Kim, D., Lin, F.
ELSEVIER SCIENCE INC.2023: S103-S104
- **PSYCHOLOGICAL WELLNESS GROUP FOR OLDER ADULTS**
Eagle, E., Gould, C., Makowski, M., Herbst, S., Pate, R., Saxena, P., Kim, D., Wroolie, T., Therrien, S., Lin, F. V., Sommer, B., Gallagher-Thompson, D.
ELSEVIER SCIENCE INC.2023: S106-S107
- **Bipolar Disorder "What's Wrong With Mom-Is It Dementia?"** *PRACTICAL STRATEGIES IN GERIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH: CASES AND APPROACHES*
Sommer, B. R.
edited by Dunn, L. B., CassidyEagle, E. L.
2020: 165–88
- **Pharmacogenetics in Psychiatry: A Companion, Rather Than Competitor, to Protocol-Based Care Reply** *JAMA PSYCHIATRY*
Zubenko, G. S., Sommer, B. R., Cohen, B. M.
2018; 75 (10): 1090–91
- **On the Marketing and Use of Pharmacogenetic Tests for Psychiatric Treatment** *JAMA PSYCHIATRY*
Zubenko, G. S., Sommer, B. R., Cohen, B. M.
2018; 75 (8): 769–70

- **Antidepressant-Resistant Depression in Patients With Comorbid Subclinical Hypothyroidism or High-Normal TSH Levels** *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PSYCHIATRY*
Cohen, B. M., Sommer, B. R., Vuckovic, A.
2018; 175 (7): 598–604
- **The effect of desflurane versus propofol anesthesia on postoperative delirium in elderly obese patients undergoing total knee replacement: A randomized, controlled, double-blinded clinical trial.** *Journal of clinical anesthesia*
Tanaka, P., Goodman, S., Sommer, B. R., Maloney, W., Huddleston, J., Lemmens, H. J.
2017; 39: 17-22
- **Ethical Challenges in Geriatric Psychiatry.** *Focus (American Psychiatric Publishing)*
O'Connell, C. n., Sommer, B. R., Dunn, L. B.
2017; 15 (1): 59–64
- **Topiramate: Effects on cognition in patients with epilepsy, migraine headache and obesity.** *Therapeutic advances in neurological disorders*
Sommer, B. R., Mitchell, E. L., Wroolie, T. E.
2013; 6 (4): 211-227
- **Treatment-Resistant Major Depression and the Capacity to Terminate Care** *Annual Meeting of the American-Association-of-Geriatric-Psychiatry*
Sommer, B. R., Roybal, D. J.
LIPPINCOTT WILLIAMS & WILKINS.2011: S106–S106
- **Treatment-resistant major depression and the capacity to terminate care** *Journal of Ethics in Mental Health*
Sommer BR
2010; 5 (1): 1-4
- **Management of Bipolar Disorders in Older Adults** *HANDBOOK OF DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF BIPOLAR DISORDERS*
Brooks, J. O., Sommer, B. R., Ketter, T. A.
edited by Ketter, T. A.
2010: 453–97
- **Review of topiramate for the treatment of epilepsy in elderly patients** *CLINICAL INTERVENTIONS IN AGING*
Sommer, B. R., FENN, H. H.
2010; 5: 89-99
- **The Efficacy, Safety, and Tolerability of Donepezil for the Treatment of Young Adults With Down Syndrome'** *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF MEDICAL GENETICS PART A*
Kishnani, P. S., Sommer, B. R., Handen, B. L., Seltzer, B., Capone, G. T., Spiridigliozzi, G. A., Heller, J. H., Richardson, S., McRae, T.
2009; 149A (8): 1641-1654
- **The efficacy, safety, and tolerability of donepezil for the treatment of young adults with Down syndrome** *Am J Med Genetics*
Kishnani PS, Sommer BS, Handen BL, Seltzer B, Capone GT, et al
2009; 149A (8): 1641-1654
- **Slower speed-of-processing of cognitive tasks is associated with presence of the apolipoprotein epsilon 4 allele** *JOURNAL OF PSYCHIATRIC RESEARCH*
O'Hara, R., Sommer, B., Way, N., Kraemer, H. C., Taylor, J., Murphy, G.
2008; 42 (3): 199-204
- **Safety and efficacy of anticonvulsants in elderly patients with psychiatric disorders: oxcarbazepine, topiramate and gabapentin** *EXPERT OPINION ON DRUG SAFETY*
Sommer, B. R., Fenn, H. H., Ketter, T. A.
2007; 6 (2): 133-145
- **Role of psychiatric comorbidity on cognitive function during and after the menopausal transition** *Expert Rev Neurotherapeutics*
Alexander JL, Sommer BR
2007; 7 (11): S155
- **Safety and tolerability of mood-stabilising anticonvulsants in the elderly** *EXPERT OPINION ON DRUG SAFETY*
Fenn, H. H., Sommer, B. R., Ketter, T. A., Alldredge, B.

2006; 5 (3): 401-416

- **The effect of oxybutynin treatment on cognition in children with diurnal incontinence** *Annual Meeting of the Section on Urology of the American-Academy-of-Pediatrics*
Sommer, B. R., O'Hara, R., Askari, N., Kraemer, H. C., Kennedy, W. A.
ELSEVIER SCIENCE INC.2005: 2125-27
- **Orange juice-induced hyperkalemia in schizophrenia** *Int J of Psychiatry in Medicine*
Berk DR, Conti PM, Sommer BR
2004; 34 (1): 79
- **Folic acid supplementation in dementia: A preliminary report** *JOURNAL OF GERIATRIC PSYCHIATRY AND NEUROLOGY*
Sommer, B. R., Hoff, A. L., Costa, M.
2003; 16 (3): 156-159
- **Safety of antidepressants in the elderly.** *Expert opinion on drug safety*
Sommer, B. R., Fenn, H., Pompei, P., DeBattista, C., Lembke, A., Wang, P., Flores, B.
2003; 2 (4): 367-383
- **Is dopamine administration possibly a risk factor for delirium?** *CRITICAL CARE MEDICINE*
Sommer, B. R., Wise, L. C., Kraemer, H. C.
2002; 30 (7): 1508-1511
- **Ginkgo biloba and related compounds in Alzheimer's disease** *Psychiatric Annals*
Sommer BR, Schatzberg AF
2002; 32 (1): 13-18
- **Ginkgo biloba and related compounds in Alzheimer's disease** *PSYCHIATRIC ANNALS*
Sommer, B. R., Schatzberg, A. F.
2002; 32 (1): 13-18
- **Comparison of desipramine and cognitive/behavioral therapy in the treatment of elderly outpatients with mild-to-moderate depression** *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF GERIATRIC PSYCHIATRY*
Thompson, L. W., Coon, D. W., Gallagher-Thompson, D., Sommer, B. R., Koin, D.
2001; 9 (3): 225-240
- **Quetiapine-induced extrapyramidal side effects in patients with Parkinson's disease: Case report** *JOURNAL OF GERIATRIC PSYCHIATRY AND NEUROLOGY*
Sommer, B. R.
2001; 14 (2): 99-100
- **Naturalistic study of antipsychotic medications prescribed to elderly schizophrenic patients** *Jrnl Prac Psych and Behav Hlth*
Sommer BR, White L, Parrella M, Harvey PD, Knobler HY, Powchick P, Masiar SJ
1998; 4 (6): 379
- **Risperidone: Clinical outcome predictors and cost-effectiveness in a naturalistic setting** *PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY BULLETIN*
Finley, P. R., Sommer, B. R., Corbitt, J. L., Brunson, G. H., Lum, B. L.
1998; 34 (1): 75-81
- **Risperidone: Clinical outcome predictors and cost-effectiveness in a naturalistic setting** *Psychopharmacology Bull*
Finley PR, Sommer BR, Corbitt JL, Brunson GH, Lum BL
1998; 34 (1): 75-81
- **Syndrome of inappropriate antidiuretic hormone (SIADH) in an 80-year-old woman given clomipramine** *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF GERIATRIC PSYCHIATRY*
Sommer, B. R.
1997; 5 (3): 268-269
- **Divalproex sodium for treatment of agitation in chronic psychiatric inpatients** *Jrnl Prac Psych and Behav Hlth*
Sommer BR, White L, Parrella M, Simon JM, Masiar SJ
1997; 3 (5): 320

- **Changes in tardive dyskinesia symptoms in elderly patients treated with ganglioside GM1 or placebo.** *Journal of geriatric psychiatry and neurology*
Sommer, B. R., Cohen, B. M., Satlin, A., Cole, J. O., Jandorf, L., Dorsey, F.
1994; 7 (4): 234-237
- **A case of baclofen-induced psychotic depression** *J Clin Psychiatry*
Sommer BR, Petrides G
1992; 53: 211-212
- **Glycopyrrolate versus atropine in post-ECT amnesia in the elderly.** *Journal of geriatric psychiatry and neurology*
Sommer, B. R., Satlin, A., Friedman, L., Cole, J. O.
1989; 2 (1): 18-21
- **METABOLISM OF THIORIDAZINE IN THE ELDERLY** *JOURNAL OF CLINICAL PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY*
Cohen, B. M., Sommer, B. R.
1988; 8 (5): 336-339
- **RBC FOLIC-ACID LEVELS AND COGNITIVE PERFORMANCE IN ELDERLY PATIENTS - A PRELIMINARY-REPORT** *BIOLOGICAL PSYCHIATRY*
Sommer, B. R., Wolkowitz, O. M.
1988; 24 (3): 352-354
- **Plasma concentration of neuroleptic and serum prolactin in patients chronically receiving depot fluphenazine: No evidence of tolerance** *Human Psychopharmacology*
Cohen BM, Chouinard G, Waternaux C, Schachter H, Jones B, Sommer BR
1987; 2: 171-176
- **PLASMA-LEVELS OF NEUROLEPTIC IN PATIENTS RECEIVING DEPOT FLUPHENAZINE** *JOURNAL OF CLINICAL PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY*
Cohen, B. M., Waternaux, C., Chouinard, G., Sommer, B. R., Jones, B.
1985; 5 (6): 328-332
- **CIRCADIAN CHANGES IN THE DISTRIBUTION AND EFFECTS OF HALOPERIDOL IN THE RAT** *NEUROPHARMACOLOGY*
Campbell, A., Herschel, M., Sommer, B., Madsen, J. R., Cohen, B. M., BALDESSARINI, R. J.
1982; 21 (7): 663-669