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Background

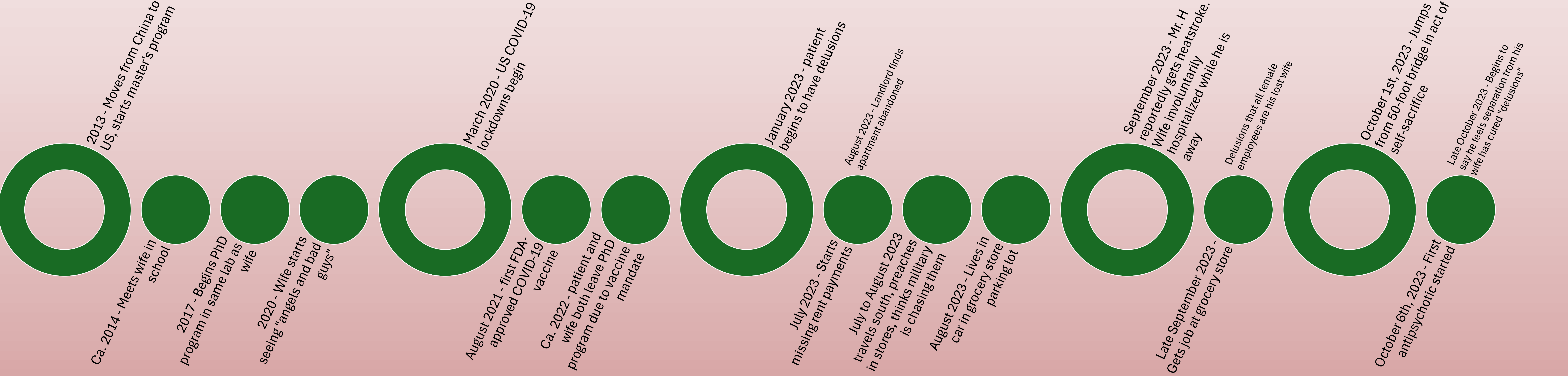
- Folie à deux is a phenomenon of delusion transmission, generally from an “inducer” to a “recipient” (Guivarch, 2018; Shimizu 2007).
- Close association, which isolation would predispose to, is required for delusion transmission (Shimizu 2007).
- We report a case of this delusion transmission between a married couple in the setting of COVID-19 isolation protocols.

Case

- Mr. H, a 35 year old male with no known psychiatric history, was admitted as a trauma activation after jumping from a 50-foot bridge.
- Stated he and his wife were on a mission to “cleanse society”, influenced by voices she alone could hear.
- Mr. H reported delusions of fleeing military pursuit, saving society, and a need for self-sacrifice.

Case cont’d

- Per parents escalation of paranoid behaviors during COVID-19 pandemic, also noted Mr. H as historically eccentric with a paucity of close relationships.
- His history was consistent with an underlying schizotypal personality disorder, likely serving as a psychogenic diathesis and predisposing him to adopting delusions from his wife. He improved after treatment with aripiprazole and was ultimately discharged to acute rehab.



Discussion

- Personality disorders, particularly schizotypal personality disorder, have been associated with psychotic-like experiences (Tesli, 2023).
- Delusion transmission requires close association (Shimizu, 2007), which was increased due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- Two other cases of folie à deux under COVID-19 isolation have been reported (Baez Nuñez, 2022; Kawasaki, 2022).



X-ray demonstrating some of Mr. H’s injuries after repair. Injuries included L distal radius fracture, L sacral fracture, bilateral calcaneus fractures, L2 burst fracture, and sternal fracture.

Conclusion

- Social seclusion during global health crises may heighten the risk of delusion transmission, especially when one party suffers from a psychotic disorder and the other possesses predisposing risk factors.

References:

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