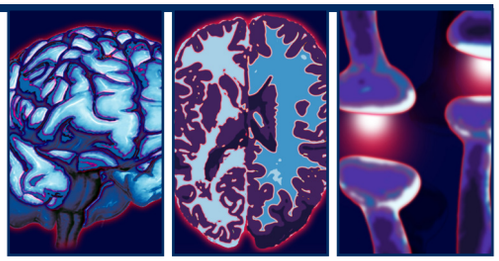
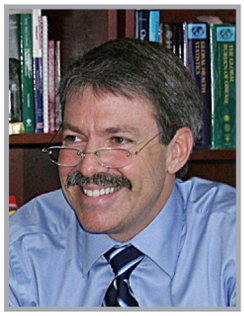
# FOREWORD



# Transitions in neuropsychiatry: shaping clinical practice



"*Neuropsychiatry* will be a resource for all physicians and healthcare practitioners who are striving to provide the best possible evidence-based care for their patients."

Wayne Goodman†: US Senior Editor

We are pleased to introduce a new journal for practicing psychiatrists and other mental health providers seeking the latest advances in research on neuropsychiatric disorders. Our focus is on research that shapes the clinical management of these conditions. Much of that research follows a bottom-up progression, moving from the basic laboratory to the clinical setting. Other research takes a top-down direction – so-called reverse translation – in which clinical insights lead to hypotheses that can be tested at a more fundamental level in the laboratory. Equally important is research that investigates how newly minted interventions operate in the real-world setting. Whether translational, reverse-translational or community-based research, the findings are of interest to *Neuropsychiatry* as long as implications for clinical care can be discerned.

Clinical neuroscience research, fueled by advances in genomics and technological innovations, is accelerating at an unprecedented pace. There has also been a corresponding explosion in the number of publications. Even the most conscientious consumer of science finds it nearly impossible to keep up to date. This is where *Neuropsychiatry* fits in: to provide concise and clear coverage of topics at the forefront of research, which impact the understanding and management of major neuropsychiatric disorders. The articles take the form of reviews, analysis and original articles that have undergone thorough peer review. Commentaries grounded in sound reasoning and rigorous science will be invited. Our authors will be drawn from the international scientific community.

Major psychiatric disorders are prevalent and associated with high morbidity and premature death. Despite advances in pharmacological, psychosocial and device-based treatments, progress toward developing novel and more effective treatments has been slow compared with other medical disciplines (e.g., cardiology). This situation may change in the years ahead as new targets (molecular or cognitive) for treatment are identified and new technologies are developed.

"Our coverage will be broad: from schizophrenia to anxiety disorders; from Tourette's syndrome to late-life depression; from classification to pathophysiology; from psychotropics to cognitive behavioral therapy; from genetics to epidemiology; and everything in between."

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The field of psychiatry is definitely in transition. The next version of our diagnostic system will redraw the phenomenological boundaries of these disorders. This will be an opportunity to examine psychopathology from new perspectives that test our old assumptions. In parallel, research will take place to redefine neuropsychiatric disorders according to domains of pathology that cut across existing diagnostic categories. Such domains may be more proximal to the underlying biological disturbance, thus exposing new targets for treatment. A related theme in this approach to psychopathology is the discovery of biomarkers that aid in diagnosis, prediction or assessment of outcome. *Neuropsychiatry* will try to prepare you for these new ways of thinking about major psychiatric disorders.

We hope that *Neuropsychiatry* will be a resource for all physicians and healthcare practitioners who are striving to provide the best possible evidence-based care for their patients. It will also provide a preview of the research and issues on the horizon that are about to transform clinical practice. Our coverage will be broad: from schizophrenia to anxiety disorders; from Tourette's syndrome to late-life depression; from classification to pathophysiology; from psychotropics to cognitive behavioral therapy; from genetics to epidemiology; and everything in between. To accomplish all this by imparting knowledge in digestible portions – and sparing the fat – will be the ultimate goal.

**Financial & competing interests disclosure**

*The author has no relevant affiliations or financial involvement with any organization or entity with a financial interest in or financial conflict with the subject matter or materials discussed in the manuscript. This includes employment, consultancies, honoraria, stock ownership or options, expert testimony, grants or patents received or pending, or royalties.*

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