OBSESSIVE-COMPULSIVE SPECTRUM DISORDERS

Refining the Research Agenda for DSM-V
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Refining the Research Agenda for DSM-V

Edited by

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Note: The authors have worked to ensure that all information in this book is accurate at the time of publication and consistent with general psychiatric and medical standards, and that information concerning drug dosages, schedules, and routes of administration is accurate at the time of publication and consistent with standards set by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the general medical community. As medical research and practice continue to advance, however, therapeutic standards may change. Moreover, specific situations may require a specific therapeutic response not included in this book. For these reasons and because human and mechanical errors sometimes occur, we recommend that readers follow the advice of physicians directly involved in their care or the care of a member of their family.

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We are pleased to have the opportunity to present a selection of review articles that reflect the proceedings of a conference focused on an array of conditions, clustered under the rubric of “obsessive-compulsive spectrum disorders.” The conference was one in a series titled “The Future of Psychiatric Diagnosis: Refining the Research Agenda,” convened by the American Psychiatric Association (APA) in collaboration of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH), with funding provided by the NIH.

The APA/WHO/NIH conferences were key elements in an extensive research review process designed to assess the status of scientific knowledge that is relevant to psychiatric classification systems and to generate specific recommendations for research to advance that knowledge base. Conferees attempted to identify short-term research (e.g., reanalyses of existing datasets) that can be completed for consideration prior to publication of DSM-5, scheduled for 2013. Results of such efforts may also inform WHO’s ICD-11 Mental and Behavioral Disorders section, which is due to be published approximately 4 years from now. In its entirety, the project comprised 10 work groups, each focused on a specific diagnostic topic or category, and two additional work groups dedicated to methodological considerations in nosology and classification. The chapters presented here underscore APA’s interest in ensuring that information and recommendations developed as part of this process are available to scientific groups who are concurrently updating other national and international classifications of mental and behavioral disorders.

Within the APA, the American Psychiatric Institute for Research and Education (APIRE), under the direction of the author (D.A.R.), holds lead responsibility for preparation of this preface was provided by a grant (U13 MH067855) from the National Institute of Mental Health.
for organizing and administering the diagnostic research planning conferences. The Executive Steering Committee for the series included representatives of the WHO’s Department of Mental Health and Prevention of Substance Abuse and of three NIH institutes that jointly funded the project: the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA).

Although DSM-5 is not scheduled to appear until 2013, planning for the fifth revision began in 1999 with a collaboration between APA and NIMH designed to stimulate research that would address identified opportunities in psychiatric nosology. A first product of this joint venture was preparation of six white papers that proposed broad-brush recommendations for research in key areas. Topics included Developmental Issues, Gaps in the Current Classification, Disability and Impairment, Neuroscience, Nomenclature, and Cross-Cultural Issues. Each team that developed a paper included at least one liaison member from NIMH, with the intent—largely realized—that these members would integrate many of the work groups’ recommendations into NIMH research support programs. These white papers were published in *A Research Agenda for DSM-V* (Kupfer et al. 2002). This volume was then followed by a second compilation of white papers (Narrow et al. 2007) that outline diagnosis-related research needs in the areas of gender, pediatric, and geriatric populations.

As a second phase of planning, the APA leadership envisioned a series of international research planning conferences that would address specific diagnostic topics in greater depth, with conference proceedings serving as resource documents for groups involved in the official DSM-5 revision process. The NIMH, with substantial additional funding support from the NIDA and NIAAA, awarded a cooperative research planning conference grant to APIRE in 2003. The conferences funded under the grant are the basis for this monograph series and represent a second major phase in the scientific review and planning for DSM-5.

In addition to the immediate, short-term research objective just described, the research conferences had multiple aims. One was to promote international collaboration among members of the scientific community in order to increase the likelihood of developing a future DSM that is unified with other international classifications. A second was to stimulate the empirical research necessary to allow informed decision making regarding deficiencies identified in DSM-IV (American Psychiatric Association 1994). A third was to facilitate the development of broadly agreed-upon criteria that researchers worldwide can use in planning and conducting future research exploring the etiology and pathophysiology of mental disorders. Challenging as it is, this last objective reflects widespread agreement in the field that the well-established reliability and clinical utility of prior DSM classifications must be matched in the future by a renewed focus on the validity of diagnoses.

Given the vision of an ultimately unified international system for classifying mental disorders, members of the Executive Steering Committee have attached high priority
to ensuring the participation of investigators from all parts of the world in the project. Toward this end, each conference in the series had two co-chairs, drawn respectively from the United States and a country other than the United States; approximately half of the experts invited to each working conference were from outside the United States, and half of the conferences were being convened outside the United States.

Two leaders in the field—Eric Hollander, M.D., from the Montefiore Medical Center of the University Hospital of Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, New York, and Joseph Zohar, M.D., from the Chaim Sheba Medical Center, Tel-Hashomer, Israel—agreed to organize and co-chair the Obsessive-Compulsive Spectrum Work Group and Conference, which convened in Arlington, Virginia, in June 2006. The co-chairs worked closely with the APA/WHO/NIH Executive Steering Committee to identify and enlist a stellar roster of participants for the conference.

The chapters in this volume, based on presentations from the “The Future of Psychiatric Diagnosis” conference series, were first published as articles in *Psychiatry Research* and *CNS Spectrums*. Although the journals ensured dissemination of the articles to the widest possible audience as well as the listing of the articles in *Index Medicus*, the monograph serves as a resource document for the DSM-5 Task Force and disorder-specific work groups. In addition, a summary report of this and other conferences in the series is available online at www.dsm5.org.

We express our appreciation to officials at NIMH, NIDA, and NIAAA who made funding available for this conference series. We hope that research recommendations coming out of these conferences in time will stimulate investigator-initiated proposals to NIH and other sources for studies that will advance psychiatric classification and diagnoses. The APA greatly appreciates, as well, the contributions of all participants in the Obsessive-Compulsive Spectrum Disorders Research Planning Work Group and the interest of our broader audience in this topic.

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INTRODUCTION

Cross-Cutting Issues and Future Directions for the Obsessive-Compulsive Spectrum Disorders

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The chapters in this volume reflect the proceedings from the research planning conference for the fifth edition of Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-V), entitled “Obsessive-Compulsive Spectrum Behavior Disorders: Refining the Research Agenda for DSM-V.” The conference examined possible similarities in phenomenology, comorbidity, familial and genetic features, brain circuitry, and treatment response between obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) and several related disorders that are characterized by repetitive thoughts or behaviors. Such data support a reexamination of the DSM-IV-TR classification of OCD and the anxiety disorders, with possible inclusion of a group of obsessive-compulsive spectrum disorders (OCSDs) in DSM-V. Various disorders were systematically examined for inclusion in such a grouping, and later a smaller number were determined to meet the threshold criteria for inclusion in the OCSDs. The disorders that were originally examined included OCD, obsessive-compulsive personality disorder (OCPD), Tourette’s syndrome and other tic disorders, Sydenham’s chorea, pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections (PANDAS), trichotillomania, body dysmorphic disorder (BDD), autism, eating disorders, Huntington’s disease and Parkinson’s disease, and impulse-control disorders, as well as substance and behavioral addictions.

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