

Handbook of Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorders,
Volume III

Michael S. Ritsner
Editor

Handbook of Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorders, Volume III

Therapeutic Approaches, Comorbidity,
and Outcomes



Springer

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Foreword



Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorders: Insights from Views Across 100 years

Schizophrenia spectrum and related disorders such as schizoaffective and mood disorders, schizophreniform disorders, brief psychotic disorders, delusional and shared psychotic disorders, and personality (i.e., schizotypal, paranoid, and schizoid personality) disorders are the most debilitating forms of mental illness, worldwide. There are 89,377 citations (including 10,760 reviews) related to “schizophrenia” and 2118 (including 296 reviews) related to “schizophrenia spectrum” in PubMed (accessed on August 12, 2010).

The classification of these disorders, in particular, of schizophrenia, schizoaffective and mood disorders (referred to as functional psychoses), has been debated for decades, and its validity remains controversial. The limited success of genetic studies of functional psychoses has raised questions concerning the definition of genetically relevant phenotypes.

Many researchers around the world have investigated schizophrenia spectrum, and related disorders from the perspectives of diagnostics, early detection of psychotic disorders, genetics, neuroscience, prognosis, and treatment. Therefore, these

fields have considerably expanded with new findings that were obtained through clinical and longitudinal observations and neuropsychological, neurophysiological, neuroimaging, neuroanatomical, neurochemical, molecular genetic, genomic and proteomic analyses, which have generated a necessity for syntheses across the functional psychoses.

The present three-volume handbook is a collection that continues to achieve my goal of providing a comprehensive up-to-date state of the art overview of the literature that addresses the challenges facing clinical and biological psychiatry. This series follows four recently published books:

- *Quality of Life Impairment in Schizophrenia, Mood and Anxiety Disorders. New Perspectives on Research and Treatment.* Ritsner, Michael S.; Awad, A. George (Eds.), Springer, 2007, 388p.
- *Neuroactive Steroids in Brain Functions, and Mental Health. Novel Strategies for Research and Treatment.* Ritsner, Michael S.; Weizman A. (Eds.), Springer Science+Business Media, B.V., 2008. 559p.
- *The Handbook of Neuropsychiatric Biomarkers, Endophenotypes, and Genes. Volumes I–IV.* Ritsner, Michael S. (Ed.), Springer Science+Business Media, B.V., 2009.

Volume I: Neuropsychological Endophenotypes and Biomarkers. 231pp.

Volume II: Neuroanatomical and Neuroimaging Endophenotypes and Biomarkers. 244pp.

Volume III: Metabolic and Peripheral Biomarkers. 231pp.

Volume IV: Molecular Genetic and Genomic Markers. 232pp.

- *Brain Protection in Schizophrenia, Mood and Cognitive Disorders.* Ritsner, Michael S. (Ed.), Springer Science+Business Media, B.V., 2010. 663 p.

This handbook offers a broad synthesis of current knowledge about schizophrenia spectrum and related disorders. It is based on methodological pluralism regarding psychiatric nosology and raises many controversial issues, and limitations of categorical nosology of functional psychoses covering the ongoing debate on key conceptual issues that may be relevant for the development of DSM-V and ICD-11.

Reflecting the copious amount of new information provided, the handbook has been divided into three volumes. *Volume I* contains 20 chapters and serves as an introduction and overview of theoretical issue, and neurobiological advances. The chapters in this volume review the schizophrenia construct, diagnosis and classification of the schizophrenia spectrum disorders, and schizotypy concept; present proof-of-concept Multidimensional Continuum Model of functional psychoses and evolutionary models of autism; new findings regarding neurodevelopmental, neurodegenerative, and neurochemical abnormalities; genetic and environmental influences; changes in gene expression; neurotransmitter activity; brain imaging and morphological abnormalities in subjects with schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders, methamphetamine psychosis as a model for biomarker discovery

in schizophrenia and advances in proteomics. Our knowledge of the genetics of schizophrenia and its borderlands is heavily indebted to the research and writings of *Professor Irving Gottesman*. The chapter that summarizes his contributions in that historical context is an invaluable contribution to the handbook.

Volume II contains 19 chapters focusing on *phenotypic and endophenotypic presentations* of schizophrenia spectrum and related disorders. The authors discuss psychopathology, stress, social anxiety, neuropsychological, neurocognitive and neurophysiological findings, endophenotype and neuroethological approaches, quality of life deficits, and risk for cancer morbidity and mortality. The authors also review advances and *challenges* in mapping the prodromal phases of psychosis, in the prediction and early detection of first-episode psychosis, early- and late-onset schizophrenia, the longitudinal course of these disorders, as well as the interface of acute transient psychoses, the association of metacognition with neurocognition and function in schizophrenia, neurophysiology of cognitive dysfunction in schizophrenia, schizo-obsessive states, and risk for cancer morbidity and mortality in schizophrenia spectrum disorders.

Volume III includes 18 chapters that provide a wealth of information regarding treatment approaches, comorbidity, recovery, and outcomes of schizophrenia and spectrum disorders; in particular, recovery-based treatment approaches, antipsychotic and neuroprotective-based treatment; prevention and early intervention in at-risk states for developing psychosis, psychotherapy, cognitive remediation, cognitive behavior therapy; and interventions targeting social and vocational dysfunction in schizophrenic spectrum disorders. Furthermore, therapeutic approaches to schizophrenia with medical illness, comorbid substance abuse, suicidality, implications for treatment and community support, the relationship between religiosity/spirituality and schizophrenia, and the ethical ramifications of biomarker use for mood disorders are also reviewed and discussed.

Since many of the contributors to this handbook are internationally known experts, they not only provide up-to-date state of the art overviews, but also clarify some of the ongoing controversies and future challenges and propose new insights for future research. The contents of these volumes have been carefully planned, organized, and edited. Of course, despite all the assistance provided by contributors, I alone remain responsible for the content of this handbook including any errors or omissions which may remain. Similar to other publications contributed to by diverse scholars from diverse orientations and academic backgrounds, differences in approaches and opinions, as well as some overlap, are unavoidable.

This handbook is designed for use by a broad spectrum of readers including psychiatrists, neurologists, neuroscientists, endocrinologists, pharmacologists, psychologists, general practitioners, geriatricians, graduate students, and health care providers in the fields of mental health. It is hoped that this book will also be a useful resource for the teaching of psychiatry, neurology, psychology and policy makers in the fields of mental health.

I would like to gratefully acknowledge all contributors from 16 countries (Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Israel, Japan, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and USA)

for their excellent cooperation. I wish to thank *Professor William T. Carpenter*, distinguished psychiatrist, who was willing to write the afterword for this handbook. I also wish to take this opportunity to thank the wonderful staff in my clinical department as well as in other departments in Shaar-Menashe Mental Health Center (Director – Dr. Alexander Grinshpoon) for their commitment, support, and cooperation. I would like to thank my wonderful and generous friends, particularly Boris Altshuler, Anatoly Polischuck, and Stella Lulinsky. They always took the time to listen, even when I was just complaining. The support they have given me over the years is the greatest gift anyone has ever given me. Finally, I thank Springer Science Business Media B.V. for the goodwill and publication of this book, particularly Mr. Peter Butler, and Dr. Martijn Roelandse, publishing editors, who did their utmost to promote this project and provided valuable assistance that made the book possible.

I sincerely hope that this handbook will further knowledge in the complex field of psychiatric disorders.

Haifa, Israel
March, 2011

Michael S. Ritsner

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