
Preface

Drug abuse and addiction are common in clinical practice. Often they interfere with patient treatment or require an alternative approach. The volume *Drug Abuse and Addiction in Medical Illness: Causes, Consequences, and Treatment* discusses the causes and consequences of drug abuse and addiction in a systematic manner. We believe this volume is a gold standard book including current and cutting-edge information for all those working with drug abusing or addicted patients or for those interested in this topic from other research perspectives. The volume is a first of its kind book, rich yet comprehensive and focused (specifically to the designated area), and addresses the needs of the very active theoretical, basic, and clinical research in the field.

Leading experts in the field of addiction throughout the world have contributed to *Drug Abuse and Addiction in Medical Illness: Causes, Consequences, and Treatment*. This means the volume covers virtually every core, as well as contemporary, topic in the subject area, from the established theories to the most modern research and development in the field of drug abuse and addiction.

In brief, *Drug Abuse and Addiction in Medical Illness: Causes, Consequences, and Treatment* contains 46 chapters covering drugs of abuse and how they play a role in a wide range of medical illnesses. The volume starts with eight general chapters covering basic concepts of addiction research, research techniques, and major findings. Section II of the book is followed by 11 chapters discussing a variety of drugs of abuse, including cannabis, inhalants, alcohol, and cocaine. Section III discusses how, for some diseases, drug abuse will cause or enhance the progress of that disease/disorder, while other diseases may result in or enhance drug abuse. The chapters in Section III thus deal with this crucial, bidirectional relationship. Section IV of the book consists of ten chapters discussing current topics in addiction research such as the effects of drugs of abuse on traffic safety, prevention, and legal aspects of drug abuse. To aid educational usefulness of the volume as a text book, every chapter includes an abstract, and two boxes summarizing learning objectives and directions for future research. The chapters on individual drugs in Section II also include a box summarizing the pharmacokinetic properties of the drug.

Understanding drug abuse and addiction is of vital importance in clinical practice. We hope *Drug Abuse and Addiction in Medical Illness: Causes, Consequences, and Treatment* is of help to those who are involved in improving health and quality of life of their patients and others interested in this fascinating field of research.

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