



Preface

Psychiatric mental health nursing



Deborah Antai-Otong, MS, RN, CNS, NP, CS, FAAN
Guest Editor

It is fortuitous that this issue of *The Nursing Clinics of North America* focuses on the care of the client with a psychiatric or mental disorder. This issue comes at a time when there is an explosion of neurobiological, brain imaging, genetic, and psychosocial studies that explain the complex underpinnings of psychiatric disorders and treatment implications. Of particular importance is the efficacy of pharmacological and psychotherapeutic interventions that modify intricate biochemical processes and neuroanatomical structures. Nurses are challenged to understand the scientific bases of psychiatric disorders and treatment implications that modify behavior and improve functional status and quality of life for clients and their significant others. This challenge extends to integration of scientific knowledge into the biological, functional, and psychosocial distress experienced by persons with mental disorders.

The primary strength of this issue is its broad focus and synthesis of scientific knowledge into psychiatric mental health practice. The initial section centers on technological advances and the art of psychiatric mental health nursing and legal considerations when caring for persons with mental disorders. The following section provides discussions of various psychiatric disorders, including anxiety and mood disorders, acute psychosis, attention deficit disorders, substance-related disorders, eating disorders, and borderline personality disorder. The remaining section focuses on special populations and treatment concerning children and adolescents and families in crisis, geriatric emergencies, adverse drug reactions, and suicide. Each article integrates innovative treatment modalities, including pharmacotherapy and

psychotherapeutic interventions such as psychoeducation, family involvement, and psychosocial rehabilitation.

This issue of *The Nursing Clinics of North America* reflects the unique contributions of psychiatric mental health nursing and its role in health promotion across the life span. The cadre of advanced practice registered nurses in psychiatric mental health in this issue represents diverse practice settings and universities who were willing to share their expertise in caring for individuals with psychiatric disorders.

Deborah Antai-Otong, MS, RN, CNS, NP, CS, FAAN
Ambulatory Care/Employee Support Program
VA North TX Health Care System
4500 S. Lancaster Road (11 C)
Dallas, TX 75216, USA

E-mail address: deborah.antai-otong@med.va.org