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CHILD AND  
ADOLESCENT  
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## Foreword

# The Lewis Lab: An Appreciation

... graves at my command  
Have waked their sleepers, oped, and let 'em forth  
By my so potent art. But this rough magic  
I here abjure.

—William Shakespeare, *The Tempest*

Along any scientific discipline's path of incremental gains, books and periodicals have long held a privileged position: journals reflecting the latest discoveries and keeping the energy and momentum going, books serving as repositories for the regular harvests that the abundance of discovery makes a necessity. The *Clinics of North America* do not fit snugly into the roles of either journals (as relatively little original research is published in them) or—despite deceiving hard covers—of books (the issues are periodical by design, and over the past few years have become formally indexed in Medline). The *Clinics* are hybrids by nature, and it may be this quality, among others, that has contributed to their popularity—and to their diffusion into all branches of medicine.

Fourteen years ago, child and adolescent psychiatry gained entry into the *Clinics of North America* series. Such a milestone reflected the field's coming of age; having developed into something more than psychiatry of the small, and finding a voice unique in its particular approaches and methodologies. Child psychiatry had taken much from its parent disciplines of psychiatry and pediatrics, but was ready for its own seat at the dinner table. A well-deserved seat for sure, but one for which proper guidance was still needed if the guest in question aspired to become a regular. As its first consulting editor, Melvin Lewis secured much more than the regularity of such presence: he made sure that the *Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Clinics of North America* thrived.

Mel Lewis had been an obvious choice as inaugural editor for the newborn series. Editing works in child and adolescent psychiatry came as naturally to him as did breathing—and almost as regularly. Mel had served between 1975 and 1987 as the third editor for the flagship *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry* and contributed critically to the building of

solid foundations we rely on to this day. In 1991 he single-handedly took on the Herculean task of editing one of the first major textbooks in pediatric mental health: *Child and Adolescent Psychiatry—A Comprehensive Textbook* has become a benchmark classic in the three editions published to date (Lippincott Williams and Wilkins, 1991, 1996, 2002). Mel knew his editing well, and was more than superficially acquainted with both sides of the pedigree the new hybrid *Clinics* would be conceived from.

“Children are not little adults” is a refrain well-known to pediatric practitioners of all stripes. In the case of pediatric mental health, the slogan has become a battle cry of sorts: children’s needs are unique and not to be confused with or lost under those of their elders; children have rights too. As a relatively young field, child psychiatry has had to make good on such noble and fine-sounding aspirations—and increasingly, it has been able to do just that, to which 56 issues of the *Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Clinics of North America* edited under Mel’s watch can patently attest.

Lines of medical inquiry have been traditionally divided into basic and clinical camps. Although Mel was familiar with the tenets of the former and routinely contributed to the latter (most comfortably in the pediatric wards, tending to medically compromised preschoolers), his unique talent and originality lay elsewhere: it was in providing opportunities for growth to young scholars. Over the years, the *Clinics* became a virtual Lewis Lab: its pages his growth cultures (or was it his culture of growth?), a place where new ideas and projects—but mostly rising individuals—could test their wings. Looking back at the whole series today, one sees not only the maturing of a discipline, but that of its “who’s who” as well: those child psychiatrists and allied professionals who have gone on to build major research projects and careers, to set innovative clinical programs in motion, to train an entire new generation—indeed to edit and write the field anew.

As chronicled in the preface that follows, my comments are not abstract: I have been one of the many fortunate beneficiaries of the Lewis Lab. As such, I cherish this opportunity to salute my teacher, my mentor, and my friend. Mel dubbed me “Mini-Mel” some years ago, a nod to our shared enthusiasm for the *Austin Powers* character Mini-Me—and to my own appreciation for a role model to emulate: one whose laboratory so thoroughly lived in the written pages of edited works, and who so deeply respected the fresh intelligence of medical students and others starting off on their trajectory.

Prospero’s magic of releasing trapped spirits seems apt. Like *The Tempest*’s hero, Mel allowed so many to find their voice, to clear a path, to secure release through expression. And as Shakespeare’s stand-in at career’s end, Prospero remains a cherished farewell figure. With this issue of the *Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Clinics of North America*, Melvin Lewis’s formidable trajectory comes to a close. It is an honor to serve as guest editor (together with my colleague Jeff Bostic) for this issue assigned as the last under Mel’s consulting editorship. Jeff and I join Editor Sarah Barth from Elsevier, and her predecessor Catherine Bewick (publishing the series under the Saunders imprint at the time) in showing our respect and gratitude to Professor Lewis. With the next issue of

this series, I will take over as consulting editor, and as first order of business welcome Mel back into these pages in his new role of Editor Emeritus. I will become entrusted with the unique privilege (and the tall challenge) of following in this mighty giant's footsteps.

Mighty but gentle. Mel is the ultimate gentleman, the kindest and most generous of individuals. His grace, poise, and beautiful British accent make one think of royalty. His signature modesty may have hidden the fact that for all we know he may in fact be a noble. Whether Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has knighted him remains uncertain. But *we* have, his colleagues and disciples all. This issue, and this series henceforth are dedicated to him

*—to Sir, with love.*

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