

## Foreword Focusing In



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“New Study Shows Children Can Outgrow ADHD”

—*Hartford Courant* (December 3, 2007)

“Stimulants for ADHD may cause mild heart symptoms”

—*Reuters* (December 10, 2007)

“19% of ADHD patients get too many drugs.”

—*Sydney Morning Herald* (December 6, 2007)

In the past 7 years since the last issue on attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) was published in *Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Clinics of North America*, there has been much progress in our understanding of the disorder. From neurobiologic studies that help to elucidate the pathophysiology of ADHD, to prevalence studies that further our understanding of its progression through the life cycle, to molecular genetic studies that identify genes that may underlie its etiology—indeed, any one of these discoveries would be considered a significant advance in the field.

In addition to our professional curiosities regarding this disorder, there has been much interest from the popular media and the general public about it. In any given week, one can usually spot a headline or two about ADHD

in the local newspaper, Internet blog, or nightly news broadcast. For parents and youth there continue to be questions, for example, regarding the meaning of this diagnosis, its implications for present and future functioning, and the safety and efficacy of prescribed treatments.

In developing this issue about ADHD, the difficult task was this: How do we do justice to the multiple areas of interest (understanding that each article in this issue could easily be the focus of an entire issue) while ensuring that the final product is reflective of the current evidence base (and accurately provides a synopsis of major advances)? To meet this high bar while also delivering clinically relevant and practical content to inform patient care is no small feat.

I am grateful to Luis Augusto Rohde and Stephen Faraone. They have intricately chiseled at this topic, while working with two different Consulting Editors, to create an issue that delivers along all of these fronts. I also thank each of the outstanding contributors for sharing their expertise in this ever-evolving field. If this issue is any indication of the advances that will occur in the upcoming years, I can only imagine what the next issue on ADHD will look like as we continue focusing in.

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