Chapter 10  Trauma- and Stressor-Related Disorders – 219
10.1  Trauma-Related Disorders – 221
  Miranda Olff and Ramón Lindauer
10.2  Adjustment Disorders – 235
  Jac van der Klink and Berend Terluin

Chapter 11  Dissociative Disorders – 245
  Nel Draijer and Richard van Dyck

Chapter 12  Somatic Symptom and Related Disorders and Factitious disorders – 257
12.1  Somatic Symptom and Related Disorders – 259
  Christina van der Feltz-Cornelis and Filip Van Den Eede
12.2  Factitious Disorders – 273
  Ine Klijn

Chapter 13  Eating Disorders – 279
  Annemarie van Elburg and Myriam Vervaet

Chapter 14  Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders – 293
  Geert Dom and Wim van den Brink

Chapter 15  Personality Disorders – 3138
  Moniek Thunnissen, Kees Kooiman and Ann Berens

Chapter 16  Neurodevelopmental Disorders in Adults – 335
  Jan Buitelaar and Rutger Jan van der Gaag

Part III  Selected Psychiatric Topics

Chapter 17  General Hospital Psychiatry – 355
  Filip Van Den Eede and Albert Leentjens

Chapter 18  Geriatric Psychiatry – 363
  Max Stek, Mathieu Vandenbulcke and Roos van der Mast

Chapter 19  Psychiatry and the Law – 375
  Emke Plomp and Kris Goethals

Appendix A  The Mental State Examination in Medical Training – 387
Appendix B  Glossary of Psychiatric Terms for Medical Training – 395

About the Authors – 423
Index – 427
The coming about of this psychiatry textbook needs some clarification, as its contents are excerpted from an existing comprehensive Dutch psychiatry textbook.

Ever since its publication, the Dutch textbook of psychiatry edited by Hengeveld, van Balkom, van Heeringen and Sabbe has been used to teach psychiatry at the medical school of the University of Groningen. It has been praised for many reasons by both teachers and students. When the new G2020 curriculum started at the Groningen medical faculty in 2014, the concept of learning communities was introduced. Two of these communities are taught in English. This created the need for an English-language psychiatry textbook.

Unfortunately, none of the existing textbooks fulfilled our needs. Some textbooks lacked consistent editing across chapters, others catered to training psychiatrists rather than medical students. Yet others were not sufficiently in sync with contemporary psychiatry, or were incompatible with the DSM classification system. Also, the subject of psychiatry and the law within the Dutch context was conspicuously and understandably lacking. For this reason, the Department of Psychiatry contacted the publisher to see whether it would be possible to translate the Dutch textbook by Hengeveld and colleagues. It was decided to translate those chapters that reflected the curriculum of the University of Groningen plus a selection of other essential topics.

Michiel W. Hengeveld kindly agreed to proofread the translated materials. The present English version now meets the same standards as the Dutch version, and the medical faculty of the University of Groningen is very happy to be able to offer it to both Dutch and English-speaking students.

With the ever-growing influx of foreign students at Dutch universities, the call for English reading materials is increasing. Many sources were already available in English. This textbook is now added to these valuable sources. Hopefully it will find its way to more medical faculties.

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