Emergency Psychiatry
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I dedicate this book to Karen, my wonderful inspiration; to Sydney, William, and Nathan, who all remind me of what is important; and to Teruni and Tamara and my parents, whose support helped make this work possible. May this book serve well those who seek to reduce suffering.

Arjun Chanmugam

For Audrey, Hallie, and Alex, and with thanks to James and Florence for their support and kindness. Thanks too to my colleagues at Johns Hopkins for their wisdom, guidance and unwavering commitment to our shared missions.

Patrick Triplett

To my late parents, Andrew and Susan Kelen, who instilled in me a love for discovery.

Gabor Kelen
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Preface

*Emergency Psychiatry* is designed for health care providers who may manage patients with acute psychiatric problems or wish to better understand the fundamentals of urgent psychiatric conditions. This concise but practical reference focuses on the management of patients who are thought to be suffering from an acute psychiatric ailment or crisis. The authors are experts in their field, and the editorial team each has considerable clinical experience in emergency psychiatric evaluation and care, including the inherent difficulties associated with many of the conditions and the superimposition of social contexts.

Our goal was to provide a review of the key issues in psychiatry in a comprehensive but succinct format. Although many of the issues discussed in this book are complex and deserving of a more detailed discussion, our primary concern was to provide a review that will help guide practical acute management. Psychiatric conditions are, by their very nature, challenging to manage, but with a good understanding of the pathology and the appropriate resources, patients can be effectively cared for in the acute setting. The editors understand that in some cases, adequate resources for psychiatric patients may be wanting or scarce; it was in fact that very realization which compelled us to create a reference to assist the acute care provider in stabilizing and managing the patient with an acute presentation of psychiatric illness.

Emergency psychiatry is a nascent subspecialty of both psychiatry and emergency medicine. However, many fields of medicine are called on to recognize and manage patients with acute psychiatric conditions and to appreciate the impact these conditions have on other clinical and social conditions. We hope that this book may help to better serve patients and providers and in the process to promote increased recognition of the importance of emergency psychiatry.
Acknowledgement

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