

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-87997-2 - Cambridge Handbook of Psychology, Health and Medicine, Second Edition

Edited by Susan Ayers, Andrew Baum, Chris McManus, Stanton Newman, Kenneth Wallston, John Weinman and Robert West

Frontmatter

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Cambridge Handbook of Psychology, Health and Medicine

Second edition

Wholly revised, reworked and extended, this new edition of the much acclaimed *Cambridge Handbook of Psychology, Health and Medicine* offers a fully up-to-date, comprehensive, accessible, one-stop resource for health care professionals, clinical psychologists, mental health professionals and broadcasters specializing in health-related matters. There are two new editors: Susan Ayers from the University of Sussex and Kenneth Wallston from Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

The highly prestigious editorial team and their international, interdisciplinary cast of authors have reconceptualized this new edition. The old Part I has been dropped and its most useful elements revised and incorporated into relevant parts of the new book. Among the many new topics added throughout are: diet and health, ethnicity and health, clinical interviewing, mood assessment, communicating risk, medical interviewing, diagnostic procedures, organ donation, IVF, MMR, HRT, sleep disorders, skin disorders, depression and anxiety disorders.

No one interested in healthcare issues, promotion and care should be without this book.

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From reviews of the first edition:

'The new Cambridge Handbook is simply indispensable. . . . The book will find a wide market. No clinical psychologist is going to want to be without it. Perhaps more important, many doctors will continue to dip into it from time to time, since one of the book's virtues is to be written in a generally jargon free manner, accessible to all health professionals. Journalists from the better papers will use it frequently, since it gives a quick synopsis of the current state of play on a vast range of topics which are rarely absent from the health pages. Finally, journal editors will find it a valuable address book when they need referees for the ever increasing flow of research papers in this fascinating field'. Simon Wessely, *Psychological Medicine*

'This book is a rich mine of information for the general practitioner. . . . The day I received it a student came to ask me for advice about essays. Putting the "encyclopaedic handbook" to its first test, we looked up a few keywords. There was a chapter on each one. Bite-size morsels of information, easily digestible, comprehensive. I shall certainly keep this book within easy reach for future reference'. Caroline Selai, *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*

'Easy to read; a practical book'. *Journal of Pediatric Endocrinology and Metabolism*

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo

Cambridge University Press

The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521879972

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First published 2007

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication data

Cambridge handbook of psychology, health, and medicine / [edited by]

Susan Ayers . . . [et al.]. -- 2nd ed.

p.;cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN-13 978-0-521-60510-6 (pbk.)

ISBN-10 0-521-60510-5 (pbk.)

1. Medicine and psychology—Handbooks, manuals, etc. I. Ayers, Susan, 1964-.

II. Title: Handbook of psychology, health, and medicine.

[DNLM: 1. Psychology, Medical—Handbooks. 2. Behavioral Medicine—Handbooks.

WB 39 C178 2007]

R726.5.C354 2007

616.001'9—dc22

2006028358

ISBN-13 978-0-521-60510-6 paperback

ISBN-13 978-0-521-87997-2 hardback

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Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-87997-2 - Cambridge Handbook of Psychology, Health and Medicine, Second Edition
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Cambridge University Press

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Preface

Health psychology is an established field, with an impact on many aspects of medical training, practice and research. Although there are some very good textbooks and handbooks of health psychology available, these are directed primarily at psychologists working in health-related areas. There has been a need for a comprehensive reference text suitable for medical practitioners who wish to be appraised of ways in which psychology can help them in their work. Such a book should also provide a unique resource for undergraduate and postgraduate medical education.

This book is intended as a comprehensive handbook for medical practitioners and health professionals, and for psychologists who work with health professionals. It will also be of interest to undergraduates undertaking psychology, medicine and other health-related courses, and to postgraduate students on MSc and PhD courses.

The book is in two parts.

Part I: Psychology, health and illness is in four sections and reviews the main theories and findings in psychology as applied to medicine, covering (i) psychological aspects of health and illness, (ii) psychological assessment, (iii) psychological intervention and (iv) psychological factors associated with the practice of healthcare.

Part II: Medical topics examines psychological theories and findings relevant to particular medical conditions, investigations, treatments and prophylaxes.

It will be apparent that the decision to place some chapters in Part II rather than Part I is a matter of judgement. In general, the decision was made on whether the topic appeared to cut across a range of illnesses or treatments. However, if the reader cannot find a topic in Part II, he or she is quite likely to find material relevant to it in Part I.

This is primarily a reference text and therefore it is expected that readers will seek out particular chapters for particular purposes. For this reason the chapters within each section are arranged alphabetically and the titles phrased in encyclopaedic language.

Inevitably there is some overlap between chapters dealing with related topics because each chapter is self-contained and we have tried to keep to a minimum the need for movement back and forth between entries.

Clinical practitioners will probably wish to use the book by looking up entries in Part II that are of interest, gaining further background information or clarification of concepts from Part I. Teachers will probably focus mostly on chapters in Part I as basic reading for courses on psychology as applied to medicine, using material from Part II as supplementary reading to show how basic principles can be applied.

Although we have attempted to make the book as comprehensive as possible, it would be unrealistic to imagine that a single text could encompass the whole field adequately. It must also be the case that there are topics that have not been addressed at all. However, we have tried to make the coverage as broad as possible, and keep such gaps to a minimum. For added depth of coverage, the extensive reference lists should be an invaluable resource.

This second edition has been a long time in gestation and the editors are deeply indebted to the contributors for their efforts in producing what we believe are some very fine chapters and for their patience. We believe that the effort has been worthwhile and that the result has been worth waiting for. We hope that the contributors and the readers will agree.

Finally, special thanks are due to Dr Katherine Joeke for her editorial assistance.

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