

Fads and Fallacies in Psychiatry

Second Edition

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-009-24573-9 — Fads and Fallacies in Psychiatry 2nd Edition
Joel Paris
Frontmatter
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Joel Paris

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This book is dedicated to family and friends who
encouraged me to go into psychiatry.

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Preface to the Second Edition

A decade has passed since the publication of the first edition of this book. Although many notable research findings have emerged since then, psychiatry has yet to solve the enigma of the causes of mental illness. Our treatment methods are largely effective, and we do well with most patients. Yet, like physicians of earlier times, we suffer from the absence of a valid theory, and are forced to target symptoms rather than mental illness as a whole. But uncertainty can be difficult to accept. This lack of knowledge opens the door to fads and fallacies.

The first edition of this book was relatively brief, but this second edition will examine psychiatry's fads and fallacies in somewhat more detail, reviewing recent research and expanding the scope of the critique. The recommendations will be the same—that there is a need for a more scientific practice, and for greater humility in the face of complexity.

Acknowledgments

Peter Tyrer has been consistently supportive of both the first edition and the expanded second edition of this book.