

Preface

Expanding Treatment Potential for Substance Use Disorders



Itai Danovitch, MD



John J. Mariani, MD

Guest Editors

The treatment of substance use disorders is rapidly changing and the potential to identify and treat individuals suffering from addiction continues to increase. Advances in brain imaging technology and genetics have expanded our understanding of the neurobiology of addiction. New behavioral psychotherapies, as well as novel delivery mechanisms, are changing the nature of standard treatment approaches. Pharmacotherapy options continue to expand in terms of number of effective medications identified as well as treatment delivery models. Treatment methods for certain subpopulations of individuals with substance use disorders have been advanced greatly. This issue of the *Psychiatric Clinics of North America* provides an overview of cutting-edge developments in addiction science and treatment.

While the treatment expertise for managing patients with substance use disorders frequently is concentrated in subspecialists, it is of great importance for general psychiatry practitioners to be familiar with the developments in addiction science and treatment. Substance use disorders occupy a unique place in our system of care. Historically, much of the treatment of individuals with substance use disorders evolved outside of traditional medical and psychiatric care, with mutual assistance groups and other nonprofessionals playing a primary role. This model has changed in recent decades, with dramatic developments in the understanding of the neurobiological mechanisms underpinning the behavioral patterns of addiction. The treatment of substance use disorders has evolved into a scientifically based clinical model, with strong correlations between basic science knowledge and available effective treatments. General psychiatry practitioners in practically all treatment settings will inevitably encounter individuals with substance use disorders. Awareness of the state

of development of addiction clinical science is necessary to achieve the best possible clinical outcomes.

This issue of the *Psychiatric Clinics of North America* provides a well-balanced sampling of cutting-edge developments in addiction science and clinical practice. We have been fortunate to have an impressive roster of prominent clinician-scientist contributors with a broad range of expertise. The review articles collected here represent an impressive sampling of the most important developments in addiction science. We hope you find this issue as interesting and valuable as we do.

Itai Danovitch, MD
Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
8730 Alden Drive, C-301
Los Angeles, CA 90048, USA

John J. Mariani, MD
Substance Treatment and Research Service
New York State Psychiatric Institute/Columbia University
1051 Riverside Drive, Unit 66
New York, NY 10010, USA

E-mail addresses:
itai.danovitch@cshs.org (I. Danovitch)
jm2330@columbia.edu (J.J. Mariani)