

Seminars in Old Age Psychiatry

College Seminars Series

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Foreword

Series Editors

The publication of *College Seminars*, a series of textbooks covering the breadth of psychiatry, is very much in line with the Royal College of Psychiatrists' established role in education and in setting professional standards.

College Seminars are intended to help junior doctors during their training years. We hope that trainees will find these books useful, on the ward as well as in preparation for the MRCPsych examination. Separate volumes will cover clinical psychiatry, each of its sub-specialities, and also the relevant non-clinical academic disciplines of psychology and sociology.

College Seminars will make a contribution to the continuing professional development of established clinicians.

Psychiatry is concerned primarily with people, and to a lesser extent with disease processes and pathology. The core of the subject is rich in ideas and schools of thought, and no single approach or solution can embrace the variety of problems a psychiatrist meets. For this reason, we have endeavoured to adopt an eclectic approach to practical management throughout the series.

The College can draw on the collective wisdom of many individuals in clinical and academic psychiatry. More than a hundred people have contributed to this series; this reflects how diverse and complex psychiatry has become.

Frequent new editions of books appearing in the series are envisaged, which should allow *College Seminars* to be responsive to readers' suggestions and needs.

Hugh Freeman
Ian Pullen
George Stein
Greg Wilkinson

Preface

When this book was first commissioned, the editors were Mohsen Naguib and Brice Pitt, who welcomed the opportunity to write a succinct, up to the minute text, which would appeal to all professionals working in the mental health of older age.

The contributors had been identified, and most had sent in their chapters, when Mohsen died suddenly and unexpectedly of a heart attack, at the age of forty-four. This devastating loss set the book back by three years. Much of it was in Mohsen's filing cabinets, or on computer, and all the contributors (and a few new ones) were asked to update their manuscripts. We are most grateful for their forbearance, goodwill and hard work in producing finished texts. We also appreciate the faith of Professor Greg Wilkinson and Dave Jago that the book would come to fruition.

*Rob Butler
Brice Pitt*

Dedication

Mohsen Naguib, MD PhD MRCPsych, 1949–1993