
Introduction

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Neurology and psychiatry began as a unified specialty attempting to provide objective assessment of behavior and characterization of the underlying central nervous system biology. Over time the two emerged and drifted apart, at the expense of losing a coordinated approach to managing the complex relationship between the brain and behavior. More recently, better imaging techniques have improved our understanding of the neurobiological basis of psychiatric disorders; this in turn has highlighted the collaborative effort needed between the two specialties in order to maximize our ability to treat and manage neuropsychiatric conditions.

It was with great pleasure that we embraced the challenge to edit this issue on neuropsychiatry for the *Mount Sinai Journal of Medicine*. Dr. Sano is a neuropsychologist involved in designing and conducting clinical trials for neurodegenerative diseases, including Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. She has studied women's attitudes about prevention of memory loss and measuring quality of life. Dr. Riggio is a neurologist and a psychiatrist with a strong interest in the interface between psychiatry and neurology. In particular, she is interested in the psychiatric manifestations of seizure disorders and other neurologic diseases. She has recently edited an issue on neuropsychiatry for the journal *Psychiatric Clinics of North America* and has organized courses for both neurology and psychiatry house staff on the interface of both fields.

This issue begins with an article by Dr. Elder, providing a research update on neuropsychiatry. This article offers a historical perspective and a comprehensive review of neurogenesis in the mammalian brain, with implications for future treatments. Next is a chapter from Dr. Charney, our Dean for Academic and Scientific Affairs, and his collaborators, on the neurobiology of fear and anxiety disorders. It provides an understanding of pathways involved and previously unknown peptide systems with therapeutic potential. Dr. Byne presents a review of disorders of sexual differentiation along with a framework to help us understand the biological substrates of gender identity.

Drs. Riggio and Rowan provide a review of the psychiatric manifestations of seizures disorder, its clinical features, electrodiagnostic changes, diagnostic challenges, and guidelines for treatment. Drs. Sano and Aloysi describe a range of cognitive and affective disturbances in women through menopause and review the neurobiology that underlies treatment options.

There are also articles on cognitive and behavioral disturbances that appear in neuropsychiatric disorders, including two excellent reviews of specific conditions of the elderly, one by Dr. Nassisi and colleagues, on the management of delirium in the elderly patient, and one by Drs. Grossman and Bergmann on the range of dementias. Drs. Bowie and Harvey provide a comprehensive review of schizophrenia as a neuropsychiatric condition, with a focus on cognitive dysfunction.

An article on the neuropsychiatric consequences of brain injury, provided by Dr. Gordon, a professor of rehabilitation medicine, and his colleagues, includes guidelines for clinical assessment addressing both cognitive and psychiatric manifestations. Finally, a review of the neuropsychiatric consequences of cerebral vascular lesions is provided by Dr. Levine, an expert in the treatment and management of stroke, and Dr. Chemerinski, a psychiatrist.

It was our goal to combine our various interests and perspectives in research and clinical practice, thus providing an overview of the field of neuropsychiatry. Our hope is to provide the reader with insightful perspectives on the controversies and challenges we are confronted with and to inspire and promote further collaborative efforts between basic scientists and clinicians in this growing field.

Neuropsychiatry