Preface

During the past years there has been rapid progress in the understanding of how environmental factors, including stress exposure, and genetic factors impact psychopathology in children. The first two parts of this book present the basic principles of brain development describing anatomical, functional, and molecular changes and the effects of hormones and genes. Next, the development of the most important neuronal systems is discussed. This includes systems involved in emotion processing, cognitive control, and social processes. These first two general sections are followed by an overview of recent research on various neuronal and psychiatric disorders, where environmental exposures and altered brain development play an important role: sleep, autism, ADHD, and other developmental forms of psychopathology.
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