Preface

Child and Adolescent Psychiatry: Asian Perspectives is a compilation of resources in child mental health from a perspective applicable to Asia. There are differences in many areas of child and adolescent mental health such as child-rearing practices, societal acceptance of psychopathology, resilience, availability of newer treatments, and professionals between Asia and the West. Fundamentally, most of the knowledge guiding the theory and practice of child psychiatry in the world has been derived from studies done in Europe and America. In this context, we attempted to gather available information from within Asia that could provide a strong evidence base to inform professionals in the field during the 7th Asian Society for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions (ASCAPAP) Congress held in New Delhi, India in September 2013. Leading experts in child and adolescent psychiatry from Asia and other parts of the world discussed their research and provided valuable insights into various issues of contemporary importance in child mental health and psychiatry. We decided to capture this information in its updated form for purposes of this book.

The majority of neurodevelopmental disorders persists along the entire lifespan of the individual and can have a deleterious impact on the quality of life of the individual and their families. To manage this in part, where there are limited resources, treatment strategies ought to involve comprehensive and multidisciplinary approaches. In recent years, there has gradually been some pertinent literature emanating from Asia. There are, however, at present no major child psychiatry books from this region.

There is a pressing need to make available resources that are credible in order to provide perspectives for professionals to interpret and adapt knowledge that will benefit their patients in routine clinical practice. We hope that this volume will allow readers to take a more considered approach when treating and managing children with mental health problems in Asia. To a certain extent, extrapolating principles and guidelines from developed countries is useful; however, information regarding prevailing child psychiatry theories and practices, and their applicability across populations, taking into account the local sociocultural context, need to be contextually examined and evaluated.
This volume focuses on several child psychiatry disorders and mental health issues from an Asian perspective, as applicable. The contributors are leading authorities from Asia and other parts of the world in their respective fields.

The book has 26 chapters divided into 7 parts. Part I deals with some of the major psychiatric disorders seen in children and adolescents, including pediatric bipolar disorders (Chap. 1), dissociative disorders (Chap. 2), attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (Chap. 3), affective disorders, highlighting current status and controversies (Chap. 4) and suicide (Chap. 5). Part II deals with substance abuse disorders (Chap. 6) and tobacco use amongst children and adolescents (Chap. 7), and focuses on the impact that these substances might have on the developing brain. Part III focuses on the role of environment and cultural issues in shaping the growing brain and emerging personality of children. The chapter on parenting and child-rearing practices in the globalizing world (Chap. 8) highlights contemporary issues in parenting and consequences for child development. There is also a chapter on resilience among street children (Chap. 9). Cyberage and child mental health is also discussed (Chap. 10) as is child sexual abuse (Chap. 11). The chapter on parental loss (Chap. 12) provides a psychoanalytic view of long-term consequences of early childhood parental loss. Early diagnosis and intervention is dealt with in Part IV, focusing on early diagnosis and intervention, underscoring the importance of infancy and early childhood in recognizing and treating psychopathology (Chap. 13). Chapters on temperament (Chap. 14) and childhood antecedents of personality disorders (Chap. 15) provide insights into developmental trajectories leading on to the evolution of personality and adaptation patterns through childhood experiences. Part V includes pharmacological and biological treatments in children. The chapters in this part deal with the paradigm shift in child psychopharmacology (Chap. 16) and from a low resource country perspective (Chap. 17). It also includes a lucid discussion and review of psychopharmacology of neurodevelopmental disorders in children (Chap. 18); which provide valuable insights into web-based health monitoring and wearable sensor technology for managing neuropsychiatric symptoms in rare diseases. The last chapter in this part (Chap. 19) discusses electroconvulsive therapy for severe mental disorders in children and adolescents. Part VI on non-pharmacological interventions includes chapters on play therapy (Chap. 20), psychosocial interventions in poor scholastic performance (Chap. 21), and low cost solutions in learning disabilities (Chap. 22). The last part, Part VII, refers to services and policy for children and focuses on the progress and promise of mental health policy (Chap. 23) and describes an innovative model of telepsychiatry service developed in India for treating children and adolescents, using nonspecialists, in remote areas (Chap. 24). Following on from this, mental health gaps between needs and resources in Asia are discussed (Chap. 25) and finally, teaching of child psychiatry from a transcultural perspective is discussed (Chap. 26).

We hope that mental health professionals, students and researchers in Asia and other parts of the world with sizeable Asian communities will find this book to be
a useful addition to the literature. Students of child psychiatry and psychology will also benefit from exploring the chapters in an analytical and an adaptive manner in particular sociocultural issues that are relevant to child mental health. We would be happy if this volume serves this purpose.

Chapter 12, “The Lifelong Impact of Childhood Parental Loss: Manifestations and Management”, was originally published in Matters of Life and Death: Psychoanalytic Reflections by Salman Akhtar (published by Karnac Books in 2011), and is reprinted with the kind permission of Karnac Books.

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