



## Seminars in Liaison Psychiatry (College Seminars Series)

*By Elspeth Guthrie, Sanjay Rao, Melanie Temple*

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Seminars in Liaison Psychiatry provides an up-to-date review of this important psychiatric specialty. Packed with practical advice for clinicians carrying out psychiatric assessment and treatment in the general hospital setting, the second edition has been expanded to cover a wide range of common clinical areas at the interface between physical and psychological health. There are new chapters on alcohol and substance misuse in the general hospital, HIV and liaison psychiatry, palliative care, disaster management and psychosexual problems. For liaison psychiatrists involved in developing new services, there are chapters on service development and management, while trainees about to sit the MRCPsych examinations can test themselves using the multiple-choice questions (MCQs) and extended matching items (EMIs) provided.

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## **Editorial Review**

### Review

This is a welcome, practical and wide-ranging book, setting out best practice in general hospital psychiatry. It feels coherent as a volume, with all its contributors having been UK-trained. Expectations are met with plenty of extra resources (training competencies for junior doctors, reflections on current classifications, management of sleep disorders and long-term conditions, and multilevel approaches to service development). This book is aimed at interested trainees and busy clinicians who will be impressed with the scope of chapters that go beyond the obvious and champion evidence-based practice. Its tone is optimistic with outstanding chapters on psycho-oncology, medically unexplained symptoms and psychotherapy. *Seminars in Liaison Psychiatry* is not an introductory textbook and assumes the level of knowledge of at least a RCPsych membership trainee. After gentle but useful introductory chapters, almost every possible referral to a liaison service is covered, ending with a 'how to' of service design and business cases, and finishing with self-assessment. Some omissions are minor and probably a case of subjects mentioned in passing: electroconvulsive therapy deserves more space, burns are a major challenge on the wards, as are patients with learning difficulties, and the sections on alcohol need to cover the rising epidemic of alcohol-related brain disease. Although psychological reactions to physical illness are consistently and adequately discussed, a separate section on the various presentations of personality disorder would add to this volume. But when early intervention in long-term conditions and traumatic events get properly discussed and workable solutions posited, this book will become an essential resource for liaison psychiatrists. --Peter Byrne, Newham University Hospital, London, *British Journal of Hospital Medicine*, October 2012, Vol 73, No 10

Much of the book is quite relevant to consultation psychiatry in the United States, however. The chapter on oncology liaison, for example, succinctly and clearly reviews the psychiatric issues specific to that specialty. The chapter on sexual disorders is excellent, clearly covering an important area not often dealt with in the consultation-liaison literature. Chapters on perinatal psychiatry, HIV, pediatrics, palliative care, weight-and-eating related issues, and medically unexplained symptoms should all be quite useful for the trainee who wants a practical, readable overview of the area. It is refreshing to see the emphasis given to somatoform disorders throughout the book, an area surprisingly little attention in much consultation-liaison literature.

Because of its readability and practicality, I recommend this book for resident trainees and psychiatrists unfamiliar with the different area of knowledge and the skills required in consultation psychiatry. --Jon Streltzer MD, *Journal of Clinical Psychiatry*

### About the Author

Elspeth Guthrie - Professor of Psychological Medicine and Medical Psychotherapy, Manchester Royal Infirmary. Sanjay Rao - Sanjay Rao, Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Dalhousie University, and Head of Psychiatry, Annapolis Valley Health, Nova Scotia, Canada. Melanie Temple - Consultant Liaison Psychiatrist, Darlington Memorial Hospital, Darlington.

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