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Negative and cognitive symptoms have been considered as the core symptoms of schizophrenia for more than hundred years and they are associated with poor outcomes in schizophrenia. Until recently cognitive symptoms have been part of the negative symptom domain, however current research separates these two symptom domains. Positive symptoms predominate in contemporary diagnostic criteria of schizophrenia and research on negative symptoms lags behind research on positive symptoms; for example: a search of Google Scholar for “schizophrenia and hallucinations” on 25 April, 2021 resulted in ca. 18 200 hits for the period between 2016 and 2020, while the search for “schizophrenia and avolition” only resulted in ca. 4290 hits. Antipsychotic drugs approved for the treatment of schizophrenia have strong evidence for their efficacy against positive symptoms. A large number of compounds were tested for the treatment of negative and cognitive symptoms in schizophrenia, however most of them failed to show efficacy. Basic researchers and the pharmaceutical industry are looking forward to receiving new data about negative and cognitive symptoms in schizophrenia, which could help to better define these symptom domains as targets for drug discovery and development. The same need is detectable in the field of non-pharmacological treatments for negative and cognitive symptoms, e.g. exercise based interventions or brain stimulation methods. This book, “Negative and cognitive disorders in endogenous psychoses: diagnosis, clinical presentation, therapy”, 2nd edition - written and edited by Professors N.G.Neznanov and M.V.Ivanov with the contribution of Professor A.P.Kotsyubinsky, responds to a great unmet need in the field of negative and cognitive symptoms. The authors address these symptoms in different psychiatric disorders, thus expanding the rather narrow categorical (diagnostic) boundaries of research in the field of negative symptoms. This transdiagnostic approach is in line with the Research Domain Criteria (RDoC) initiative of the US National Institute of Mental Health, which can be extremely useful both in research and clinical work and it facilitates future research. The authors’ careful analysis of the long-term course of negative symptoms and of the relationship between positive and negative symptoms in various clinical forms of schizophrenia, and in affective disorders follows a clinical methodology based on the best traditions of the Russian schools of psychopathology. The challenges of the diagnosis and treatment of depressive conditions in schizophrenia are examined in the

light of current achievements in biological psychiatry. The description of the “neuroleptic hyperprolactinemia syndrome” as a potential predictor of depression in patients with schizophrenia is a special contribution to our understanding of the complex interactions between schizophrenia and its treatment. The complex typology of negative symptoms in schizophrenia and affective disorders presented by the authors is based on both a review of the literature and data from a clinical study. This typology is a unique description, among other classifications of negative symptoms by expanding their interpretation to the level of personality; the description includes asthenic, apathetic, apato-abulic, and atonic forms and pseudo-organic, para-organic, and organic types of deficit states. The authors provide a useful overview of morphological and functional changes in the brain with respect to schizophrenia and affective psychoses, and describe their potential association with negative symptoms. From the point of view of clinical practice, a detailed description of the methods of diagnosis available in Russian language and a summary of effective methods of treating cognitive and negative symptoms are most useful. A separate chapter written by Prof. A.P.Kotsyubinsky is devoted to the relationship of predominant negative symptoms and the social functioning of patients with the diagnosis of schizophrenia.

I highly recommend this book to professionals and trainees in psychiatry, psychotherapy, psychology, rehabilitation and related disciplines, to graduate students in medicine and psychology as well as to researchers interested in the negative and cognitive symptoms of psychiatric disorders.

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