PSYCHIATRY AND THE NEUROSCIENCES
INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

Edited by
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INTERNATIONAL PROCEEDINGS
Preface

In late November 2010, the 4th International Congress on Psychiatry and the Neurosciences was held in Thessaloniki, Greece; it was hosted by the Hellenic Society for the Advancement of Psychiatry and Related Sciences under the auspices of the World Psychiatric Association (WPA), the World Federation of Societies of Biological Psychiatry (WFSBP) and the International Neuropsychiatric Association (INA). In the following months, some participants responded positively to our request and kindly provided their manuscripts for publication; thus, we are quite fortunate to present in this volume the respective papers. Among the authors are several leading figures of the psychiatric community worldwide, including members of the executive bodies of the three sponsoring international organizations mentioned above.

The editorial efforts were mainly focused on two tasks: (a) to achieve as much as possible structural homogeneity across papers, while leaving their individual characteristics unaffected and (b) to organize the contents of the volume in a thematically cohesive manner. We feel that the first of these two tasks, very challenging by its proper nature, was only partially accomplished; however, the end result reflects intercultural polymorphism as well as differences due to the multi-disciplinary nature of most topics. The second task was dealt with by dividing the volume into two parts: ‘Reviews and Overviews’ and ‘Research Reports and Clinical Observations’; furthermore, within the first part, we distinguished one section on ‘Biological correlates of psychiatric disorders’ and another on ‘Neuropsychiatric disorders and related conditions’. Finally, the sequential order of the papers within each part/section of the volume, although intuitive to a large extent, aims at facilitating use of the content as a Continuing Medical Education tool.

Since the contents of this volume represent in essence Congress Proceedings, data within it may well be part of work which could be presented elsewhere; we trust that adequate care has been taken for appropriate referencing. Before closing, we wish to express our great appreciation to all contributors of this volume; any foresight on our part is kindly expected to meet their understanding as well as that of the readers.

The Editors
Constantin R. Soldatos and Dimitris G. Dikeos
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