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## Suicide: Biopsychosocial Approaches

Edited by A.J. Botsis, C.R. Soldatos and C.N. Stefanis

In recent years research into suicide has grown and significant advances have been made in clarifying the phenomenological and clinical profile of the potential suicide victim, as well as in identifying some of the biological, psychological and sociological risk factors for self-destructive behavior. The knowledge so far collated, has shed light on many aspects of suicidal behavior and provides a sound ground in answering the question, "What leaves a person with no other choice but to terminate his life?"

The presentation in a book of such a multi-faceted, multi-dimensional, age-long human enigma is a difficult task and a stimulating challenge. This book is based on a selection of papers presented at the International Conference on Suicide, held in Athens in 1996, where contributions by renowned researchers in the field were made. It comprehensively covers a wide range of theoretical, clinical, ethical and legal issues currently related to suicide, as well as selecting the main topics from the central presentations of the Conference.

Contents: Epidemiology in General and Special Populations. Suicide trends in Europe, 1984-1990 (D. Wasserman *et al.*). The epidemiology of death and suicide symptoms in primary health care (V.G. Mavreas, T.B. Ustun). Suicide in the United States military (E. Cassimatis, J. Rothberg). Suicide in mood disorders (E.T. Isometsä, J. Lönnqvist). Suicide in schizophrenia (A. Roy). The relationship of suicide attempts to licit and illicit drug use (A. Kokkevi, K. Politikou, C. Stefanis). Physical illness and suicide: the facts (C.R. Soldatos). Etiopathogenetic Considerations. Some biological and psychological aspects of suicidal behavior: An attempt to bridge the gap (H.M. van Praag). Neurobiological insights into the pathogenesis of self-mutilation and suicidal behavior (J.J. Mann *et al.*). Heredity and suicidality (G.N. Papadimitriou). Suicide and violence: the two-stage model of countervailing forces (R. Plutchik). Suicidal behavior: risk and protective factors (A. Botsis). The psychology of suicide: past and present (N.L. Farberow). Clinical Issues Clinical problems in assessing suicide risk (D.J. Pallis). Parasuicide: is it a distinct phenomenon? (R.F.W. Diekstra). Attempted suicide by violent methods (V.P. Kontaxakis, G.N. Christodoulou). Counseling the suicidal person in the modern age (D. Lester). Suicidal crisis: psychodynamic approaches (B. Buda). Assessment of suicidal behavior in adolescence (S. Beratis). Suicide in children and adolescents (A. Apter). The suicidal patient and the antidepressant drugs (A. Parashos). Conceptual and Ethical Issues The will to die: an international perspective (A.A. Leenaars, R.F.W. Diekstra). Civilisation, suicide, physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia (M. J. Kelleher). Expanding our conceptual horizons on the future of suicide research (R. Plutchik). Index of authors. Keyword index.

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