I am very excited to serve as guest editor of this issue of Psychiatric Annals on child and adolescent psychiatry. This is a widely growing field with various developments in the clinical arena, training, education, as well as cutting-edge research in genetics and neuroimaging. Developmental perspective in all areas of child and adolescent psychiatry is a distinct hallmark of this specialty. This issue is timely in light of all of the exciting recent advances in this specialty.

The first article, “Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder: An Overview,” by Dr. Dorothy E. Stubbe provides a comprehensive overview of the etiology, neuroimaging results, genetic factors, assessment, comorbidity, clinical course, and treatment. Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder is one of the most common childhood psychiatric disorders and, for a significant number of people, it persists into adulthood. Effective treatment includes psychosocial interventions, effective educational planning, and medications.

In the second article, “Overview and Management of Common Sleep Disorders in Children: A Review for Psychiatrists,” Dr. Louis Kazaglis and colleagues describe common sleep disorders of childhood and associated treatment modalities. Sleep issues are common in children and adolescents and, if undiagnosed and left untreated, can affect physical and emotional well-being. It’s important that psychiatrists, pediatricians, and primary care physicians have knowledge of various sleep problems in children, which can lead to timely diagnosis and treatment.

In the next article, “Pediatric Speech and Language Disorders in the Context of Evidence-Based Taxonomies,” Marina A. Zhukova and colleagues describe various differences regarding speech and language disorders according to the different versions of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders and the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems. The authors indicate that 3% to 10% of preschool and school-age children have speech and language disorders that can affect emotional, social, academic, behavioral, and occupational outcomes.

Next, Dr. Salma Malik and I in the article “Psychopharmacogenomics in Pediatric Psychiatry with a Focus on Cytochrome P450 Testing,” explain the concept of personalized medicine in the field of pediatric psychiatry. This article provides an overview of pharmacogenomics with a discussion about the metabolism of psychotropic medications and cytochrome P450 enzymes.

The final article, “Autism Spectrum Disorder: An Update,” by myself and Drs. Nazish Imran and Imran S. Khawaja explains the etiology, diagnosis, and differential diagnosis regarding autism spectrum disorder. Additionally, we explain the importance of comprehensive assessment and treatment.

I am thankful to all of the contributing authors. They are all well-respected clinicians, educators, and researchers in the field of child and adolescent psychiatry. We are all hopeful that you will find these articles useful for your clinical practice.

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Muhammad Waqar Azeem, MD, DFAACAP, DFAPA, recently became the Inaugural Chair in the Department of Psychiatry at the Sidra Medical and Research Center and Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar (WCMC-Q). Dr. Azeem will play an integral role in improving mental health services for children and families in Qatar and the region. Dr. Azeem is also an Associate Clinical Professor at the Yale Child Study Center (Yale University School of Medicine).

Prior to joining the Sidra Medical and Research Center, Dr. Azeem served as Chief of Psychiatry and Medical Director at the Albert J. Solnit Children’s Center in Connecticut, one of the premiere child and adolescent psychiatry teaching facilities in the United States. He also held the position of Associate Residency Training Program Director for the Yale Child Study Center/Solnit Center Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship.

Dr. Azeem, along with his colleagues in the United States, Pakistan, and United Kingdom, helped to develop the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship in Pakistan, which is based on a 2-year US training model in child psychiatry after 4 years of general psychiatry training. The fellowship will start in three major universities in Pakistan, and it’s a pioneering program at a national level in Asia.

He is Co-Chair of the APPNA (Association of Physicians of Pakistani Descent of North America) MERIT (Medical Education & Research International Training & Transfer of Technology) Program through which weekly lectures on different specialties are telecast live from the US to more than 30 institutions, medical schools, and hospitals in Pakistan and Middle East.

Dr. Azeem has collaborated with psychiatry professionals and medical schools in South East Asia and the Middle East on various projects including autism spectrum disorder, developmental disabilities, psychiatric comorbidity in medical conditions, as well as improving child and adolescent mental health services and training. His primary clinical and research interests include autism spectrum disorder, child and adolescent psychiatry training, global mental health, and looking into innovative ways in reducing restraints and seclusions in inpatient child and adolescent settings.

He has presented nationally and internationally and has published in peer-reviewed journals. Dr. Azeem has received several awards and honors for his work. He is a Distinguished Fellow of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry as well as a Distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association.

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