A New Role for Psychiatry in Medical Care

Jan Fawcett, MD

This issue of Psychiatric Annals, guest edited by Dr. Lisa J. Rosenthal, brings to light a new role that can improve the treatment of mental health patients—integrated consultation psychiatry for inpatient and outpatient hospital care. Each of the articles highlights a different aspect of the integrative psychiatry model; the articles represent a clear call for improved holistic medical care across the lifespan of patients who have psychiatric disorders.

This compilation of articles is not only asking all of us as clinicians to provide better, more comprehensive care for our patients, but also demonstrates the tools we need to do it. I am proud to have the journal publish such dynamic, innovative work.

SHIFTING MY FOCUS

I am currently in the midst of—for the first time in my life—giving up activities. I have never given up activities before. As mentioned in the May issue,1 I’m resigning from the journal at the end of 2017. I’m giving up court testimony in suicide cases, and also cutting my time at the University of New Mexico to quarter time. With all this extra time, I’m hoping to have more time to write novels.

I’ve even begun to clear my schedule of outpatient appointments, which has not been easy. I envy the energy of my residents who are just beginning their careers. How I’ve loved being a psychiatrist! How I’ve enjoyed the highs of seeing patients come to life! How I’ve learned from my patients!

REFERENCE


Jan Fawcett, MD, is a Professor, Department of Psychiatry, University of New Mexico School of Medicine. He was chairperson of the DSM-5 Mood Disorders Task Force.

Address correspondence to Jan Fawcett, MD, via email: psyann@Healio.com.

doi: 10.3928/00485713-20170605-01