

Preface

This volume represents a culmination of a project begun in 2004, planning a nationwide symposium sponsored by the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH)/McLean Hospital Adult Psychiatry Training Program and the American Psychiatric Association (APA)/SAMHSA (Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration) Minority Fellowship Program. Interested in the impact of acculturation on Asian American individuals and their families, we brought together a group of national experts to explore this topic. In the first half of the symposium, researchers discussed the development of acculturation scales, reviewed research on the impact of acculturation on mental health, and presented current research regarding acculturation. In the second half of the symposium, clinicians discussed how to incorporate acculturation in clinical practice, including working with families and special populations such as Southeast Asian Americans. What emerged in November 2005 was a day filled with thoughtful, lively exchange and discussion. The momentum generated from the symposium inspired the conception of this book, a synthesis of the work that was presented that day.

We are fortunate to have this opportunity and would like to thank those who made this symposium and book possible. We are grateful for the support of the APA/SAMHSA Minority Fellowship Program, the MGH Department of Psychiatry, MGH/McLean Hospital Adult Psychiatry Training Program, and the MGH Psychiatry Academy. We were fortunate to have MGH Psychiatry Academy document the symposium and archive it as a webcast on their web site: <http://www.mghcme.org> (search “Asian” to find our webcasts). We would also like to thank all of our authors for their hard work, generous gift of time, and gracious spirit with which they contributed to this project; our book project sponsor, Dr. Jerrold Rosenbaum, the Chair of the MGH Department of Psychiatry; our editor Mr. Richard Lansing and Humana Press; and Ms. Sara Nadelman, our symposium organizer.

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and acceptance of diversity throughout our training experiences. We hope that this book, like that day in November 2005, will foster interest in exploring the role acculturation plays in the mental health of Asian Americans.

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