

# Preface

To the best of my knowledge, this might be the first comprehensive oriented two-volume collection on anhedonia across neuropsychiatric and physical disorders. Anhedonia played an important role in psychopathology theories at the beginning of the twentieth century. It frequently occurs in mood disorders, as a negative symptom in schizophrenia, and in substance use disorders, as well as in neurological and physical disorders. Anhedonia or hedonic capacity deficit is a condition in which the capacity of pleasure is totally or partially lost, and it refers to both a personality trait, and a state symptom in various disorders. Over the past three decades cognitive psychology and behavioral neuroscience have expanded our understanding of anhedonia and other reward-related processes. It has a putative neural substrate, originating in the dopaminergic mesolimbic and mesocortical reward circuit. The aim of this new collection is to highlight the contributions of eminent scientists in this field as well as to provide readers with comprehensive accounts of recent developments as perceived by the authors. It is expected that “Anhedonia” will be very well received in international circles because it presents important reviews of current interest in this “hot” area.

This monograph is divided *into five parts*. *Volume I* contains two parts (*Conceptual Issues and Neurobiological Advances*) including 14 chapters that serve as an introduction and overview of conceptual issues. Key topics include: the different components and facets of anhedonia, reward response, pleasure systems for food, sensory rewards in the human brain, anhedonia in children and adolescents, neurogenetics and neurobiology of dopamine in anhedonia, the endocrinology of anhedonia, electrophysiological signatures of reward processing, the role of perceived control, dopaminergic mechanisms for motivational deficits, musical anhedonia, stress-induced eating disorders, brain imaging correlates of anhedonia, mouse models and improving pleasure in patients with anhedonia.

*Volume II* contains three parts (*Anhedonia in Psychotic Disorders, Anhedonia in Mood and Personality Disorders, and Anhedonia in Neurological and Physical Disorders*) including 15 chapters that focus on the history and provide an overview of the construct, measuring anhedonia in schizophrenia spectrum disorders,

hedonic capacity and related factors in schizophrenia and schizoaffective disorder, anhedonia as an indicator of genetic liability for schizophrenia, and a trait marker for depression, the role of an anhedonia in trauma-related disorders, anorexia nervosa, schizotypal traits and risk of suicide. The authors discuss the relationships of anhedonia features with epilepsy, Parkinson's disease and other movement disorders, with heart and cerebrovascular disorders. *Since many of the* contributors to this collection are internationally known experts, they not only provide up-to-date state of the art overviews, but also clarify some of the ongoing controversies and future challenges and propose new insights for future research. I would like to thank to all contributors for their cooperation. Finally, for the support and patience of my family and friends I am truly thankful. I sincerely hope that this book will be of interest to a broad spectrum of readers including psychiatrists, psychologists, neurologists, neuroscientists, endocrinologists, pharmacologists, general practitioners, geriatricians, graduate students, and health care providers in the fields of mental health.

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Conceptual Issues And Neurobiological Advances

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