

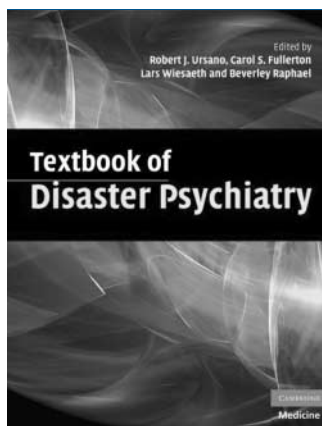
of mean QTc increase following administration of intramuscular ziprasidone.

The editors state that the chapters are 'tutorials' and it is quite clear that they are not reviews of the area. The authors seem to have been asked to produce 20-page articles with case examples and a list of 'key points' at the end. The case examples work very well, but the key points are let down by a tendency towards banality. For example, a 'key point' in the chapter on the elderly is that 'Violence resulting from dementia and delirium with resultant confusion is more common in the elderly'. Furthermore, the differences in approach between authors are illustrated by the length of their reference lists, the chapter on mood disorders giving more than 140 references and the one on schizophrenia and delusional disorder listing 24.

The question arises as to who exactly this book is written for. Clearly, it is a US product and a number of chapters are of no direct relevance to those working outside the USA. Individual chapters may appeal to others, but this is not a textbook for the specialist: it is an introductory tome which will be of interest to the intern, to non-medical members of psychiatric teams and to the lone clinician working in private practice in the USA. Perhaps its strength is that it is a book written for general psychiatrists in an area where specialist forensic treatises tend to dominate. But those clinicians in the UK wishing a direct and practical approach to an issue which besets them in everyday practice might better be advised to turn to Maden's *Treating Violence: A Guide to Risk Management in Mental Health* (Oxford University Press, 2007).

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Textbook of Disaster Psychiatry

Edited by Robert J. Ursano, Carol S. Fullerton, Lars Wiesaeht & Beverley Raphael. 2007. 354pp. £55.00 (hb) ISBN: 9780521852357

In the past 40 years the number of major global disasters which have inflicted extensive human suffering has increased threefold, an increase which highlights the need within the burgeoning literature on major trauma for quality texts in the field of disaster psychiatry. Professor Ursano and his editorial colleagues, each with a distinguished pedigree in the trauma field, have produced a well-written and well-presented contemporary textbook, which should appeal to clinical practitioners (and their students), researchers and policy makers.

The book is proclaimed to be the first dedicated to disaster psychiatry. However, if we accept that psychiatry is the study and treatment of mental illness and emotional disturbance (Oxford English Dictionary, 2005), then the title belies the breadth of the book's coverage. It comprises five sections including

foundations of disaster psychiatry, clinical care and interventions, and public health and psychiatry. Incorporated within these sections are chapters covering the predictable gamut of topics, such as the epidemiology of post-traumatic conditions, traumatic death, acute stress and post-traumatic stress disorders, children and disasters, and early interventions. However, an attractive feature of the book is its inclusion of less familiar, but equally important topics, such as disaster ecology, public health and disaster mental health, non-governmental organisations and mental health professionals, and the assessment and management of medical and surgical disaster casualties.

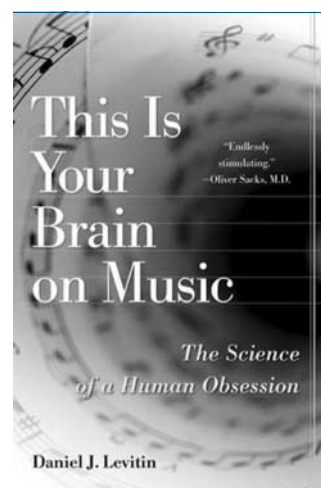
Perhaps, since only three of the authors come from outside of the USA, there is a leaning towards the North American literature and trauma. Reference has not been made to valuable European references such as the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines. There is, however, an abundance of well-selected references. These have guaranteed the editors' aims of producing a text which is largely evidence-based. Inevitably, and appropriately, in view of the distinguished panel of 23 authors, some assertions and observations are more 'eminence-based'.

No textbook can be expected to be of manageable proportions and yet be exhaustive in its coverage. Thus, for certain topics, such as the ethics of disaster work, research issues in the disaster field and the role of the media before, during and after a major catastrophe, the reader will need to consult other texts.

In conclusion, by virtue of its comprehensive content, lucid and attractive style of presentation, and its contemporary evidence base, the *Textbook of Disaster Psychiatry* represents an excellent purchase for a wide range of interested professionals.

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This Is Your Brain on Music: The Science of a Human Obsession

By Daniel J. Levitin. Atlantic Books. 2007. 322pp. £18.99 (hb); £8.99 (pb). ISBN: 9781843547150; 9781843547167

Music is integral to our lives and, from Elgar to Elvis, provides familiarity and pleasure. The healing properties of music, particularly for mental illness, have been recognised for centuries and music therapy is now established as a psychotherapeutic method to aid communication and expression. Many doctors have studied music and continue to play, as enthusiastic amateurs or in a professional capacity, alongside their medical practice. This book is an engaging investigation of the interface of psychiatry