Concepts of Alzheimer Disease

BIOLOGICAL, CLINICAL, AND CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES

Edited by

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LP Steffe

Concepts of Alzheimer Disease Peter J. Whitehouse, Konrad Maurer, Jesse F. Ballenger, 2000 The origin of this collection of essays was a 1997 symposium held to celebrate the life legacy and work of Alois Alzheimer who described the disease in 1907 One of the first chapters of the book tells the fascinating story of how the case notes for Alzheimer's article were recently discovered in the archives of his department in Frankfurt In a book focused on the history of Alzheimer's disease we can see the evolution of our concepts of this disease It was described clinically at first and then pathologically In the 1970s and 1980s the disorder was viewed as a neurochemical entity the cholinergic hypothesis Today we consider Alzheimer's disease a genetic disorder related to chromosomes and apolipoprotein E How will we view it in the future

Alzheimer's Disease: A Century of Scientific and Clinical Research G. Perry, J. Avila, J. Kinoshita, 2006-06-26 Traces how the true importance of Alzheimer's disease AD as the major cause of late life dementia ultimately came to light and narrates the evolution of the concepts related to AD throughout the years and its recognition as a major public health Living with Alzheimer's Renée L. Beard, 2016-04-26 News of Alzheimer's disease is constantly in the problem headlines Every day we hear heart wrenching stories of people caring for a loved one who has become a shell of their former self of projections about rising incidence rates and of cures that are just around the corner However we don t see or hear from the people who actually have the disease In Living with Alzheimer's Ren e L Beard argues that the exclusively negative portrayals of Alzheimer's are grossly inaccurate To understand what life with memory loss is really like Beard draws on intensive observations of nearly 100 seniors undergoing cognitive evaluation as well as post diagnosis interviews with individuals experiencing late in life forgetfulness Since we all forget sometimes seniors with an Alzheimer's diagnosis ultimately need to be socialized into medicalized interpretations of their forgetfulness In daily life people with the disease are forced to manage stigma and the presumption of incompetence on top of the actual symptoms of their ailment The well meaning public and not their dementia becomes the major barrier to a happy life for those affected Beard also examines how these perceptions affect treatment for Alzheimer's Interviews with clinicians and staff from the Alzheimer's Association reveal that despite the best of intentions pejorative framings of life with dementia fuel both clinical practice and advocacy efforts These professionals perpetuate narratives about self loss impending cures and the economic and emotional burden to families and society even if they do not personally believe them Yet Beard also concludes that in spite of these trends most of the diagnosed individuals in her study achieve a graceful balance between accepting the medical label and resisting the social stigma that accompanies it In stark contrast to the messages we receive this book provides an unprecedented view into the ways that people with early Alzheimer's actively and deliberately navigate their lives Self, Senility, and Alzheimer's Disease in Modern America Jesse F. Ballenger, 2006-03-31 Historian Jesse F Ballenger traces the emergence of senility as a cultural category from the late nineteenth century to the 1980s a period in which Alzheimer's disease became increasingly

associated with the terrifying prospect of losing one s self Changes in American society and culture have complicated the notion of selfhood Ballenger finds No longer an ascribed status selfhood must be carefully and willfully constructed Thus losing one's ability to sustain a coherent self narrative is considered one of life's most dreadful losses As Ballenger writes senility haunts the landscape of the self made man Stereotypes of senility and Alzheimer's disease are related to anxiety about the coherence stability and agency of the self stereotypes that are transforming perceptions of old age in modern America Drawing on scientific clinical policy and popular discourses on aging and dementia Ballenger explores early twentieth century concepts of aging and the emergence of gerontology to understand and distinguish normal aging from disease In addition he examines American psychiatry's approaches to the treatment of senility and scientific attempts to understand the brain pathology of dementia Ballenger's work contributes to our understanding of the emergence and significance of dementia as a major health issue **Dementia Reimagined** Tia Powell,2020-09-01 Now in paperback the cultural and medical history of dementia and Alzheimer's disease by a leading psychiatrist and bioethicist who urges us to turn our focus from cure to care Despite being a physician and a bioethicist Tia Powell wasn t prepared to address the challenges she faced when her grandmother and then her mother were diagnosed with dementia not to mention confronting the hard truth that her own odds aren t great In the U S 10 000 baby boomers turn 65 every day by the time a person reaches 85 their chances of having dementia approach 50 percent And the truth is there is no cure and none coming soon despite the perpetual promises by pharmaceutical companies that they are just one more expensive study away from a pill Dr Powell's goal is to move the conversation away from an exclusive focus on cure to a genuine appreciation of care what we can do for those who have dementia and how to keep life meaningful and even joyful Reimagining Dementia is a moving combination of medicine and memoir peeling back the untold history of dementia from the story of Solomon Fuller a black doctor whose research at the turn of the twentieth century anticipated important aspects of what we know about dementia today to what has been gained and lost with the recent bonanza of funding for Alzheimer's at the expense of other forms of the disease In demystifying dementia Dr Powell helps us understand it with clearer eyes from the point of view of both physician and caregiver Ultimately she wants us all to know that dementia is not only about loss it s also about the preservation of dignity and hope Science of Caring ,2000 The Alzheimer Conundrum Margaret Lock, 2015-10-20 Why our approaches to Alzheimer's and dementia are problematic and contradictory. Due to rapidly aging populations the number of people worldwide experiencing dementia is increasing and the projections are grim Despite billions of dollars invested in medical research no effective treatment has been discovered for Alzheimer's disease the most common form of dementia The Alzheimer Conundrum exposes the predicaments embedded in current efforts to slow down or halt Alzheimer s disease through early detection of pre symptomatic biological changes in healthy individuals Based on a meticulous account of the history of Alzheimer's disease and extensive in depth interviews Margaret Lock highlights the limitations and the

dissent associated with biomarker detection Lock argues that basic research must continue but should be complemented by a public health approach to prevention that is economically feasible more humane and much more effective globally than one exclusively focused on an increasingly harried search for a cure Mediating Alzheimer's Scott Selberg, 2022-05-24 An exploration of the representational culture of Alzheimer's disease and how media technologies shape our ideas of cognition and aging With no known cause or cure despite a century of research Alzheimer's disease is a true medical mystery In Mediating Alzheimer's Scott Selberg examines the nature of this enduring national health crisis by looking at the disease's relationship to media and representation He shows how collective investments in different kinds of media have historically shaped how we understand treat and live with this disease Selberg demonstrates how the cognitive abilities that Alzheimer s threatens memory for example are integrated into the operations of representational technologies from Polaroid photographs to Post its to digital artificial intelligence Focusing on a wide variety of media technologies such as neuroimaging art therapy virtual reality and social media he shows how these cognitively oriented media ultimately help define personhood for people with Alzheimer's Media have changed the practices of successful aging in the United States and Selberg takes us deep into how technologies like digital brain training and online care networks shape ideas of cognition and healthy aging Packed with startlingly fresh insights Mediating Alzheimer's contributes to debates around bioethics the labor of caregiving and a national economy increasingly invested in communication and digital media Probing the very technologies that promise to save and understand our brains it gives us new ways of understanding Alzheimer's disease and aging in America **Diseased Brain and the Failing Mind** Martina Zimmermann, 2020-06-25 This book is available as open access through the Bloomsbury Open programme and is available on www bloomsburycollections com It is funded by The Wellcome Trust The Diseased Brain and the Failing Mind charts changing cultural understandings of dementia and alzheimer's disease in scientific and cultural texts across the 20th Century Reading a range of texts from the US UK Europe and Japan the book examines how the language of dementia regarding the loss of identity loss of agency loss of self and life is rooted in scientific discourse and expressed in popular and literary texts Following changing scientific understandings of dementia the book also demonstrates how cultural expressions of the experience and dementia have fed back into the way medical institutions have treated dementia patients The book includes a glossary of scientific terms for non specialist readers

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