

# Psychiatry and Pedopsychiatry

Ladislav Hosák  
Michal Hrdlička  
et al.

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## Introduction

This English-language textbook presents basic knowledge in the field of psychiatry from the Czech perspective to international students of medicine. The reader may ask: “Why another English psychiatry textbook? Is the number of English textbooks in psychiatry already available on the market insufficient?” We believe that an English textbook of Czech psychiatry is necessary. There are many reasons; Czech psychiatry differs from British or American in many respects, including philosophy, social culture, history, (sometimes) terminology, tradition, organization of services, economics, diagnostics (compared to the American DSM-5 system), the range of psychotropic drugs approved for the local market, genetics and pharmacogenetics of the patients, the use of psychotherapy, social aspects of mental disorders, medical law, and ethics. It is difficult to teach Oxford or New York psychiatry while practicing Czech psychiatry at the same time. Our textbook strives to eliminate this schism Czech teachers of psychiatry who educate international students face. We tried to include a variety of topics in the book; including history, organization of services, examination of psychiatric patients and communication with them, the biological aspects of mental disorders and their treatment, psychotherapy, re-socialization, mental symptoms of somatic diseases, ethics, law, stigma, transcultural psychiatry, and other interesting topics.

This book is based on the Czech textbook, *Psychiatrie a pedopsychiatrie* (Psychiatry and Pedopsychiatry), written by the same scholars and published by Karolinum Press in 2015. Some scholars translated their texts into English by themselves, while others entrusted Professor Hosák with the translation. Professor Hosák also checked the whole text, including language editing. The language of the book was further edited by the Karolinum Press staff in the early 2016 and it was decided that some of the chapters needed further language editing. This was carried out by two Czech doctors and psychologists, Štěpánka Beranová and Veronika Hublová, as well as Xavier Fung, a student of medicine in Hradec Králové, who is a native speaker of English, and Matthew Shane Renfro, BA, a teacher of medical English at the Language Institute of the Medical Faculty in Hradec Králové. In some cases, the language changes led to minor changes of the original content of chapters, be it for linguistic reasons or to include new information in psychiatry.

The authors hope you will enjoy your study.

Ladislav Hosák