

Advances in Mental Health and Addiction

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Mental Health and Addiction Care in the Middle East

 Springer

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Preface

Mental health and drug use are deeply embedded characteristics of most societies and nations including those throughout the Middle East. It shows itself in the form of illness, death, crime, war, human suffering, and other conditions that affect quality of life.

There is no shortage of people affected from these conditions, nor is there any shortage of possible prevention and treatment interventions with ameliorative value. However, the uncommon is a multinational, multiethnic group of people coming together, with trust and respect as well as resilience and resolve, to share a common mission of helping people in need.

The chapters written for this book are no heap of parts. Rather, they are a set of experiences and knowledge accumulated from extraordinary experiences worthy of study, modification and replication....over time and across locations.

This book was prepared to share the hope for peace and well-being among decent, caring people throughout the region—their children and future generations.

Beer Sheva, Israel
New Brunswick, NJ, USA

Richard Isralowitz
Patricia A. Findley

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To my family members—father, mother, brother, children, grandchildren, and wife Sofi who endures. Recognition is given to Masood Zangeneh, editor of this book series, for his support and understanding of the prevailing challenges to promote cooperation in the Middle East. Special appreciation is expressed to colleagues and friends throughout the region and abroad, especially Richard Rawson and others from the Integrated Substance Abuse Programs in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Los Angeles and the Institute for Disaster Mental Health, State University of New York, New Paltz, who have made this book and much more possible—it has been a privilege sharing a common mission.

In memory of my friend Darwin Telias (Z"l)—a pioneer in mental health and addiction care.

Richard Isralowitz, Ph.D.
Ben Gurion University
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To my family who has always supported and encouraged me. Also I dedicate this book to Richard Edwards, Ph.D. and Chancellor of Rutgers University, the State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick Campus. He has been consistent in supporting me and pointing me towards doors, leaving it to my discretion to open the ones I want. I am grateful for the collaborations that Dr. Edwards has brought to me through the introduction to Richard Isralowitz, Ph.D., my co-editor, colleague, and, most of all, friend.

For all those who suffer from mental health and addiction issues in the Middle East, we write with mutual respect and partnership to support their healing.

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