

BOOK REVIEWS

***Dermatological Diseases and Cumulative Life Course Impairment* by Dennis M. Linder and Alexa Kimball. ISBN: 978-3-318-02403-6, 162 pages and 18 figs, 4 in colour, S. Karger AG, 2013.**

Nowadays, we often discuss the problem of quality of life and stigmatisation in patients suffering from various dermatological diseases. We are all aware of their importance in daily clinical life, especially in making the decisions on therapeutic options for dermatological patients. It is timely therefore that a new textbook on this subject has recently been published. Here, an innovative and pioneering concept of cumulative life course impairment in dermatology is given. One may congratulate the editors and authors of the book chapters for touching new, difficult aspects and their deep discussion on the topic, which has up till now been rarely described in the world literature. It is important to underline that both editors are experienced life course researchers and dermatologists working in the field of psychodermatology. Let me also mention that Dr Dennis Linder is currently serving as a president of the European Society for Dermatology and Psychiatry. The experience of the editors resulted in the brilliant selection of important subjects for the book and especially engaging outstanding authors. The book has an interesting and informative design. It has 4 parts: first,

a general introduction to the new topic, the second one contains key concepts and modelling of cumulative life course approach, the third part is more methodological and pays attention to the cumulative life course assessment and finally the fourth part discusses the main chronic dermatological conditions. The book is full of dermatological information, but the psychological approach plays a crucial role. Reading the book it is obvious that data on the influence of the majority of dermatological diseases on cumulative life course of patients are very limited or even not existing. It is clear for me that analysed book will stimulate researchers for more intense interdisciplinary studies in this field. The new concept of cumulative course impairment presents dermatological diseases in a different and novel view. It underlines the importance for patients, health authorities and community. I am sure that this new concept with a holistic approach will be widely used in the future by doctors and public health specialists in making crucial therapeutic decisions. Therefore, this unique book is highly recommended to all dermatologists, not only those involved in psychodermatology and quality of life, but also general practitioners, social researches and public health leaders.

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