Introduction

DSM-V is scheduled to be published in 2012, 18 years after the DSM-IV criteria were promulgated and 12 years after the text was revised in DSM-IV-TR. The DSM-V Task Force and the Eating Disorders Work Group are hard at work. The members of the Work Group are listed at the end of this note; additional information on the composition of the Task Force and of other Work Groups is available at www.dsm5.org.

One of the first tasks of the Work Group was to review the existing literature relevant to possible changes in DSM-V. That task has largely been completed; six reviews are published in this issue of the International Journal of Eating Disorders, and six more will be published in the succeeding issue. A final review, related to Feeding and Eating Disorders of Infancy and Early Childhood, is nearing completion and should be available shortly.

Issues to be Considered

The Work Group was asked to review, critique, and suggest revisions to the existing diagnostic criteria for the following existing categories: Eating Disorders (Anorexia Nervosa, Bulimia Nervosa, Eating Disorder Not Otherwise Specified (EDNOS)) and Feeding and Eating Disorders of Infancy or Early Childhood (Pica, Rumination Disorder, Feeding Disorder of Infancy or Early Childhood). In addition, the Work Group was asked to consider whether obesity should be considered for inclusion in DSM-V.

In its first meetings, the Work Group noted several issues widely discussed in the field about the existing criteria, including the very high frequency of use of EDNOS in clinical settings. This issue overlaps with the major question of whether Binge Eating Disorder is a valid and useful diagnostic entity. In addition, other “atypical” variants of the recognized eating disorders have been proposed as new diagnostic categories, such as Purging Disorder and Night Eating Syndrome. The designation of obesity as a mental disorder would be a major and controversial change.

The Work Group also noted concerns about some specifics of the current criteria, for example, whether amenorrhea should be required for the diagnosis of Anorexia Nervosa, whether an average binge eating frequency of twice per week for three months should be required for Bulimia Nervosa, and whether the wording of several criteria reflects the range of phenomena seen across cultures and among younger patients.

Finally, there are concerns about the utility and validity of the current criteria provided to categorize feeding disorders of infancy and early childhood.

Literature Reviews

The literature reviews published in this issue target a number of specific issues related to the existing criteria: the requirement for amenorrhea for Anorexia Nervosa, the utility and validity of sub-typing Anorexia Nervosa and Bulimia Nervosa, the appropriateness of the “twice a week” frequency criterion for Bulimia Nervosa and Binge Eating Disorder, and the appropriateness and phrasing of several of the criteria for Anorexia Nervosa and Bulimia Nervosa. The literature reviews to be published in the succeeding issue address broader issues, such as the utility of adding new diagnostic categories.

A major focus of all these reviews is the attempt to assess the clinical utility of existing criteria and possible alterations. While other factors, such as genetics and epidemiology, are also important, DSM-V is intended primarily to assist clinicians in the recognition and management of significant psychiatric disorders. Therefore, information about how changes in the criteria might affect knowledge...
of complications, course, and treatment response is paramount, albeit often difficult to acquire.

Each review concludes by describing possible options for DSM-V. At this point, none has been formally recommended by the Work Group. It is our hope that these reviews and the options will be critically reviewed, examined in clinical settings, and potentially revised. The recommendations of the Work Group regarding the DSM-V criteria must be finalized by the end of 2010. The following year will be occupied by the development of the text so that DSM-V can hopefully be released in 2012.

**Discussion**

We are happy to receive comments and suggestions. There are several ways to submit them:

1. to the corresponding author of the reviews;
2. to me as Chair of the Work Group (Email: btw1@columbia.edu);

We look forward to hearing from you!

B. Timothy Walsh, MD

**DSM-V Eating Disorders Work Group**

Evelyn Attia, MD
Anne E. Becker, MD, PhD, SCM
Rachel Bryant-Waugh, PhD
Hans W. Hoek, MD, PhD
Richard E. Kreipe, MD
Marsha D. Marcus, PhD
James E. Mitchell, MD
Ruth H. Striegel-Moore, PhD
B. Timothy Walsh, MD (Chair)
G. Terence Wilson, PhD
Barbara E. Wolfe, PhD, APRN, FAAN
Stephen A. Wonderlich, PhD