BOOK REVIEW

“COMBAT AND OPERATIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH” (Ukrainian Edition-2017)

The Borden Institute, a component of the U.S. Army’s Office of the Surgeon General, has allowed the American Ukrainian Medical Foundation (AUMF) to translate their medical textbook, “Combat and Operational Behavioral Health” (2011). This consent by the Borden Institute is a highly valued symbol, supporting the advancement of health care in Ukraine, participants of military operations within Eastern Ukraine, as well as the whole of Ukrainian society. Most of all, we would like to express our deep gratitude to the American Ukrainian Medical Foundation (AUMF), for their extensive hard work in the translation and publication of this very timely textbook of military behavioral health. We are also highly appreciative of the free distribution of these books amongst Ukrainian healthcare professionals, who at these difficult times are faced with new and extremely threatening challenges.

It is without doubt, that in these current times, this book will take on a role of great significance and relevance amongst the Ukrainian medical community. Since 2014, ongoing battles are being waged on our country’s territories — a state of affairs that has immersed all of Ukraine’s society, directly or indirectly. Given this situation, it is important not only for psychiatrists and for psychologists but for all others as well, to understand the fact that combat operational stress and emotional trauma are unique conditions with specific inherent features, characteristics, disease course, and consequences. This textbook provides a solid foundation for such an understanding, comprehensively describing all of the complex issues associated with these conditions.
"Combat and Operational Behavioral Health" (Ukrainian Edition-2017) summarizes the vast experiences of USA military medicine and the care of individuals whose psychological well-being has been threatened as a consequence of war. These experiences are truly invaluable to the contemporary Ukrainian psychiatrist and medical psychologist. The materials presented in this textbook are well structured, not only describing the processes involved in providing care but also demonstrating their dynamic forces. An important feature of this book is the demonstration of the caring attitude amongst medical personnel towards the suffering individuals, illustrating the various appropriate methodologies involved in their care. The mental health care system available for combatants in Ukraine, is in its infancy, making these examples noteworthy and highly significant for its further stage of development.

In particular, we would like to point out the highly accurate and professional translation of this textbook into the Ukrainian language, which allows the book to be accessible to the entire Ukrainian speaking audience. It will provide new facets of understanding, even for the Ukrainian medical professionals fluent in the English language.

We are convinced that this generous gift from the American Ukrainian Medical Foundation, and our colleagues in the United States, will be useful to all Ukrainian mental healthcare professionals. It will contribute to the restoration of combatants suffering with medical and social consequences of battle fatigue and will help in the improvement of their quality of life, as well as their family members, who play such an essential role in the providing of healthcare in Ukraine.

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