

DRUG USE AND MISUSE



Stephen A. Maisto • Mark Galizio • Gerard J. Connors

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Stephen A. Maisto

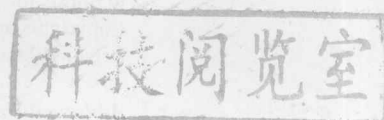
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Drug Use and Misuse

Preface

Concern about alcohol and other drug use became common in the 1980s and continues into the 1990s. Television and other media have brought home all aspects of drug use—from production to stopping use—to almost everyone. Drug use has become part of the common experience of children and adults, either directly or indirectly. This powerful social force was solidified politically in the United States by creation in 1989 of a federal cabinet post devoted to the prevention and amelioration of drug use and problems. Today the informed person needs to know about psychoactive drugs, their use, and the multiple consequences of such use. This is true not only for a person's own health, but for an awareness of what citizens' drug use does to the society in which they live.

It is in this context that we wrote this book. Our aim was to provide a textbook for the college undergraduate that was scholarly yet understandable to the student who may have little background in the biological or behavioral-social sciences. We also wanted the book to reflect the complexity of psychoactive drug use on biological, psychological, and social levels. We believe that the book has achieved these goals.

The book is inclusive, in its providing, first, fundamental background information for studying psychopharmacology. Furthermore, all of the major psychoactive drugs or drug classes, including over-the-counter drugs, are covered. Each is presented by integrating biological, psychological, and social perspectives, as well as by covering historical and current patterns of use. In the final section of the book we include chapters on personality and social factors as they relate to drug use in general, and on the prevention and treatment of drug problems. In writing each chapter we used a minimum of specialized or technical language and jargon. When use of technical terms was necessary, they were defined in the running and cumulative glossaries.

Completion of projects like this book is impossible without the help of others. First, we all would like to thank the present and past editorial staff at Holt for both educating us about book publishing and for being most understanding and helpful during the almost three years that it took to finish the written product. Specifically, we thank profusely Ms. Christina Oldham, Ms. Susan Pierce, Ms. Susan Arellano, and Ms. Melissa Mashburn for all their wisdom, help and patience. All of us also would like to thank the following reviewers of earlier chapter drafts, whose comments are a major force in the strengths of this text: Sarah Myers, Jacksonville University; David Morse, State University of New York at New Paltz; Tom Elliot, East Mississippi Jr.

PREFACE

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Stephen A. Maisto

Mark Galizio

Gerard J. Connors

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To BB

SAM

To Rachel and Joey

MG

To my parents

GJC

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