INTRODUCTION

Personality Disorders in the DSM-5: Current Status, Lessons Learned, and Future Challenges

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The fifth edition of the American Psychiatric Association’s (APA) Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5) was recently published. The DSM-5 Personality and Personality Disorders Work Group (PPDWG) began work on the revision of the personality disorders section in 2008, leading to a formal proposal 2 years later, and culminating in the final proposal in 2012. The final proposal was approved by the APA DSM-5 Task Force but was rejected by the APA Board of Trustees. As a result, DSM-5 simply reproduces the personality disorders section of the prior edition (DSM-IV-TR) in Section II (“Diagnostic Criteria and Codes”). The PPDWG proposal is provided in Section III of the DSM-5 (“Emerging Measures and Models”).

The purpose of this special section of Personality Disorders: Theory, Research, and Treatment is to provide a discussion of the current status, lessons learned, and future challenges for the classification of personality disorders. Andrew Skodol et al. (2013, pp. 342–349), Robert Krueger (2013, pp. 355–362), John Gunderson (2013, pp. 368–376), and Thomas Widiger (2013, pp. 382–387) were invited to write position papers. Each position paper is accompanied by brief commentaries. The authors of the position papers nominated one of the commentators for their paper. The other commentator for the papers by Drs. Skodol and Krueger were nominated by Dr. Widiger. The other commentator for the papers by Drs. Gunderson and Widiger were nominated by Dr. Krueger. The authors of the position papers were also invited to write brief rejoinders to the two commentaries of their papers. The authors of the position paper may collaborate on a joint paper discussing points of agreement to be considered for a future issue of this journal.