Preface

Clinical aspects of psychosomatic medicine are carried out by practitioners of consultation-liaison psychiatry. In recent years, the clinical and research dimensions of this specialty have broadened and interest has been generated in the development of methodologies to meet internal needs for self-assessment. This is reflected in teaching and research efforts that have involved other medical specialties, in the incorporation of external services and discipline under the biopsychosocial rubric, the establishment of expertise in certain core curricula, programmatic approaches to interviewing skills and assessment of clinical performance of psychiatrists in training.

This volume addresses a number of these issues as they pertain to consultation-liaison. As with other volumes in this series, topics have been chosen for their current clinical and educational timeliness. At the same time, we have included material that directly pertains to the development of models for clinical research activities within the framework of consultation-liaison. This will hopefully serve as a reminder that busy as consultation-liaison psychiatrists may be they function in a panorama of clinical research opportunity.