“Methodological Issues and Strategies in Clinical Research, Third Edition”

Alan E. Kazdin, Editor, 2002, 913 pages, American Psychological Association, $59.95

Review by Norman M. Goldfarb

“Methodological Issues and Strategies in Clinical Research, Third Edition” includes 39 essays by 65 contributors, organized in nine sections:

- Introduction: Overview and Background
- Beginning the Research Process
- Methods: Principles and Practices
- Assessment
- Data Analysis, Evaluation, and Interpretation
- Special Topics in Clinical Research
- Ethics in Research
- Publication and Communication of Research
- Perspectives on Methodology

The book is entirely about psychological research, a very welcome compilation and no doubt a great comfort to psychological researchers troubled by identity anxiety because of the dominance of drug intervention in books about clinical research.

Researchers dependent on drugs for their livelihood will find some chapters of interest. For example, quality-of-life measures often have psychological components. With depressed or attentionally-challenged patients, psychological research methodologies can hone in on key behavioral and pharmacological measures of change, while minimizing expectancy effects, assessment bias, selection bias, and other corrupting factors. The data analysis section includes interesting material about statistical significance, power, null hypotheses, and Bayesian analysis.

The book is available at bookstores.

Reviewer

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This book has been selected for The First Clinical Research Bookshelf

Essential reading for clinical research professionals