

Project **ADEPT**

Preface to Volume VI

Those of us interested in teaching health care providers about alcohol and drug problems face a daunting task. Important decisions need to be made regarding the key elements of information that we think are essential for these clinicians, fitting the information into the brief periods of time that we are likely to have available to us in any medical school, nursing school, or other health profession curriculum. The following six lectures have been developed based on the experiences that I have had in lecturing at the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine and through invited lectures at other schools and in the community.

Each stage of this series of model lectures involves important compromises. First, I have attempted to select six topics that I hope will span the major issues most of you will face in your opportunities to deliver lectures. Second, I have tried to emphasize a limited number of major points that I hope they will take with them when they leave the lecture hall. The suggested slide copy follow these major points, and are often used as an ‘attention grabber’ to help you with your major areas of emphasis. The price that is paid for this type of simplification which is so important for effective lectures is that it is not possible to do justice to all sides of an issue. Indeed, to emphasize too many details or alternative points of view can at times result in confusing an audience, thus undermining any efforts at improving knowledge and levels of functioning in the health care arena.

Educators might choose to use an entire lecture as outlined, or might decide to borrow one piece here and another there in order to put together a new approach that best meets their needs. Of course, it is also possible to delete sections of lectures and to insert new information that you think is more accurate or more important for the specific audience you are addressing.

In any event, it is hoped that this is a place to start. My overall goal is to make lecturing on these important topics a bit easier for you. I hope that I have been able to at least contribute to that goal, and wish you the best of luck.

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Dr. Marc Schuckit's Lectures on Alcohol and Drugs is the sixth volume of the Project ADEPT curriculum. *Volume VI* provides a basic understanding of detoxification, effective treatment approaches for substance abuse disorders, the genetic basis for substance use disorders, and an explanation of how alcohol and drug problems may present in the context of co-occurring psychiatric disorders. The material in this volume is designed to be used as the basis for an instructor-led curriculum in a group setting. We hope the inclusion of teaching slides will facilitate its presentation.

The editors acknowledge the significant commitment and contribution of Dr. Marc Schuckit in the preparation of this teaching material. Dr. Schuckit provided expertise and insight into the design and development of these materials and it is our hope that the volume will yield a significant contribution to health professional's education.

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We anticipate that this Volume will be used not only by faculty of health professional schools, but also by treatment programs for in-service training.

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