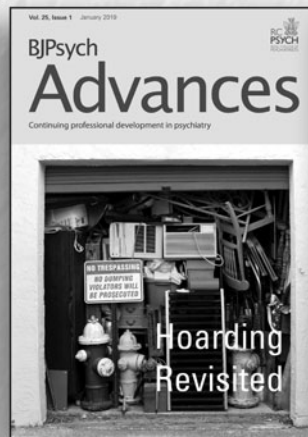


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On behalf of the editorial board, the Editor-in-Chief would like to thank the contribution of all peer reviewers in the period from January 2019 – December 2019. Their anonymous work for the journal forms the foundation to its success, and is highly appreciated. Please see full list at: <https://doi.org/10.1192/bja.2020.42>.

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Cover image

Religion and psychiatry: recent developments in research

In the first of two articles, authors Koenig et al review the latest research on the relationship between religious involvement and mental health, the effects of religiosity on mental health and well-being over time and the impact of religious interventions. The article aims to help clinicians determine, on the basis of the latest research, whether religion is an asset or a liability for a particular patient. A podcast is available for this article at: <https://soundcloud.com/bjpsych/bja-2019-81>

Religion and psychiatry: clinical applications

In the second article, the authors focus on clinical applications that may be useful to psychiatrists and other mental health professionals. They discuss general clinical applications relevant to all patients (e.g. taking a spiritual history, supporting/encouraging religious beliefs, referring to clergy), violations of clinician–patient boundaries and the need to ensure that religious/spiritual interventions are patient-centred. They describe evidence-based religious interventions and how to identify appropriate patients for this approach. Finally, they explore situations in which religious beliefs and practices may be a problem, not a resource, and make recommendations on how to address such cases. Image: © iStockphoto / cstar55