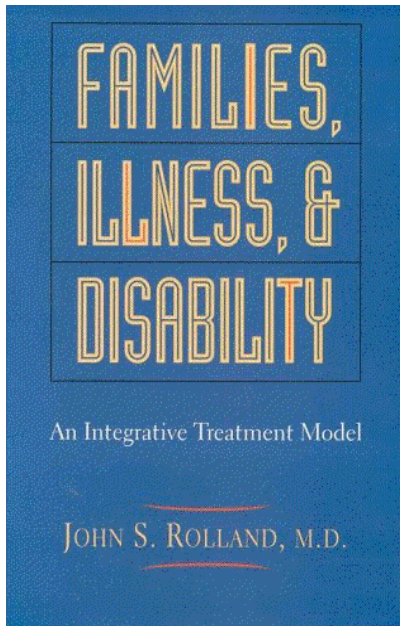


Families, Illness and Disability

An Integrative Treatment Model

John S. Rolland, M.D.



When a family member is diagnosed with cancer or faces challenges from living with a disability, the impact reverberates throughout the family, leaving no one untouched. How should a clinician help the parents of a child who is critically ill? How can a marital relationship be skewed and a child's well-being compromised when a parent becomes permanently disabled—and how can a clinician best intervene in such cases? In presenting his clinically powerful Family Systems Illness Model, John Rolland addresses these and other vital questions of importance to families in which there is a member with a major illness or disability.

Through a normative, preventive lens, this book shows how the biopsychosocial demands of different illness and disabilities create particular strains on the family, how the stages of an illness affect the family, how family legacies of loss and illness shape their coping responses, and how family belief systems play a crucial role in the ability to manage health and illness. Practitioners will learn how to help families live well despite physical limitations and the uncertainties of threatened loss, how to encourage empowering rather than shame-based illness narratives, how to rewrite rigid caregiving scripts, how to encourage intimacy and maximize autonomy for all family members. With its superb integration of individual and family modalities, this outstanding book is ideal for all health and mental health professionals and students who work with illness, disability, and loss in a wide variety of clinical settings.

John S. Rolland, M.D. is Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Chicago and Founding Co-Director of its affiliate post-graduate family and couples therapy training institute the Chicago Center for Family Health. Widely recognized for his conceptual model, clinical work, and research with families facing serious physical disorders, he is immediate Past-President of the American Family Therapy Academy and a Distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association.

BASIC

BOOKS

“Rolland elaborates an empowering and normative theory from which to practice medical family therapy. Any physician, nurse practitioner, or medical family therapist will appreciate this much-needed psychosocial road map to guiding patients and their families.” Susan H. McDaniel, University of Rochester School of Medicine

“A tour de force that should be used by every professional. Stunningly inclusive and clearly presented, it is a casebook, a textbook, a reference book, and an easy-to-read primer.” Elizabeth A. Carter Family Institute of Westchester

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