

Special Issue

Special Updated Research on Eating Disorders: Medical Perspectives

Message from the Guest Editors

Eating disorders (EDs) are currently considered among the most prevailing public health problems, reaching an epidemic proportion in many Western countries. Nevertheless, symptoms and syndromes of self-starvation are not a new, modern phenomenon. They first appeared in the clinical descriptions of anorexia by Gull and Lasegue in the 19th century, and since then have been observed for more than 1500 years, being interpreted in each era according to prevailing beliefs and cultural norms (Witztum, Stein and Latzer, 2005). EDs, particularly anorexia nervosa (AN)—the most studied ED—were originally conceptualized as of sociocultural (Stice, Shupak-Neuberg, Shaw, Stein, 1994), psychodynamic (Mushat, 1982), or psychosomatic origin (Minuchin, Roseman, Baker 1978). However, they are currently considered to be mainly induced and maintained by a host of genetic, neurobiological, and neurocognitive influences (Keel and Klump, 2003; Kaye et al., 2013; Roberts et al., 2010, 2013; Brownell and Walsh, 2017).

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