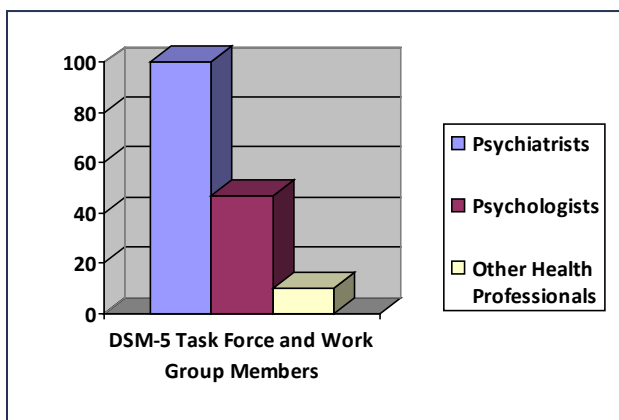


Development of the fifth edition of *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (DSM-5) has been under way since 1999, when the American Psychiatric Association (APA) began recruiting a roster of diverse and internationally-recognized clinicians, scientific researchers and organizations to lend their expertise. Through this wide scale collaboration, the DSM-5 development process has involved not only psychiatrists, but also experts with backgrounds in psychology, social work, psychiatric nursing, pediatrics, and neurology. Participants in this effort represent 16 countries. All are leaders in their fields and are participating on a voluntary basis.

Task Force, Work Group Members



DSM-5's Task Force and 13 Work Groups include more than 160 mental health and medical professionals who are leaders in their respective fields. The Task Force oversees the entire project, while members of the Work Groups bring specific expertise in the various subspecialties of mental health. Each Task Force and Work Group member has contributed hundreds of hours to the task of updating and improving the DSM.

The 28 Task Force members are leading the development effort to develop DSM-5. Each Work Group chair is a member of the Task Force. The Work Groups, with between eight and 15 members each, have reviewed the scientific advances and research-based evidence that forms the basis of the content for DSM-5.

The Work Group members represent more than 90 academic and mental health institutions throughout the world. The selection of such a diverse group of professionals means that a multitude of viewpoints is being considered in each decision. Approximately 30 percent are international. Nearly 100 are psychiatrists, 47 are psychologists, two are pediatric neurologists and three are statisticians/epidemiologists. In addition, also included are a pediatrician, speech and hearing specialist, social worker, psychiatric nurse and consumer and family representative.

Advisers

More than 300 outside advisers are contributing to DSM-5. Each was requested by a Work Group because of a specific and well-recognized expertise in a particular field. These advisers are providing the Task Force and Work Groups with a wealth of knowledge based on their clinical and research experience.

Organizations

From 1999-2002, APA jointly sponsored conferences with the National Institutes of Mental Health, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Psychiatric Association to develop a research agenda for DSM-5.

From 2004-2008, APA, WHO and the National Institutes of Health supported 13 additional conferences involving nearly 400 participants from 39 countries, including 16 developing nations. The work resulted in 10 monographs, hundreds of published articles regarding the current state of knowledge and recommendations for additional research in many fields.

APA has worked with WHO on an ongoing basis to ensure consistency between disorders included in DSM-5 and WHO's International Classification of Diseases 11th Revision.

Committees

The APA Board of Trustees has appointed two independent panels to review the proposed content of DSM-5.

A Scientific Review Committee of experts in mental health is providing guidance on the strength of evidence supporting proposed changes. Their role is to make sure that the DSM-5 incorporates the most scientifically valid information.

A Clinical and Public Health Committee is reviewing evidence-based revisions proposed to address difficulties experienced with the clinical utility, consistency and public health impact of DSM-IV criteria. The committee has access to a wide range of experts in specific clinical disorders outside of the respective Work Groups.

Public Feedback

The draft criteria have been opened for public review and comment three separate times throughout the development process. The first two comment periods elicited nearly 11,000 comments and impacted many of the changes to the proposed criteria. This degree of openness is unprecedented in medicine and will ultimately strengthen the final document.

Collaborating Investigators

Thousands of clinicians are helping to shape the diagnostic criteria and proposed dimensional measures through DSM-5 field trials in routine clinical settings. These clinicians include psychiatrists, psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, advanced practice psychiatric nurses, mental health nurses, licensed counselors, and licensed marriage and family therapists. These clinicians, randomly or voluntarily selected to participate, are testing the proposed criteria's feasibility, clinical utility and responsiveness to change. This critical step ensures that changes to DSM-5 enhance patient care in the real world.

Additionally, criteria have undergone rigorous testing at large academic medical centers.

The APA Board of Trustees is charged with the ultimate approval of the final DSM-5 recommendations prior to the spring 2013 publication.

DSM is the manual used by clinicians and researchers to diagnose and classify mental disorders. The American Psychiatric Association (APA) will publish DSM-5 in 2013, culminating a 14-year revision process.

APA is a national medical specialty society whose more than 37,000 physician members specialize in the diagnosis, treatment, prevention and research of mental illnesses, including substance use disorders. Visit the APA at www.psychiatry.org. For more information, please contact APA Communications at 703-907-8640 or press@psych.org.